



August 26, 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This letter is to inform you that two children who attend Westlake Charter School, one in kindergarten and one in third grade, may have been diagnosed with Whooping Cough (also called Pertussis) on Wednesday, 8/26/15. While our school is awaiting documentation to confirm these diagnoses, we have decided to share this information with you immediately.

Our staff is working together to take all appropriate measures to ensure the safety of our students, staff and families. Attached is a guidance letter downloaded from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website that we hope will help answer some of the questions you may have.

If you have any questions, thought or concerns about this situation, please contact our administrative team by emailing admin@westlakecharter.com or contact our Operations Manager, Aimee Wells at 916-928-3987.

Thank you for your continued support of Westlake Charter School.

Sincerely,

John Eick

Executive Director
John Eick

Chief Business Officer
Steve Korvink

Elementary Principal
Emily Battin

Middle School Principal
Jenifer Wilhelm

Special Education Director
Jaclyn Moreno

Assistant Principal
Christina Eick

EL & Gate Coordinator
Jessica Ashby

Operations Manager
Aimee Wells

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your child may have been exposed to pertussis (whooping cough). Pertussis is an infection that affects the airways and is easily spread from person to person by coughing or sneezing. Its severe cough can last for weeks or months, sometimes leading to coughing fits and/or vomiting. Anyone can get pertussis, but it can be very dangerous for infants and people with weakened immune systems. Family members with pertussis, especially mothers, can spread pertussis to newborns.

Recommendations:

1. If your child has a cough:
 - Keep your child home from school and activities, such as sports or play groups. See items 4 and 5 about when your child can return to these activities.
 - Make an appointment with your child's doctor as soon as possible and tell the doctor that your child may have been exposed to pertussis.
2. If your child has been told by a doctor that they have a weakened immune system ask your child's doctor to prescribe antibiotics to your child as soon as possible to prevent pertussis. Antibiotics should be given to a child with a weakened immune system if they may have been exposed to pertussis, even if he or she is not coughing.
3. If your child lives with any of the following people and may have been exposed to pertussis, ask your child's doctor to prescribe antibiotics as soon as possible to your child, even if he or she is not coughing:
 - A woman who is pregnant,
 - An infant younger than 12 months old, or
 - Anyone with a weakened immune system.
4. If your child has been diagnosed with pertussis by his or her doctor:
 - Tell the school that your child has been diagnosed with pertussis.
 - School officials may request that you keep your child home from school and activities, such as sports or play groups, until your child has been on antibiotics for five days to treat pertussis.
 - Ask your child's doctor for a note that states your child has pertussis.
5. If your child's doctor says your child does NOT have pertussis:
 - Ask for a note from the doctor telling the school that your child's cough is NOT pertussis and that your child can return to school and other activities at any time.

Please make sure your family's vaccinations are up-to-date. Protection against pertussis from the childhood vaccine, DTaP, decreases over time. Older children and adults, including pregnant women, should get a pertussis booster shot called "Tdap" to protect themselves and infants near or around them. If you need the Tdap vaccine, contact your doctor or call the Sacramento County Immunization Assistance Program at 916-875-7468(SHOT).to find a vaccine provider near you.

If you bring your child to a doctor for pertussis, please show this letter to him or her. If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at 916-928-3987.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/index.html>