



27 August 2019

Whooping Cough at Kununurra District High School East Kimberley College

A member of your school community has recently been diagnosed with Pertussis, also known as Whooping Cough. It is possible that other children/adults at school may also have been affected. Please be aware of the signs and symptoms of whooping cough particularly in the next 3 weeks.

Symptoms of whooping cough include:

- Ongoing coughing especially at night,
- Coughing to the point of gagging or vomiting.
- A flu-like illness before the coughing stage
- Young infants and children might also make a 'whooping' sound during coughing bouts

Adolescents and adults can have the disease with the only symptom being a persistent cough lasting several weeks or months. It is important to have such coughs assessed by a doctor because if one person in the family has whooping cough, it is likely to spread to the rest of the family, including vulnerable young children.

To stop whooping cough:

- Make sure everyone in your family is up to date with their vaccinations
- Stay away from school, work and social gatherings if you are sick. Especially stay away from babies and pregnant women.
- Go to the hospital/clinic if you are sick. If you have whooping cough the doctor can give you antibiotics to stop you spreading the bug to others.

Vaccination is the most important way of reducing pertussis/whooping cough in our community. However, **Vaccinated people can still get Whooping cough but their illness is much milder and they are less likely to be hospitalised.**

For more information contact, your School Health Nurse or call the Disease Control Team at the Kimberley Population Health Unit on (08) 9194 1643.