Hawaii State Department of Health DISEASE OUTBREAK CONTROL DIVISION



PERTUSSIS TOOLKIT FOR SCHOOLS

this Pertussis
Toolkit to assist
schools and
childcare center
staff with
addressing cases
of pertussis
(whooping
cough) in their
facilities.

Table of Contents

(Select the links below to go directly to the resource)

- Introduction to the Toolkit
- Pertussis Toolkit Resources Explained

Pertussis Fact Sheet, Parent Letter & Exclusion Recommendations:

- Letter to Parents About the Fact Sheet
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Fact Sheet
- Pertussis School & Activities Exclusion Recommendations

Q&A, Carousel Post for Social Media, Flyers/Handouts:

- Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Questions & Answers
- Carousel Post for Social Media
- Flyers/Handouts:
 - o Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Infographic
 - o Keep Germs to Yourself! Cover Your Cough
 - o Keep Preteens & Teens Up-To-Date, Vaccinate!
 - Vax to School
 - o Protect Your Baby from Pertussis. Get Vaccinated!

Additional Tools & Resources:

- For School Staff
- For Parents & Guardians





Aloha

In response to the recent rise of pertussis (whooping cough) cases across the Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) developed this toolkit to assist school staff with identifying, addressing, and reporting cases of whooping cough in their facilities. This toolkit contains material for school staff and for parents and guardians. The resources in this toolkit are intended to provide school staff and parents/guardians with information regarding whooping cough and the vaccines that can prevent it. For more information on whooping cough, visit https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/disease_listing/pertussis/.

School staff should immediately notify the Hawaii Department of Health concerning suspected or confirmed cases of whooping cough in their schools so that appropriate disease control actions can be taken. To contact the Hawaii Department of Health Disease Reporting Line, please call (808)-586-4586.

Mahalo for your continued support in keeping our keiki healthy at school,

Sarah Kemble, M.D., Chief Disease Outbreak Control Division Hawaii State Department of Health

SauhKemble

Toolkit Resources Explained

In combating pertussis within school settings, school and childcare center staff play a pivotal role in reporting, prevention, and management. Our comprehensive toolkit includes a fact sheet and a letter to parents explaining this document, a Q&A document, a social media carousel tool, and flyers aimed at equipping school and childcare center staff with essential knowledge and resources. These resources can be distributed to parents as well as posted around your school.

Pertussis Fact Sheet, Parent Letter & Exclusion Criteria

- Letter to Parents About the Fact Sheet: Can be distributed with the fact sheet to let parents know why they are receiving information about pertussis.
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Fact Sheet: Contains general information on pertussis, including background, signs and symptoms, diagnosis and testing, treatment, vaccines, and other prevention measures.
- School & Activities Exclusion Recommendations: Contains school/activities exclusion recommendations for students who have suspected pertussis infection.

Q&A, Carousel Post for Social Media, Flyers/Handouts

- Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Questions & Answers: Handout for parents and guardians addressing frequently asked questions about pertussis.
- **Carousel Post for Social Media:** Can be used to distribute general information on pertussis via school social media platforms.
- **Flyers/Handouts:** Educational materials for posting in campus facilities and/or to distribute to parents and guardians.
 - o **Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Infographic:** For school staff to share information about pertussis, signs and symptoms, and prevention with parents and guardians.
 - Keep Germs to Yourself! Cover Your Cough: Can be posted in campus facilities (i.e., hallways, bathrooms, water fountains, bulletin boards, etc.) to encourage the practice of good respiratory hygiene.
 - Keep Preteens & Teens Up-To-Date, Vaccinate!: For school staff to share with parents or guardians about recommended vaccines for their teens.
 - Vax to School: For school staff to share with parents of children entering 7th grade.
 Emphasizes the importance of well-child visits and vaccinations.
 - o **Protect Your Baby from Pertussis. Get Vaccinated!**: For school staff to share with parents in order to encourage vaccination and promote household immunity.

Additional Tools & Resources

 Contains links to other HDOH and CDC resources regarding pertussis information and pertussis prevention in schools.



