

## Webster confirms whooping cough case at Spry Middle School

Contagious illness can be prevented by vaccination

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A Webster Central School District middle schooler has contracted whooping cough, the district confirmed Thursday.

Krista Grose, the district's spokeswoman, said in an email that a Spry Middle School student had been treated for whooping cough.

"Webster CSD confirms that there was one student at Spry Middle School that was identified and treated for pertussis (whooping cough)," Grose said in a statement. "Any parents who have concerns about their child's health for any reason are always encouraged to contact their pediatrician."

Whooping cough, is a highly contagious respiratory illness known by the characteristic "whooping" noise an infected person makes when coughing, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is particularly dangerous for infants, who may not have a symptomatic cough but will experience apnea (a pause in breathing) instead, and is largely preventable by vaccination.

Signs and symptoms of whooping cough:

- Early symptoms will be cold-like, such as a low-grade fever, runny nose and a mild cough.

After one to weeks, symptoms will become more severe and will include:

- Paroxysms (fits) of many, rapid coughs followed by a high-pitched "whoop" sound.

- Vomiting during or after coughing fits.

- Exhaustion after coughing fits.

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