

# PERTUSSIS (WHOOPIING 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)
- Death

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
- Apnea
- 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 breathe in the pertussis bacteria. The most effective way to prevent whooping cough is through vaccination.

## PREVENTION



- Vaccinate! There are two vaccines used to prevent whooping cough. Talk to your doctor for more info about:
  - DTaP (infants and young children)
  - Tdap (adolescents and teens)
- If you suspect you might have pertussis, 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)