Dear

Parent or Guardian,

There has been a recent rise of pertussis (whooping cough) cases in communities across In response to this, the Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) has partnered with local schools to distribute fact sheets with information about pertussis. Distribution of this fact sheet is *not* a notification of exposure; it is a means to raise awareness about pertussis, how it's spread, and how you can protect yourself and your family from the disease. It is encouraged that parents and guardians get vaccinated and vaccinate their children against pertussis. While vaccination does not provide life-long immunity, it remains the most effective tool to prevent severe disease and hospitalization.

There are two types of vaccines used to prevent pertussis: DTaP and Tdap.

DTaP vaccine is given to infants and children under 7 years of age. The recommended schedule is 5 doses of vaccine given at ages 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12-18 months, and 4-6 years. Tdap vaccine is routinely recommended for children ages 11-12 years old. If you have a child who is not up to date with their DTaP series, they may need a Tdap vaccination as early as age 7 to complete the series. Contact your healthcare provider for more information about routine and catch-up pertussis vaccinations. Adolescents and adults who have not yet received this vaccine are encouraged to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

For information on how to access your or your family's immunization records, visit the HDOH Hawaii Immunization Registry at https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/about-us/programs/hawaii-immunization-registry-hir/ or call HDOH Immunization Branch at (808) 586-8300. You may also contact your or your family's vaccinating healthcare provider or pharmacy.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding pertussis, you may contact your healthcare provider. Please also read the attached fact sheet for more information.

Mahalo,

Ronald Balajadia, Chief Immunization Branch

Hawai'i State Department of Health



Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Fact Sheet

ABOUT THIS DISEASE

Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a highly contagious bacterial disease caused by *Bordetella pertussis*, which is found in the mouth, nose, and throat of an infected person.

Pertussis can cause serious and potentially life-threatening complications in infants and young children, especially those who are not fully vaccinated. Approximately half of all infants younger than age 12 months with pertussis, are hospitalized. Complications include pneumonia, seizures, apnea (a pause in the breathing pattern), encephalopathy (disease of the brain), and death.

Adolescents and adults may also develop complications, such as pneumonia, but they are usually less severe than in infants. Complications in teens and adults are often caused by the cough itself and include weight loss, loss of bladder control, fainting, and rib fractures (from severe coughing).

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

The disease usually starts with cold-like symptoms and maybe a mild cough or fever. Symptoms of pertussis usually develop within 5 to 10 days after being exposed, but sometimes as long as 3 weeks later.

Early symptoms can last for 1 to 2 weeks and usually include:

- Runny nose
- Low-grade fever
- Mild, occasional cough (may be minimal or absent in infants)
- Apnea a pause in the breathing pattern (in infants)

Because pertussis in its early stages may look like the common cold, it often is not suspected or diagnosed until the more severe (later-stage) symptoms appear.

Later-stage symptoms

After 1-2 weeks and as the disease progresses, the "traditional" symptoms of pertussis may appear, including:

- Paroxysms (fits) of many, rapid coughs followed by a high-pitched "whoop"
- Vomiting during or after coughing fits
- Exhaustion after coughing fits

Although persons are often exhausted after coughing fits, they may appear well in-between. Coughing fits generally become more frequent and severe as the illness continues and can occur more often at night. The coughing fits can continue for up to 10 weeks or more. The infection is generally milder in teens and adults, especially those who have been vaccinated.

TRANSMISSION

Like other respiratory illnesses, pertussis is spread by coughing and sneezing while in close contact with others, who then breathe in the pertussis bacteria.

Persons with pertussis are infectious from the beginning of the early symptoms through the third week after the onset of coughing, or until 5 days after the start of effective antibiotic treatment.

DIAGNOSIS

Pertussis is diagnosed by a combination of symptoms, signs, physical examination, and laboratory tests. People with symptoms of pertussis or who have been exposed to someone with pertussis should contact a healthcare provider immediately.

TREATMENT

Pertussis is generally treated with antibiotics. Early treatment of pertussis is very important. Treatment may make the infection less serious if it is started early, before coughing fits begin, and may help prevent the spread of pertussis to close contacts.

Treatment after three weeks of illness is unlikely to help, even though the person still has symptoms.

Persons who have been in close contact with someone with pertussis (such as household members), especially those at high risk for developing severe disease, should also receive antibiotics after exposure to try to prevent getting or spreading the disease. Close contacts should receive antibiotics regardless of their age and vaccination status.

Pertussis can sometimes be very serious, requiring treatment in the hospital. Infants are at greatest risk for serious complications from pertussis.

