



# Whooping Cough

IS SERIOUS

## What is whooping cough (pertussis)?

Whooping cough is a respiratory illness that spreads easily through the air when a person who has it breathes, coughs, or sneezes.

## How serious is it?

Whooping cough is very serious, especially for babies and young kids. Whooping cough can cause pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, and death. Babies younger than one year of age who get whooping cough may be hospitalized or even die.

## Three ways to protect your baby and family:

### ▶ 1. Pregnant people

People who are pregnant 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 parents 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 children 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 immunizations.*

Find out more:

For more information, visit:

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



Listen to a child with whooping cough at:  
[bit.ly/2V87c3X](https://bit.ly/2V87c3X)

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](http://www.ParentHelp123.org)

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