

Protect yourself from **whooping cough**...

Get vaccinated!

What is whooping cough?

Whooping cough is a serious disease caused by bacteria. It is called whooping cough because of the “whoop” heard when a person who has it gasps for breath. Whooping cough is also known as pertussis.

How do you catch it?

Whooping cough is spread through the air by coughing and sneezing. It is very contagious.

Is it serious?



Whooping cough can trigger coughing so severe that it results in vomiting and broken ribs. The cough can last for weeks or months.

Approximately half of babies younger than one year who get whooping cough are hospitalized. Babies are the most likely to die from whooping cough or have complications such as seizures and brain damage.

Am I at risk?

Yes. Whooping cough is most dangerous for babies, but anyone can become seriously ill from it.

How can I protect myself from whooping cough?



You can protect yourself (and others) by getting vaccinated.

All babies, children, and teens should get vaccinated against whooping cough as part of their regular checkups.

Adults should also get vaccinated against whooping cough to protect themselves, their families and friends, and babies they may be in contact with.

Women should receive a dose of Tdap during the 3rd trimester of each pregnancy.

Babies and children need to be vaccinated with DTaP vaccine, and older children, teens, and adults should receive Tdap vaccine. These vaccines protect against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough).

Ask your healthcare provider if you need this vaccine!

► For more information, visit www.vaccineinformation.org

For other vaccine handouts in this series, visit www.immunize.org/vaccine-summaries

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Technical content reviewed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Saint Paul, Minnesota • www.immunize.org
www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4416.pdf • Item #P4416 (1/19)