IMMUNITY

Pertussis vaccines are the most effective tool to prevent this disease, however, no vaccine is 100% effective. Pertussis vaccines typically offer good levels of protection within the first 2 years after getting vaccinated, but then protection decreases over time. Vaccinated children and adults can become infected with and spread pertussis; however, disease is typically much less serious in vaccinated people.

Similarly, natural infection with pertussis does not provide lifelong protection. Pertussis can still occur in people who have had the disease previously.

HISTORICAL REPORTED CASES

Summary of Reported Cases of Notifiable Diseases:

http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/resources/reports/summary-of-reported-cases-of-notifiable-

PREVENTION

The most effective way to prevent pertussis is through vaccination. Pertussis vaccines are recommended for people of all ages. There are two kinds of vaccines used today to protect against pertussis, both of which are combined with vaccines for other diseases:

- Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP) vaccine
- Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine

Infants and children need 5 doses of DTaP vaccine for maximum protection, at ages 2, 4, 6, 15-18 months, and at 4-6 years.

Preteens need a booster dose of Tdap vaccine at age 11-12 years.

Teens or adults who didn't receive Tdap as a preteen should receive one dose, especially those who have contact with infants.

Pregnant women should receive a dose of Tdap vaccine during the 3rd trimester of **each** pregnancy, preferably during the early part of gestational weeks 27 through 36.

Healthcare personnel who have direct patient contact (especially with infants) should receive a single dose of Tdap if they have not previously received one.

In addition to vaccination, practicing good hygiene is recommended to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses, including pertussis. To practice good hygiene you should:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Put your used tissue in the waste basket.
- Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands, if you don't have a tissue.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand rub if soap and water are not available.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CDC Website: https://www.cdc.gov/mumps/index.html

- Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP) Vaccine Information Statement: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/dtap.pdf
- Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) Vaccine Information Statement: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/tdap.pdf

INFORMATION FOR CLINICIANS

- CDC Website: https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/index.html
- Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis Vaccination: Information for Healthcare Professionals: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/dtap-tdap-td/hcp/index.html

Pertussis: School and Activities Exclusion Recommendations

			Reason student	seen in clinic				
	Prophylaxis recommended by Evaluation of symptoms*							
	public health due to significant exposure. No symptoms* Note: If the student has symptoms, evaluate for pertussis and test, treat, and exclude accordingly. Lab testing is not recommended unless symptoms are present.	Pertussis not suspected		Pertussis suspected; cough duration greater than 3 weeks**		Pertussis suspected; cough duration 3 weeks or less		
		Nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen collected	No NP specimen collected	NP specimen collected	No NP specimen collected	NP specimen collected	No NP specimen collected	
Antibiotics prescribed	Do not exclude.	Do not exclude. Note: Treatment is not recommended unless pertussis is suspected. School or public health may contact provider to discuss why antibiotics were prescribed.	Do not exclude. Note: Treatment is not recommended unless pertussis is suspected. School or public health may contact provider to discuss why antibiotics were prescribed.	Do not exclude. Note: Treatment recommended a cough illness.		Exclude until pertussis ruled out by lab test***, or 5 days of antibiotics are completed.	Exclude until 5 days of antibiotics are completed. Note: Testing is recommended for all suspect cases.	
Antibiotics not prescribed	Do not exclude. Note: School or public health may contact provider to discuss why antibiotics were not prescribed.	Do not exclude. If test is positive, start treatment and exclude until 5 days of antibiotics are completed (unless cough duration is now greater than 3 weeks).	Do not exclude.	Do not exclude.		Exclude until pertussis ruled out by laboratory test***. If test is positive, start treatment and exclude until 5 days of antibiotics are completed (unless cough duration is now greater than 3 weeks). Note: Deferring treatment of suspect cases pending lab results is not recommended.	Exclude for 21 days from cough onset if suspect case is not tested and ruled out***, or treated. Note: Testing and treatment is recommended for all suspect cases.	

^{*}Pertussis-like symptoms can include paroxysmal cough with or without post-tussive vomiting or whoop. Coryza may indicate early pertussis (catarrhal phase).

Developed by the Minnesota Department of Health's Vaccine-Preventable Disease Section (https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/pertussis/school/index.html)

^{**}Pertussis is infectious only during the first 3 weeks of cough. Treatment and school exclusion are not recommended after that time although the cough may persist much longer.

