

# 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.



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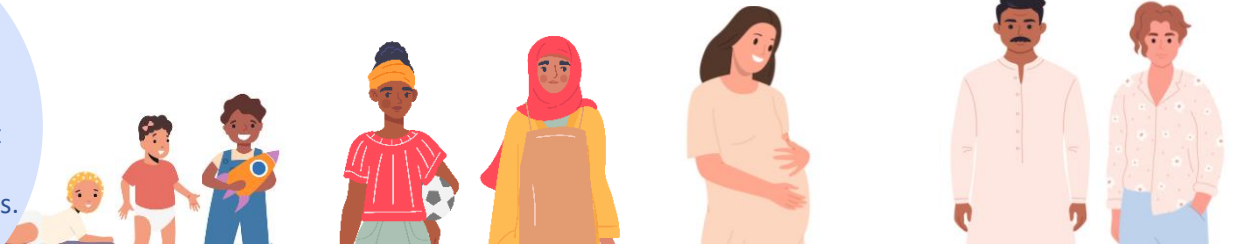
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