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Dear,

You have been identified as a contact of a case of whooping cough (pertussis). Although the risk that you will develop whooping cough is low, we are writing to provide you with information about the infection and how you can protect yourself and your patients.

Whooping cough is a respiratory infection caused by *Bordetella pertussis* bacteria. Whooping cough usually begins like a common cold with a runny nose, low fever, sneezing and mild occasional coughing. Over the next one to two weeks, this progresses to fits of coughing which may be followed by choking and/or vomiting. The cough often comes in short bursts (paroxysms) followed by a gasp for air (when the characteristic whooping noise may be made) and the feeling of not being able to catch your breath. Whooping cough doesn't always cause the typical whoop or vomiting after coughing.

Whooping cough most commonly affects infants and is most serious in this group. Whooping cough does, however, also occur in older children, adolescents and adults. Across the UK, the number of cases of whooping cough in these older age groups is currently high.

If a healthcare worker develops whooping cough, they may transmit whooping cough to patients, particularly young children and pregnant women.

As you have been in close contact with a case and you are due to work with infants or pregnant women in the next 3 weeks, we recommend that you have a short course of antibiotics and a booster dose of vaccine (if you have not had a pertussis vaccine in the last 5 years) . ADD DETAILS OF ARRANGEMENTS.

If you develop a cough illness in the next 3 weeks, please contact occupational health on XXXXXXXXXX to ensure appropriate testing for whooping cough and management.

Further information on pertussis is available from:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Whooping-cough/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

or

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/pertussis-guidance-data-and-analysis>

Yours faithfully,

XXX