^{***}A negative test result does not definitively rule out pertussis. Treatment and exclusion should be based on clinical judgement.

Pertussis Questions & Answers

FOR PARENTS & GUARDIANS

What is pertussis?	Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a respiratory infection caused by bacteria. It spreads easily and can be dangerous for babies and young children. A common symptom of pertussis is severe coughing fits, with a "whooping" sound when breathing in.
How is pertussis spread?	Pertussis is mainly spread through germs left in the air when a sick person coughs or sneezes. Close contact with a sick person, especially in crowded areas with low air flow, can increase the risk of getting sick.
What are the typical symptoms of pertussis?	 Coughing fits (often followed by a "whoop" sound while breathing in) Vomiting Fatigue (exhaustion) Mild fever
How long until signs and symptoms appear?	Symptoms usually start 7-10 days after exposure to the bacteria, with a range of 4-21 days. People with pertussis are most contagious during the first two weeks after coughing begins.
Who is at risk for pertussis?	Pertussis can affect people of all ages, but certain groups have a higher risk of getting sick: Infants younger than 6 months old, who are more vulnerable to severe illness and complications Pregnant women, especially those in the third trimester, and their newborns People with compromised immune systems Those who have not been vaccinated fully or at all

For more information on pertussis, visit:

- About Whooping Cough (CDC): www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough): www.immunize.org/wp-content/uploads/catg.d/p4212.pdf
 Pertussis (Whooping Cough): health.hawaii.gov/docd/disease_listing/pertussis/

Pertussis Questions & Answers

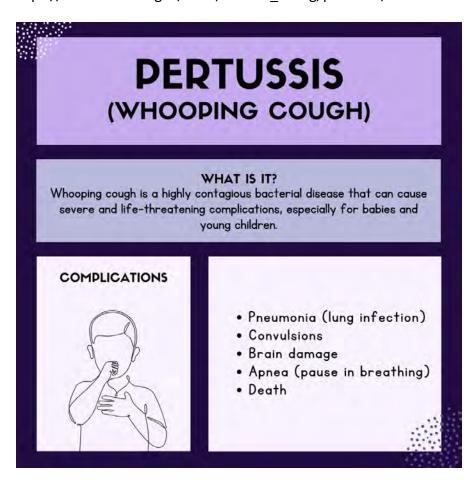
FOR PARENTS & GUARDIANS

How is pertussis diagnosed?	Diagnosis of pertussis is primarily based on whether or not a person has symptoms and is confirmed through laboratory testing.
What is the treatment for pertussis?	Pertussis can be treated with antibiotics (medicines that kill bacteria or make it hard for them to grow). Post-exposure prophylaxis and vaccination are also important for treatment and prevention. Ask your doctor for more information.
Are the pertussis vaccines effective?	Yes, pertussis vaccines do a good job of preventing sickness. Vaccines can also make symptoms less severe it sickness occurs. However, vaccine strength may lower over time, and it's important to get a booster shot for continued protection.
What should I do if I suspect that I or someone else has pertussis?	If you think you or someone else has pertussis, see your doctor immediately. Book a visit with your doctor for testing and treatment. Follow your doctor's recommendations, wear a mask, and cover your cough/sneeze with a tissue to help stop the spread.
How can pertussis be prevented?	Pertussis prevention depends on a combination of vaccination, maintaining good respiratory hygiene, and seeking immediate care for symptoms: Routine childhood vaccination with the DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis) vaccine. Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) booster vaccination for adolescents and adults, including pregnant women. If you test positive for pertussis, avoid close contact with others for 21 days if you have not received treatment, or for 5 days if you have received treatment. Practicing respiratory hygiene, including covering coughs and sneezes with tissues, and frequent handwashing. Sanitizing high-touched surfaces.

Target Audience: Parents and guardians

Distribution Method: Can be posted on your school's social media accounts

Sample caption: "Swipe to learn more about pertussis (whooping cough) and how you can protect yourself and your family! For more information, visit https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/disease listing/pertussis/."



Slide #1



Slide #2



PERTUSSIS (WHOOPING COUGH)

WHAT IS IT?

Whooping cough is a highly contagious bacterial disease that can cause severe and life-threatening complications for babies and young children.

