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**Mequon-Thiensville School District Takes Precautions Against Whooping Cough**

*District has had no confirmed cases thus far*

MEQUON, WI – Upon news of four confirmed cases of pertussis—also known as whooping cough—in the city of Mequon, the Mequon-Thiensville School District has taken the necessary precautions to prevent the disease from reaching its schools.

The District is currently working with the Ozaukee County Public Health Department and has taken additional precautions, including sanitizing all of the District's busses, in an effort to kill the bacteria. While the four cases of pertussis were reported in Mequon, it's important to note that none of the individuals were students in the Mequon-Thiensville School District.

"The health and well-being of our students is always our most important concern in our District, and we are taking extra precautions to prevent pertussis from reaching our schools," said Demond Means, Superintendent. "We are doing everything we can to protect our students' learning environments and stop the possible spread of this disease."

Pertussis is a highly contagious disease that is spread from person to person, usually through coughing or sneezing. It often starts with cold-like symptoms and a mild cough and fever. After one to two weeks, severe coughing can begin that, unlike the common cold, can be violent and rapid.

The Mequon-Thiensville School District is taking special precautions due to the fact that some District students share buses with private school students who may be affected by pertussis. If a child begins to exhibit any of the signs or symptoms of the disease, school officials urge parents to have him or her check by a healthcare provider prior to attending school.

To learn more about pertussis, the school district encourages parents and community members to visit the Center for Disease Control's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/index.html>.