



Whooping Cough is Serious

What is whooping cough?

Whooping cough (pertussis) is a respiratory disease that spreads easily by coughing and sneezing.

How serious is it?

It is most serious for babies. They often have severe coughing spells that make it hard to breathe, eat, drink, and sleep. Whooping cough can lead to pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, and death. Nine out of ten whooping cough-related deaths, and most hospitalizations, occur in babies under six months.

3 ways to protect your baby and family:

- 1 Get your child vaccinated with DTaP** at the following ages for full protection:
 - **2 months**
 - **4 months**
 - **6 months**
 - **15 to 18 months**
 - **4 to 6 years**
 - Plus a dose of Tdap vaccine at age 11 to 12

- 2 Get the Tdap vaccine for you and your family.** Children, teens, and adults can protect themselves and babies by getting a Tdap vaccine. Babies usually get whooping cough from family or friends who do not know they have it.

- 3 Get the Tdap vaccine during the third trimester of each pregnancy** to best protect your baby. Women who do not get the vaccine during pregnancy should get it right after giving birth.



DTaP and Tdap vaccines protect against three diseases:

- **Diphtheria**
- **Tetanus**
- **Whooping cough (pertussis)**

Child care and school requirements:

Children entering child care or preschool must be up-to-date with their immunizations.

For kindergarten entry, children must have the complete DTaP vaccine series. A dose of Tdap vaccine is also required for sixth grade.



Call your doctor, nurse, or clinic today to schedule your child's DTaP and your Tdap immunization.

Find out more.

Visit the Washington State Department of Health:
www.doh.wa.gov/whoopingcough



Listen to a child with whooping cough at:
www.pkids.org/diseases/pertussis.html

Find an immunization clinic by calling:

 WithinReach

WithinReach Family Health Hotline
1-800-322-2588 (711 TTY relay)
or www.ParentHelp123.org



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