PERTUSSIS

1 Heavy cough
2 Sniffles
3 Fever
Airborne infection: transmission through coughing, sneezing, speaking.
Smear infection: via contaminated hands.

**PREVENTION**
Vaccination at the earliest opportunity! Primary vaccination at 2, 3 and 4 months of age as well as at 11 to 14 months of age. Booster vaccination at 5 to 6 years and between 9 to 17 years of age.

**INCUBATION PERIOD**
The time from infection to outbreak of the disease is between 7 and 20 days.

**CLINICAL SYMPTOMS**
Duration: several weeks to months. 1st phase: In the first week, flu symptoms such as slight fever, sniffles, slight cough. 2nd phase: sudden coughing fits, wheezing and vomiting. 3rd phase: coughing subsides in up to 6 weeks.

**MODE OF TRANSMISSION**
Airborne infection: transmission through coughing, sneezing, speaking. Smear infection: via contaminated hands.

**COMPLICATIONS**
Life-threatening for non-vaccinated babies: they do not show the typical pertussis symptoms but suffer from respiratory failure!

**CONTOUSIONESS**
Contagiousness starts a few days before the initial symptoms show and may continue until approximately 3 weeks after the onset of the typical cough. A treatment with antibiotics may reduce the contagiousness period to 5 days.

**READMITTANCE**
Without antibiotic treatment, your child may attend the nursery again 3 weeks after the start of the typical cough at the earliest; with antibiotic treatment after 5 days at the earliest. The nursery must inform the health authorities immediately about all occurrences of this disease.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**
SEE THE NHS WEBSITE