

It Could be More Than Just a Cough!

Whooping Cough

Know the signs and symptoms

- Pertussis (also known as whooping cough) can have different symptoms in young children than in pre-teens and teens.
- Sometimes, pre-teens and teens with whooping cough do not have severe coughing spells like infants and young children.
- Instead, they often have symptoms like mild fever, runny nose, and a severe cough.
- These coughs can turn more serious and even lead to vomiting, a hernia, or broken ribs.



Learn about vaccines

- Infants and young children need vaccines to protect against whooping cough.
- As children get older, protection provided by some childhood vaccines can begin to wear off.
- A new vaccine to protect against whooping cough (called Tdap) should be given to all 11-12 year olds.
- If your child is 13 years or older and did not receive this booster dose, make sure they get it right away.

Know how whooping cough is spread

- Whooping cough spreads through the air from coughs and sneezes.
- It moves quickly among pre-teens and teens who gather together at school, sporting and social events.

Know who is at risk

- Pre-teens and teens that have not had their Tdap booster
- Babies less than 1 year old who have not had all of their DTaP vaccines



Keep a record of your child's vaccines

- Share this record with your child's health care providers.

Make regular visits to your doctor

Take action right away

- If your child or someone in your family has severe coughing spells that last a week or longer, contact your child's doctor right away.