



# Woolgoolga High School

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Dear Parent/Carer

## Re: Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

There has been a recent confirmed case of whooping cough at Woolgoolga High School.

Whooping cough (Pertussis) is a bacterial respiratory infection that can be serious in young children particularly those aged less than two years

### Look out for following symptoms:

- Persistent mild cough in the late afternoon or early evening greater than three days
- Runny nose, followed by a cough, which becomes worse (older children and adults may have only a cough that can last for several months)
- A cough that occurs in spasms, which may be followed by vomiting
- A cough with a 'whoop' (a sudden noisy gasp at the end of coughing)

If you have any of the above symptoms see your doctor for a test and keep your child home from school until you receive the result. If positive – Exclusion from school for five days after commencement of antibiotics or if NO antibiotics 21 days from the onset of the cough.

If you would like further information on whooping cough, please visit the website <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Factsheets/pertussis.pdf> or contact the **North Coast Public Health Unit** on **1300 066 055**

Yours sincerely

Iain Henderson  
Relieving Principal