

Pertussis "Whooping Cough"



For more information about Pertussis...

Ask your doctor
or
local health department

Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

<http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/>

Ohio Department of Health

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/>

Email: Immunize@odh.ohio.gov



Ohio Department of Health
Bureau of Infectious Diseases

Immunization Program
246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
1-800-282-0546
614-466-4643



Protect yourself **AND**
the ones you love

Get
Vaccinated!

What is pertussis?

Pertussis or “whooping cough” is a serious respiratory infection that spreads easily from person to person. Pertussis starts out with symptoms of a regular cold with mild fever and in 1-2 weeks progresses to severe coughing spells that last for weeks (100 day cough). Coughing is usually absent in infants with the main symptom being apnea –a pause in breathing pattern. It can cause coughing spells so severe a person can crack a rib or have difficulty breathing. It can lead to weight loss, incontinence, rib fractures, pneumonia, seizures, hospitalization and even death.

How does pertussis spread?

Pertussis spreads in respiratory droplets and is transmitted through close contact with an infected person. Symptoms usually appear within 7 to 10 days of exposure; however, the disease can be spread well before symptoms appear.



Who is most at risk?

Although serious consequences may occur at any age, young infants who are not fully vaccinated have the highest risk of complications from pertussis.



How can pertussis be prevented?

The best way to prevent pertussis is through vaccination. This is especially important for anyone who is in contact with infants. Currently, there are two types of vaccine to protect against pertussis-DTaP and Tdap. In addition to pertussis, each of these vaccines provides protection against tetanus and diphtheria.

Who should receive the vaccine?

- Children under 7 years of age should receive five doses of DTaP.
- Adolescents 11 through 18 years of age should receive one booster dose of Tdap, preferably at age 11-12 years.
- Adults 19 years of age and older should receive one dose of Tdap in place of one booster dose of Td (tetanus-diphtheria) vaccine. This is especially important if you will have contact with or are a caregiver of infants.
- An adolescent or adult who gets a severe cut or burn should substitute Tdap for one booster dose of Td.
- New mothers who have never received a dose of Tdap should get a dose as soon as possible after delivery. If vaccination is given during pregnancy, it is recommended that it be given after 20 weeks of gestation. It is recommended that all caregivers/ close contacts of infants be vaccinated. Check with your medical provider.

