

October 22, 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This is an update to the previous letter we sent on Oct. 21, 2019 about the pertussis outbreak at Bishop Manogue High School. As we listened to feedback, we wanted to clear up any confusion related to students who don't have symptoms of pertussis (whooping cough) and student athletes participating in events with implications toward regional and state tournament participation.

1. If your child does not have a cough.
 - a. The CDC says a broad use of prophylaxis may be appropriate in limited closed settings; however, if students are asymptomatic, there is no recommendation from WCHD at this time to treat or test for pertussis. If you or your child is symptomatic, WCHD is recommending you seek medical care to determine if it is necessary to prescribe an appropriate antibiotic to prevent those infected from progressing to illness. Please take the entire course of antibiotics as prescribed by the doctor.

2. However, there is one exception to this recommendation:
 - a. Regarding participation in events implicating postseason, regional and state tournaments for NIAA-designated fall sports (cross country, football, girls golf, volleyball, soccer, tennis), those students have been granted an exemption to participate the week of Oct. 28, 2019. WCHD and Bishop Manogue High School have decided in order for students and staff to play in these tournaments, asymptomatic students will need to provide proof and documentation to Bishop Manogue officials that they meet the following conditions:
 - i. Students cannot be exhibiting any signs or symptoms of pertussis.
 - ii. Students must be up to date on current pertussis vaccination.
 - iii. Students must complete physician-prescribed prophylaxis prior to their competition date for each sport (Please keep in mind duration of prophylaxis can vary from 5-7 days).

For further questions, please contact 775-328-2447.

Sincerely,



Randall Todd, DrPH
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Washoe County Health District