



# Whooping Cough

IS SERIOUS

## What is whooping cough (pertussis)?

*It is a respiratory disease that spreads easily through the air when a person who has whooping cough breathes, coughs, or sneezes.*

## How serious is it?

Whooping cough is most serious in babies, and can lead to pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, and death. Babies often have severe coughing spells that make it hard to breathe, eat, drink, and sleep. Nine out of ten whooping cough-related deaths and most hospitalizations occur in babies under 6 months.

## Three ways to protect your baby and family:

### ▶ 1. During Pregnancy

Pregnant people should get Tdap vaccine **early** in the third trimester of **every pregnancy**. This protects the baby during the first few months of life.

### ▶ 2. Babies and Children

Babies and children should get DTaP vaccine at these ages:

- 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

### ▶ 3. Family and Friends

Babies usually catch whooping cough from family or friends who do not know they have it. Children, teens, and adults, including people who did not get vaccinated while pregnant, can protect themselves and babies by getting a Tdap vaccine if they have not already received one.

## **DTaP and Tdap vaccines protect against three diseases:**

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Whooping cough (pertussis)

NOTE: DTaP vaccine protects children under seven years.

Tdap vaccine protects people seven years and older.



## **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 to enter seventh grade.

*Call your doctor, nurse, or clinic today to schedule your and your child's whooping cough vaccines.*

Find out more:

For more information, visit:

[www.doh.wa.gov/whoopingcough](http://www.doh.wa.gov/whoopingcough)

Find an immunization clinic by calling:

WithinReach™

Call the WithinReach Help Me Grow Washington Hotline at **1-800-322-2588** (711 TTY relay) or **www.ParentHelp123.org**



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