

Pertussis: What to Know

Understanding Pertussis and the vaccine that protects against it

The Vaccine Against Whooping Cough

DTaP is the childhood vaccine that protects against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis. You may know pertussis better by its other name - whooping cough. Whooping cough is very contagious and can be passed on for weeks. Plus, it can cause weeks or months of coughing. Antibiotic treatment needs to be started as soon as possible.



Pertussis is NOT a Common Cold

Early symptoms can last 1-2 weeks. These usually include:

- ▶ Runny or stuffed up nose
- ▶ Low-grade fever (less than 100.4°F)
- ▶ Mild, occasional cough
- ▶ Pauses in breathing or struggles breathing (babies can experience this **INSTEAD** of coughing)



1-2 weeks after early symptoms start, you may start having coughing fits that can cause:

- ▶ A high-pitched “whoop” when inhaling
- ▶ Trouble sleeping
- ▶ Vomiting during or after coughing fits
- ▶ Struggling to breathe
- ▶ Tiredness after coughing fits
- ▶ Broken rib

Questions? Ask a health care provider! And If you suspect whooping cough, visit a health care provider!