



Public Health England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

North West London
Health Protection Team
61 Colindale Avenue
London
NW9 5EQ
T +44 (0)20 3326 1658
F +44 (0)20 3326 1654
www.gov.uk/phe

NWL HPT Ref: 1214732

Acton High School
Gunnersbury Lane,
London W3 8EY

Tuesday 13th December 2016

Dear Staff, Parents/Guardians,

Re: Two possible cases of confirmed pertussis (whooping cough) at Acton High School

Two cases of confirmed pertussis at Acton High School have been reported to the North West London Health Protection Team. Currently there is a national increase in the number of cases of pertussis.

Pertussis is caused by a bacterial infection which can affect people of all ages. In adults it tends to cause a mild illness whereas in infants there is a higher risk of complications.

Symptoms include:

- Outbursts of coughing (paroxysms)
- A 'whooping' noise when breathing in at the end of a coughing bout
- Vomiting after the coughing bouts
- Difficulty in breathing during the coughing bouts.

The UK routine childhood immunisations schedule includes a primary course of immunisation against pertussis at age 2, 3 and 4 months, and a booster immunisation at pre-school age of 3 years and 4 months.

If your child has not had these immunisations, we advise you to discuss this with your GP or Practice Nurse with a view to ensuring that your child is protected by these immunisations.

Advice from the North West London Health Protection Team

Children of all ages

If your child has not had the routine immunisations described above, please make an appointment with your GP or Practice Nurse to complete these.

If your child develops symptoms described above, please see a doctor such as your GP for advice or attend A&E if the situation is more urgent.

Pregnancy

The Department of Health is recommending all pregnant women be offered pertussis containing vaccine in the third trimester of pregnancy to protect themselves and their newborns. If you are between 28-38 weeks pregnant please consider contacting your GP for the vaccine.

Further information about pertussis and vaccination may be sought from:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/whooping-cough/Pages/Introduction.aspx

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/pertussis-guidance-data-and-analysis>

and NHS 111.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Lo', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Dr Janice Lo
Acting Consultant in Communicable Disease Control
North West London Health Protection Team