

PERTUSSIS

(WHOOPIING COUGH)

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

COMPLICATIONS



WHAT IS IT?

- 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



- Get vaccinated! Talk to your doctor for more information about the pertussis vaccines:
 - DTaP (infants and young children)
 - Tdap (adolescents, teens, adults)
- If you suspect you might have pertussis, avoid close contact with others, wear a mask, and get tested as soon as possible
- 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)