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February, 10th 2016

Re: Potential Exposure to a Pertussis Case at Garden Avenue Public School at 225 Garden Ave. Toronto, ON, M6R 1H9

To Whom It May Concern:

A person at the above location has recently been diagnosed with pertussis (Whooping cough). If you attended or teach at **Garden Avenue Public School or Sunnyside Garden Daycare** you may have had contact with this individual.

Pertussis (whooping cough) is a communicable disease that is spread very easily from infected persons to others through coughing or sneezing. Pertussis can be a serious infection, particularly for infants less than one year of age and pregnant women in their third trimester who may pass their infection on to their newborns. The symptoms of pertussis include:

- A mild onset of a runny nose, congestion, or dry cough, within 3 weeks of being infected;
- Followed 1 to 2 weeks later by sudden severe attacks of coughing
- Attacks of coughing that can end in a high pitched whoop sound, loss of breath, or vomiting and;
- Cough that can last for 1-2 months (or longer).

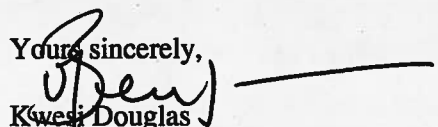
Anyone who develops symptoms should telephone their doctor right away and call public health at the number below. Advise your doctor of the pertussis contact. Your doctor can then perform the appropriate tests for pertussis and recommend treatment.

Toronto Public Health recommends that all children, adolescents and adults be fully immunized against pertussis. Take this opportunity to ensure that your children's and teenager's pertussis immunizations are up to date (pertussis immunization schedule included below). For Children and teenagers, pertussis vaccine is available free from your health care provider.

One dose of pertussis vaccine (*Adacel*® or *Boostrix*®) is available free from your health care provider for adults.

If you require additional information please call Kwesi Douglas, Communicable Disease Investigator, Toronto Public Health at (416)-338-7886, and Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Yours sincerely,


Kwesi Douglas
Communicable Disease Investigator
Control of Infectious Diseases
Toronto Public Health

Recommended Schedule for Pertussis Immunization

<i>Age</i>	Pertussis Immunization
2 mo.	✓
4 mo.	✓
6 mo.	✓
18 mo.	✓
4-6 yr.	✓
14-16 yr.	✓
Adults 19 -64 years of age who missed their adolescent booster	✓

Pertussis immunizations are available for free from your health care provider