



BC Centre for Disease Control

## RECOMMENDED PREVENTIVE TREATMENT OF CONTACTS TO CASES OF PERTUSSIS (WHOOPIING COUGH)

In order to prevent the development of whooping cough, the health unit recommends antibiotics for close contacts of a case of whooping cough. This is especially important for very young infants and pregnant women in the last 3 months of pregnancy. Even fully immunized persons should take antibiotics to maximize their own protection and lessen the chance of spreading the whooping cough bacteria to others. If your child is not fully immunized, the nurse will review this with you.

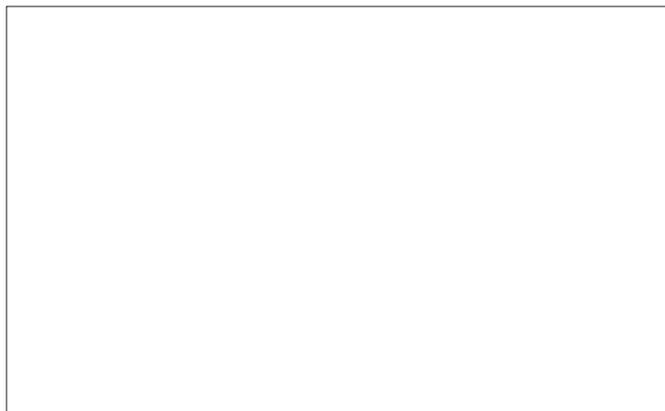
You must take the full course of antibiotics for your body to completely eliminate the whooping cough bacteria. Discuss any contraindications and side effects from the antibiotics with your public health nurse or physician.

*Please take the attached prescription to a pharmacy and purchase the recommended antibiotic.* Start taking the antibiotic immediately, as directed. Unless taken soon after exposure to the case of whooping cough, the antibiotic may not prevent you from developing whooping cough.

If you have any problems while taking the antibiotic, contact your Public Health Nurse or physician.

If you or your child has symptoms of an increasingly severe cough, runny nose, or fever during the next two weeks, please contact your physician promptly.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact your Public Health Nurse at your local health unit.



Health Unit Stamp

Public Health Nurse: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (       ) \_\_\_\_\_