



Pertussis: School and Activities Exclusion Recommendations

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/immunization/pertussis.html>

1-800-469-4599

Reason student seen by provider						
Antibiotics prescribed	Prophylaxis recommended by public health due to significant exposure. No symptoms* Note: If the student has symptoms, evaluate for pertussis and test, treat, and exclude accordingly. Lab testing is not recommended unless symptoms are present.	Evaluation of symptoms*				
		Pertussis not suspected		Pertussis suspected; cough duration greater than 3 weeks**		Pertussis suspected; cough duration 3 weeks or less
		Nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen collected	No NP specimen collected	NP specimen collected	No NP specimen collected	No NP specimen collected
Antibiotics prescribed	Do not exclude. Note: School nurse/administrator or public health investigator may contact provider to discuss why antibiotics were not prescribed.	Do not exclude. Note: Treatment is not recommended unless pertussis is suspected. School or public health may contact provider to discuss why antibiotics were prescribed.	Do not exclude. Note: Treatment is not recommended unless pertussis is suspected. School or public health may contact provider to discuss why antibiotics were prescribed.	Do not exclude. Note: Treatment is not recommended after 3 weeks of cough illness.	Exclude until pertussis ruled out by lab test***, or 5 days of antibiotics are completed.	Exclude until 5 days of antibiotics are completed. Note: Testing is recommended for all suspect cases.
Antibiotics not prescribed	Do not exclude. Note: School nurse/administrator or public health investigator may contact provider to discuss why antibiotics were not prescribed.	Do not exclude. If test is positive, start treatment and exclude until 5 days of antibiotics are completed (unless cough duration is now greater than 3 weeks).	Do not exclude.	Do not exclude.	Exclude until pertussis ruled out by laboratory test***. If test is positive, start treatment and exclude until 5 days of antibiotics are completed (unless cough duration is now greater than 3 weeks). Note: Deferring treatment of suspect cases pending lab results is not recommended.	Exclude for 21 days from cough onset if suspect case is not tested and ruled out***, or treated. Note: Testing and treatment is recommended for all suspect cases.

*Pertussis-like symptoms can include paroxysmal cough with or without post-tussive vomiting or whoop. Coryza may indicate early pertussis (catarrhal phase).

**Pertussis is infectious only during the first 3 weeks of cough. Treatment and school exclusion are not recommended after that time although the cough may persist much longer.

***A negative test result does not definitively rule out pertussis. Treatment and exclusion should be based on clinical judgment.