

About Pertussis

(Whooping Cough)



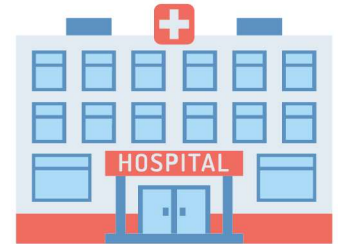
Cook County
DEPT. of
Public Health

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What is pertussis?

Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a highly contagious respiratory illness that can cause serious and sometimes deadly complications in babies and young children.

Babies and children who haven't had all recommended whooping cough vaccines are more likely to experience serious complications that could require hospitalization.



1 in 3

babies under 1 year old
will be hospitalized
for pertussis.



How is pertussis spread?

Pertussis is spread through coughing and sneezing. Some people have less severe symptoms, don't realize that they have pertussis, and unknowingly spread it to others.

Many babies who get whooping cough are accidentally infected by older siblings, parents, or caregivers.

What are the symptoms of pertussis?

Symptoms usually appear 5-10 days after exposure, but can take up to 21 days to appear.

Early pertussis symptoms in the first two weeks are often similar to the common cold and can include:

- Runny or stuffed-up nose
- Low-grade fever (less than 100.4°F)
- Mild, occasional cough

Later symptoms could last from one to six weeks and include:

- Severe coughing fits, particularly at night
- Making a high-pitched "whoop" after a coughing fit
- Vomiting after coughing



About Pertussis (continued)

How is pertussis treated?

- Healthcare providers usually treat whooping cough with antibiotics.
- People who come into close contact with someone suffering from pertussis should also receive antibiotics..

Note: Patients should remain home while receiving antibiotics for pertussis.

How can I protect my family and community?

- Arrange for yearly medical checkups for your child.
- Get the recommended vaccinations.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often.
- Stay home from work or school if sick.

People of all ages need whooping cough vaccines.



DTaP

For young children

2, 4, and 6 months
15 through 18 months
4 through **10 years**

Tdap

For preteens

11 through
12 years

Tdap

For pregnant women

During the 27-36th
week of each
pregnancy

Tdap

For adults

Anytime for those
who have never
received it

Parents: If you believe your child or other members of your household has pertussis, contact your doctor immediately.

Medical providers: Report possible pertussis cases within 24 hours to Cook County Department of Public Health at **708-836-8669**.

Learn more about:

- Pertussis: bit.ly/about-pertussis
- All recommended vaccines: boostupcookcounty.com



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