Pertussis Alert

Confirmed case of Pertussis on S&T campus

An S&T student has been diagnosed with a bacterial respiratory illness called pertussis. This illness, also known as whooping cough, is spread through coughing or sneezing and is highly contagious to those who have been in close contact (usually within 3 feet) for a prolonged period.

Student Health is working in conjunction with the Phelps/Maries County Health Department to determine who has been in contact with the infected person and may be at risk. If you are identified, you will be contacted directly by the health department.

Symptoms

- Pertussis often begins like the common-cold, with runny nose, congestion, or low-grade fever. After 1-2 weeks, severe coughing usually starts. This extreme coughing may cause vomiting. Most adult illness is not severe but symptoms can last 2 – 6 weeks, resulting in time lost from work.

Prevention

VACCINATION

- Although you may have received the pertussis vaccine as a child, you need to have a booster every 10 years. Please review your immunization record to see if you are up-to-date. The childhood vaccine can be recognized as DTaP or DPT. The adult vaccine will be recorded as Tdap. Contact your medical provider for information on how to receive this vaccination.

- Practice good cough etiquette – cover your cough with a tissue, put tissue in waste basket, and wash hands for at least 20 seconds. If you do not have a tissue, cough into your upper sleeve or elbow, instead of your hands.

If you think you have pertussis or have been in close contact with an individual with pertussis, avoid close contact with others, especially small children, and call or visit your local medical provider. For more information visit http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4212.pdf