



Protect Your Baby from Whooping Cough

Whooping cough (pertussis) is a respiratory illness that spreads easily and can cause severe coughing fits.

- Babies younger than 6 months are at the highest risk for getting very sick. They may have trouble breathing and may need to stay in the hospital.
- Many infants are infected by family members or caregivers who don't know they are sick.

Protect your baby from birth!
Vaccination during pregnancy provides early protection when babies are most at risk.

How can you prevent whooping cough?

Two vaccines protect against whooping cough:

- **Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP):**
For babies and young kids (six weeks–six years)
- **Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap):**
For older kids and adults (seven years and older)

Pregnant people should get Tdap during every pregnancy (weeks 27–36). This helps protect babies before birth and greatly reduces their risk of whooping cough.

Getting Tdap during pregnancy works best, but if you didn't receive it and have never had it before, get vaccinated right after delivery.

Side effects are usually mild and may include a sore arm, headache, or muscle aches. Talk to your health care provider if you have questions.



Family members and caregivers should also get vaccinated at least two weeks before the baby arrives.