



Protecting Babies from Pertussis (Whooping Cough)



WHAT IS WHOOPING COUGH

- Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a disease that is easily spread and can be deadly for babies.
- Whooping cough is a respiratory infection that is spread from person-to-person through coughs and sneezes.
- Symptoms can include: runny nose, mild fever, coughing, or trouble breathing.

RISKS OF WHOOPING COUGH INFECTION

- Whooping cough can be very dangerous for newborns, especially in the first 6 months of life.
- About half of infants who get whooping cough are hospitalized.
- Whooping cough cases across the U.S. have been on the rise since the 1980s.

4 OUT OF 5 INFANTS
CATCH WHOOPING
COUGH FROM
SOMEONE AT HOME

HOW TO PREVENT WHOOPING COUGH

- There are two vaccines available to prevent whooping cough. Both vaccines also protect against tetanus and diphtheria.
 - **DTaP** - for children 2 months through 6 years
 - **Tdap** - for adolescents and adults
- Additional protection can be provided to the newborn by making sure that everyone who is around the baby is up to date with their whooping cough vaccine. They should be vaccinated at least two weeks before meeting the baby.

WHO SHOULD GET VACCINATED

- **Pregnant women** - one dose of Tdap during the third trimester (preferably at 27-36 weeks) of each pregnancy
- **Children ages 2 months through 6 years** - five doses of DTaP
- **Adolescents** - one dose of Tdap at ages 11-12 years
- **Family members and caregivers** - one dose of Tdap if they have not already received one



The first few months after birth are when your baby is most at risk of getting whooping cough and when it is most dangerous.

Getting the Tdap vaccine during pregnancy helps protect your baby from whooping cough in the first few months of life before she gets vaccinated herself.

One simple step to help keep your baby healthy. Get vaccinated!