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February 13, 2015

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We have become aware of 1 (one) unconfirmed case of pertussis (whooping cough) at Canyon del Oro High School. This letter is to notify you that your child *may* have been exposed. The County Health Department recommends that you protect your child and the school community from pertussis.

Pertussis can cause serious complications, especially for pregnant women, infants and those who have a weakened immune system. Pertussis can even result in death.

Check your child for symptoms of pertussis:

- Cough illness lasting longer than one week
- Paroxysms of coughing (spells of coughing).
- Vomiting during or at the end of a spell of coughing.
- "Whoop" like sound when trying to take a breath during a coughing spell (not usually seen in older children or adults).
- Difficulty catching a breath after coughing.
- The cough becomes worse over time.

Please review your child's vaccine records. If your child has had no history of the pertussis vaccination, the Pima County Health Department recommends he/she receive the vaccine as soon as possible. Please contact your health-care provider about getting the vaccine.

As a precaution, if your child does develop symptoms of pertussis, regardless of whether your child has been vaccinated, he/she should be kept from attending school or other activities until treatment with antibiotics has been completed or a doctor has cleared your child to return.

Unvaccinated or under vaccinated students may be excluded from school and school activities if any confirmed cases of pertussis occur. Please protect your child and other children. If you have questions you may call the Pima County Health Department at 520-243-7797.

Sincerely,

Paul DeWeerd