

Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

Whooping cough is a serious respiratory illness. It is caused by *Bordetella pertussis* bacteria. It can cause violent coughing fits. Whooping cough is most harmful for young babies and can be deadly.

How does it spread?



Coughing



Sneezing



Sharing breathing space

Early Symptoms

Often, early symptoms are mild, like a common cold, and can include:

- Runny nose
- Low fever
- Sneezing
- Mild cough



Symptoms in Babies

Babies younger than 6 months old with pertussis often do not have a typical cough. In the early stages, babies may:

- Gasp or gag
- Turn blue around the mouth
- Feed poorly
- Stop breathing

Symptoms after 1-2 weeks

Symptoms can get worse fast and can last for months. They include bad coughing attacks that may lead to:

- A "whoop" sound
- Vomiting
- Problems breathing
- Difficulty sleeping
- Extreme tiredness



See a health care provider or call your local health department if you have whooping cough symptoms.



People of all ages need

WHOOPING COUGH VACCINES

Make sure your child gets all **5 doses of the DTaP vaccine** to help protect against whooping cough, diphtheria, and tetanus.



DTaP

for young children

- ✓ 2, 4, and 6 months
- ✓ 15 through 18 months
- ✓ 4 through 6 years

Tdap

for adolescents

- ✓ 11 through 18 years, preferably at age 11 through 12

Tdap

for pregnant women

- ✓ During the 27th-36th week of **each** pregnancy

Tdap

for adults

- ✓ Anytime for those who have never received it
- ✓ Consider a booster dose of Tdap every 10 years for your tetanus booster

Stop the spread. If You Have Whooping Cough:

- Contact your baby or child's doctor as it is important to treat whooping cough early. Whooping cough is usually treated with antibiotics.
- **Stay home.** Avoid contact with others until you have finished treatment.