COMPLICATIONS



- · Pneumonia (lung infection)
- Convulsions
- Brain damage
- Apnea (pause in breathing)

The early symptoms of whooping cough are similar to the common cold. Symptoms usually develop within 5 to 10 days after being exposed, but sometimes as long as 3 weeks later.

- · Runny nose
- · Fever
- · Severe coughing fits followed by a high-pitched "whoop" sound
- · Vomiting and exhaustion during or after coughing fits

SYMPTOMS



Like other respiratory illnesses, whooping cough is spread by coughing and sneezing while in close contact with others, who then breath in the pertussis bacteria. The most effective way to prevent whooping cough is through vaccination.

PREVENTION

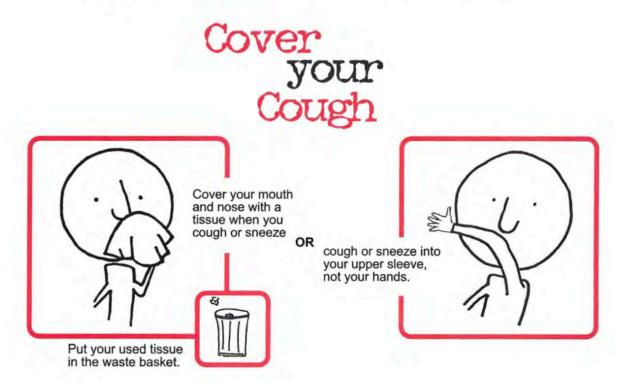


- Vaccinatel There are two vaccines used to prevent whooping cough. Talk to your doctor for more into about:

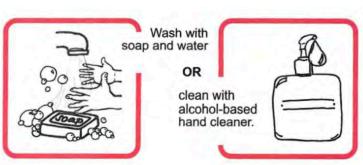
 DTaP (infants and young children)
 Tdap (adolescents and teens)
- If you suspect you might have pertussis, avoid close contact with others, wear a
- avoid close contact with others, wear a mask, § get tested If you test positive for pertussis, isolate for 21 days (if you have not received treatment) OR for 5 days (if you have received treatment)

For more info, visit: Pertussis (Whooping Cough) at health.howai.gov/docd/disease_ksting/pertuss

Keep Germs to Yourself!







Stop the spread of germs that make you and others sick!

For more information, call the Hawaii Department of Health at 586-8332

Neighbor island calls are toll-free at 1-800-933-4832







need to be vaccinated?

Vaccines are not just for infants. As children get older, the protection provided by childhood vaccines can wear off. Preteens and teens are also at risk for different diseases as they get older.

WHY do preteens & teens WHEN should preteens & teens be vaccinated?

Healthcare providers recommend several vaccines for preteens at their 11 or 12 year old check-up. These vaccines prevent serious, sometimes life-threatening diseases. Older teens who weren't vaccinated earlier should be immunized as soon as possible.

WHAT vaccines do preteens & teens need?





Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) is highly contagious and causes severe of school, sports, and social activities.

The Tdap vaccine protects against three serious diseases: tetanus, diphtheria, and coughing fits. The coughing can cause your preteen or teen to miss weeks pertussis. All preteens should receive one Tdap shot at age 11 or 12 years.

Meningococcal Infection

Meningococcal infection can be very serious, even deadly. Even with antibiotic treatment, about 1 in 10 people with meningococcal disease will die from it. About 20% of survivors will have long-lasting disabilities, such as loss of limb or brain damage.

The meningococcal vaccines protect against some types of bacteria that cause meningococcal disease. All preteens should receive the quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine when they are 11 or 12 years old and need a booster shot at age 16 years. Teens (preferably at age 16 - 18 years) may also be vaccinated with a serogroup B meningococcal vaccine.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a common virus that has many different strains or types. HPV infection can cause 6 different types of cancers in addition to genital warts.

All preteens should receive HPV vaccine when they are 11 or 12 years old. Two shots, given at least 6 months apart, are needed for children who receive the first dose before their 15th birthday. Three doses are needed for adolescents who start the series later.

Influenza

Influenza or "flu" is a contagious infection of the nose, throat, and lungs. Flu can cause mild to severe illness, and in some cases can cause death.

