December 13, 2016

To: Students, Faculty and Staff

From: The Health Center at Auraria

Regarding: The School of Education (WC 162), West Classrooms 143 and 164

The Health Center at Auraria was informed of two confirmed cases of Pertussis (Whooping cough) within the School of Education. The Health Center consulted with Denver Public Health, and, based off the reported cases, it has been determined that the risk to our population is quite low. However, the Health Center wanted all constituents to have information about this condition in case they were to develop the symptoms.

The illness is spread by infected individuals who are actively coughing for extended periods of time within approximately three feet of the sick person. If you believe you may have been exposed or are experiencing symptoms listed below please consult a medical professional regarding your risk and treatment options.

Pertussis is a bacterial infection that gets into your nose and throat. It spreads very easily, but vaccines like DTaP and Tdap can help prevent it in children and adults.

Symptoms:
At first, whooping cough has the same symptoms as the average cold including:
Mild coughing, Sneezing, Runny nose, Low fever (below 102 F)
You may also have diarrhea early on.
After about 7-10 days, the cough turns into “coughing spells” that end with a whooping sound as the person tries to breathe in air.
If doctors diagnose whooping cough early at the onset of symptoms, antibiotics can help cut down coughing and other symptoms. They can also help prevent the infection from spreading to others, but many people are diagnosed too late for antibiotics to work well.

Additional resources include, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/
The Health Center at Auraria is also a resource for questions and can be reached at 303-556-2525.