

Whooping Cough is serious

Recent outbreaks of whooping cough (pertussis) in Washington caused hospitalizations and deaths, mostly in babies under six months.



Whooping cough is serious for babies. They may have trouble feeding and breathing and may turn bluish. Many infants are unable to cough. Babies older than six months and kids with pertussis often have severe coughing spells that make it hard for them to eat, drink, breathe, and sleep.

Your child needs five doses of DTaP for full protection

- 2 months
- 4 months
- 6 months
- 15 - 18 months
- 4 - 6 years



Get Tdap for yourself and your family

Older children, teens, and adults can help protect themselves and babies by getting a Tdap vaccine. Whooping cough spreads easily by coughing or sneezing. Babies usually get it from family members or friends who may only have a mild cough and not know they have whooping cough.

Tdap vaccine is recommended for women each time they are pregnant. Women who do not get the vaccine during



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DTaP and Tdap vaccines protect against three diseases

Diphtheria spreads by coughing and sneezing. It causes a sore throat, low-grade fever, and can completely block a person's airway. Diphtheria can cause breathing and heart problems, coma, paralysis, and death.



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Pertussis (whooping cough) often starts like the common cold with runny nose and sneezing. After one to two weeks, severe coughing begins that can last for weeks or months. Whooping cough can lead to pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, and death.

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Find out more

- Listen to a child with pertussis at www.cdc.gov/pertussis
- Visit the Washington State Department of Health: www.doh.wa.gov/whoopingcough



Find an immunization clinic by calling:

	WithinReach Family Health Hotline 1-800-322-2588 (711 TTY relay) or www.ParentHelp123.org
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Partially funded by the Federal Vaccines for Children program.

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