

16 June 2017

Dear Staff, Parents and Guardians of Cardston Elementary School

Alberta Health Services Public Health has identified a confirmed case of Pertussis (Whooping Cough) at your facility. In order to prevent spread of disease to others and to protect yourself and your family, please review the following:

1. **If you or your child has symptoms of pertussis (whooping cough), please stay home from school, work, or any public place or social activity. Pertussis is very contagious.**

Whooping cough is caused by bacteria. Common symptoms include:

- Starts as a cold with runny nose, sneezing, fever up to 39.4 degrees Celsius (103 degrees Fahrenheit), and mild cough.
- The cough becomes gradually more severe with repetitive coughing spells, often followed by a whooping sound when the child is breathing in, and/or vomiting following a coughing spell.
- Older children and adults may experience milder symptoms, such as a prolonged cough with or without coughing fits and no whoop.

Children under one year of age are especially vulnerable, and may need hospitalization to help recover from this illness. Women who are in their last trimester of pregnancy are also at risk of spreading the illness to their newborn babies.

2. **Pertussis is treatable with antibiotics.** It is important that you contact your doctor if you suspect you, or your child has Pertussis. Take this letter with you, so your doctor knows of the pertussis exposure and can do the proper testing (N/P swab), if indicated.
3. **If you or your child is diagnosed with pertussis, stay home from school, work, church, public places and other social settings for 5 days after you have started antibiotics.** If treatment is not started, you must stay home for **21 days** after the start of your symptoms.
4. **Immunization** is recommended to prevent infection or to reduce severity of illness. Please contact your Public Health Clinic to inquire if your child(ren) is fully immunized and to make an appointment.
5. For more information on Pertussis (Whooping Cough) go to this link from myhealth.Alberta.ca: <http://bit.ly/IWQDYF>.

Sincerely,

Karin Goodison, MD, MPH, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health  
Alberta Health Services – South Zone

**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES IN SOUTHERN ALBERTA**

<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>HOURS OF OPERATION</b>
<b>Bow Island (Provincial Bldg.)</b>	802 – 6 Street E. Bow Island, AB T0K 0G0	403-545-2296	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
<b>Brooks</b>	440 Third Street E Brooks, AB T1R 1B3	403-501-3300	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
<b>Cardston (Provincial Bldg.)</b>	576 Main Street Cardston, AB T0K 0K0	403-653-5230	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
<b>Coaldale (Hospital)</b>	2100 - 11 Street Coaldale, AB T1M 1L2	403-345-3000	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
<b>Crowsnest Pass</b>	12501 – 20 Avenue Blairmore, AB T0K 0E0	403-562-5030	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
<b>Fort Macleod (Hospital)</b>	744 – 26 Street Fort Macleod, AB T0L 0Z0	403-553-5351	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
<b>Lethbridge (Train Station)</b>	810 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue South Lethbridge, AB T1J 4L5	403-388-6666	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
<b>Magrath</b>	37E – 2 Avenue Magrath, AB T0K 1J0	403-758-4422	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
<b>Medicine Hat</b>	2948 Dunmore Road SE Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8E3	403-502-8200	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
<b>Milk River (Hospital)</b>	517 Centre Avenue Milk River, AB T0K 1M0	403-647-3430	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
<b>Oyen</b>	315 - 3 Avenue E Oyen, AB T0J 2J0	403-664-3651	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
<b>Picture Butte (Piyami Health Centre)</b>	301A Rogers Avenue Picture Butte, AB T0K 1V0	403-388-6751	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
<b>Pincher Creek (Hospital)</b>	1222 Bev McLachlin Drive Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0	403-627-1230	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
<b>Raymond</b>	150 N - 4 <sup>th</sup> Street E Raymond, AB T0K 2S0	403-752-5430	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
<b>Taber</b>	4326 – 50 <sup>th</sup> Ave Taber, AB T1G 1N9	403-223-7230	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
<b>Vauxhall</b>	406 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue N. Vauxhall, AB T0K 2K0	403-223-7229	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm