

DO YOU KNOW WHAT PERTUSSIS IS? RIGHT! WE KNOW IT AS WHOOPING COUGH



You may have thought it has disappeared from the scene by now, **but that is NOT so**. Whooping cough is a serious and highly contagious respiratory disease that can cause long, violent coughing fits and the characteristic “whooping” sound when a person gasps for air. It takes a toll on anyone, but for infants it can be deadly. In 2010, 27,550 cases of whooping cough were reported nationally with 27 deaths — 25 of which were infants. Worldwide, there are 30-50 million cases of whooping cough per year resulting in about 300,000 deaths.

The best way to prevent pertussis (whooping cough) among infants, children, teens, and adults is to get vaccinated. Also, keep infants and other people at high risk for pertussis complications away from infected people.



INFANTS AND CHILDREN need **five shots** of DTaP. The recommended pertussis vaccine for infants and children is called DTaP. This is a combination vaccine that protects against three diseases: diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis. The first three shots are given at 2, 4, and 6 months of age. The fourth shot is given between 15 and 18 months of age, and a fifth shot is given before a child enters school, at 4–6 years of age.



PRE-TEENS AND TEENS should have a dose of Tdap (**a booster shot**) at 11 or 12, or soon thereafter. This booster contains protection against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap).



ADULTS should receive a tetanus and diphtheria booster (called Td) **EVERY 10 years**, with a Tdap booster one of those years, especially if caring for children!

PREGNANT WOMEN who have not been previously vaccinated with Tdap should get one dose of Tdap **preferably after 20 weeks of pregnancy**. Pregnant women not vaccinated during pregnancy should receive one dose of Tdap immediately postpartum before leaving the hospital or birthing center.



DIRECT CARE PROVIDERS should receive a **single dose of Tdap if they have not gotten one, and then a booster of Td every 10 years**.

REFERENCE: <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/prevention.html>