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TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 211  
Julie C. Nowak  
Principal  
Daniel C. Cates  
Superintendent

February 15, 2017

Dear Parent:

A student at Conant High School has been diagnosed with pertussis. Pertussis (whooping cough) is a highly infectious illness that is easily transmitted through coughing and sneezing and may last for several months. We are working with the Cook County Department of Public Health.

Symptoms of pertussis may appear 5 to 10 days following exposure, but can take up to 21 days to appear. The first symptoms of pertussis are similar to those of a common cold: a runny nose, low-grade fever, and a mild, occasional cough which can become severe and last for many weeks. In children, the cough is often associated with a distinctive “whooping” sound which may progress to vomiting. Although most people recover completely from pertussis, complications from the disease can be severe for those in high-risk groups, which include infants and children who have not yet been fully immunized, the aged, and those with a weakened immune system. For more information log on to: <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/> or <http://www.medicinenet.com/pertussis/article.htm>. If you suspect your child is exhibiting signs and symptoms of pertussis, do not send your child to school.

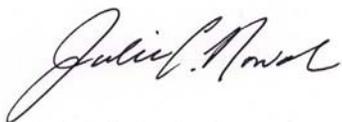
If you are notified by the health department that your child has been in close contact with someone with pertussis, please contact your child’s physician to advise him/her regarding your child’s possible exposure to pertussis and arrange for treatment.

If you are not notified that your child has been identified as a close contact, please be alert of the symptoms of pertussis described above and contact your physician if the symptoms appear.

If your child is diagnosed with pertussis (whooping cough), please inform the school nurse, Ms. Smeltzer at (847) 755-3662, immediately. Students diagnosed with pertussis must be excluded from school until 5 days of antibiotic treatment has been completed. A doctor’s note must be presented upon return to school.

If you or your physician has any further questions, please contact the Cook County Department of Public Health at (708) 492-2150.

Sincerely,



Julie C. Nowak  
Principal