



## ARNDELL ANGLICAN COLLEGE

**For your information:**

### **Whooping Cough at Arndell!**

The College has been advised that a member of the Senior School staff has Whooping Cough. Obviously she has been in the company of staff and students and upon visiting her Doctor was informed that she had Whooping Cough

#### **Signs and Symptoms:**

The first symptoms of whooping cough are similar to those of a common cold:

- runny nose
- sneezing
- mild cough
- low-grade fever

#### **Contagiousness:**

Pertussis is highly contagious. The bacteria spreads from person to person through tiny drops of fluid from an infected person's nose or mouth. These may become airborne when the person sneezes, coughs, or laughs. Others then can become infected by inhaling the drops or getting the drops on their hands and then touching their mouths or noses. Antibiotics shorten the period of contagiousness to 5 days following the start of antibiotic treatment.

#### **Prevention:**

Whooping cough can be prevented with the pertussis vaccine, which is part of the DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis) immunization.

#### **Incubation:**

The incubation period (the time between infection and the onset of symptoms) for whooping cough is usually 7 to 10 days, but can be as long as 21 days.

#### **When to Call the Doctor:**

Call the doctor if you suspect that your child has whooping cough or has been exposed to someone with whooping cough, even if your child has already received all scheduled pertussis immunizations

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