Pertussis is a very contagious disease. It can spread when a person coughs or sneezes. Given the close proximity and long duration of students in daycare/preschool/school, pertussis transmission is very high in a daycare/preschool/school setting. Pertussis in a daycare/school can easily spread to the general community. Vulnerable populations, such as pregnant women and infants, are at an especially high risk of transmitting disease and developing serious illness, including hospitalizations and death. Therefore, it is important to control and monitor disease transmission to protect the health and well-being of students, staff, and the general community.

Daycare/preschools/schools are at the front-line in controlling and managing communicable diseases. Daycare/preschools and schools can uniquely provide critical information of students' social patterns, shared classrooms, extracurricular activities in and out of school, etc. Therefore, daycare/preschools/schools are the most appropriate facilities to monitor students and staff with diseases.

This tracking list can assist you in preventing transmission of pertussis in your daycare/school in the following ways:

- Tracking all persons with pertussis
- Tracking all persons who have been exposed to persons with pertussis (these persons are at risk for developing pertussis)
- Identifying when cases can return to daycare/preschool/school (end of incubation period)
- Identifying when the daycare/school is no longer susceptible for further disease transmission (end of incubation period)
- Identifying whether two or more persons with pertussis are possibly linked
- Tracking high risk persons in daycare/school who might have been exposed (e.g., pregnant women, infants, etc.)

In the event of a pertussis outbreak, the Vaccine Preventable Disease Control Program has created this tracking list to assist daycares/schools in controlling and managing disease transmission.

For any questions on how to use this tracking list, please call the Vaccine Preventable Disease Control Program at (213) 351-7800 at ask to speak to the Epidemiology Unit.