All preteens and teens should be vaccinated against flu each year, ideally by the end of October. Vaccination during the flu season, even in January or later, is recommended for those who weren't vaccinated earlier.

These vaccines are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians

Are these Vaccines Safe & Effective?

All of these vaccines have been studied extensively and are safe and effective. Preteens and teens may experience mild side effects such as redness and soreness at the injection site. Some preteens and teens may faint after getting vaccinated. To help avoid fainting, preteens and teens should sit or lie down when they get a shot and for about 15 minutes after.

Can I Get Help Paying for Vaccines?

Ask your child's healthcare provider about the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. The VFC program provides vaccines for children ages 18 years and younger, who are uninsured, Medicaid-eligible, or American Indian or Alaska Native.

HOW can parents help?

Help your preteen or teen stay healthy by keeping upto-date on recommended immunizations. Make an appointment with your child's healthcare provider today.

Get More Information

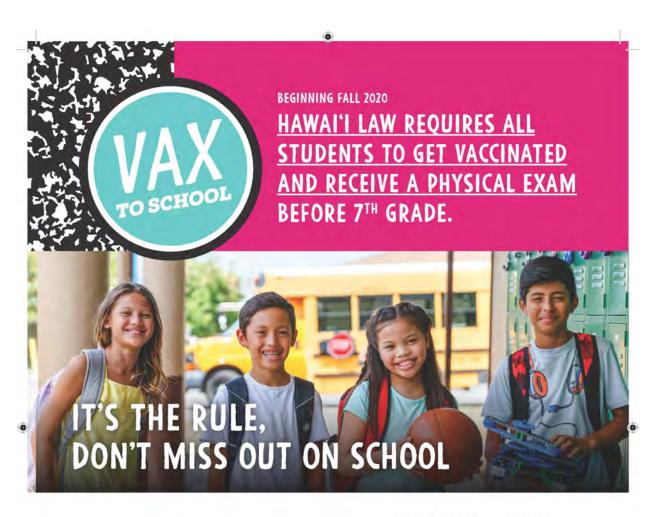
Department of Health Immunization Branch

586-8332 (Oahu)

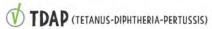
1-800-933-4832 (Neighbor Islands)

■ health.hawaii.gov

dc.gov/vaccines



VACCINES YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO ATTEND 7TH GRADE







The physical exam, as part of a well-child visit, must be completed within 12 months before starting 7th grade.

MAKE A DATE TO VACCINATE!

Students without the required immunizations risk being excluded from school. Parents, call your child's healthcare provider today to make an appointment.

TIPS:

- · Schedule an appointment with your child's healthcare provider during a school break.
- · If your child needs a physical exam to play sports, ask that the 7th grade physical exam and vaccinations be done at the same time.



For more information, contact the Hawai'i Department of Health Immunization Branch





Call: (808) 586-8332 or 1(800) 933-4832



Protect your baby from pertussis. Get vaccinated.

- Pertussis (whooping cough) is a deadly disease that threatens your infant.
- Family and friends may spread the disease to your baby and not know it.
- Your infant needs protection but is too young to be vaccinated.
- Make sure everyone who visits your baby has had their pertussis shot.

For more information, talk to your doctor, visit http://hawaii.gov/health/Immunization/index.html, or call 2-1-1.

Additional Tools & Resources

For School Staff

Hawaii Department of Health *Pertussis (Whooping Cough)* Information: https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/disease listing/pertussis/

Hawaii Department of Health Vax to School: https://vaxtoschoolhawaii.com/

Hawaii Department of Health Print Materials: https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/resources/print-materials/

Hawaii Department of Health Schools Guidance: https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/schools/

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention *Pertussis (Whooping Cough)* Information: https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention Healthy Schools website: https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/bam/diseases/pertussis.htm

For Parents & Guardians

Hawaii Department of Health Immunization Registry (access your family's immunization records): https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/about-us/programs/hawaii-immunization-registry-hir/

Hawaii Department of Health *Pertussis (Whooping Cough)* Information: https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/disease_listing/pertussis/

Hawaii Department of Health Vax to School: https://vaxtoschoolhawaii.com/

Hawaii Department of Health *School Health Requirements*: https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/vaccines-immunizations/school-health-requirements/sy-20-21/

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention *Pertussis (Whooping Cough)* Information: https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/