

Protect Your Baby From Whooping Cough!

Whooping Cough is Serious for Infants

- Pertussis (whooping cough) is on the rise in the U.S. and in Michigan
- Pertussis is most severe for babies; more than half of infants younger than 1 year of age who get the disease must be hospitalized
- Pertussis can be deadly, especially in infants younger than 3 months

Vaccinated Mothers Pass on Protection to Unborn Infants

- The protection you get from vaccines is passed on to your baby during pregnancy, shielding your vulnerable infant from disease during his or her first few months of life
- By getting vaccinated during pregnancy, you are giving your baby the best protection against whooping cough until he or she can get vaccinated
- Vaccination of pregnant mothers may prevent infant whooping cough disease, hospitalizations, and even death

Vaccines During Pregnancy are Safe and Effective

- Vaccines trigger your body to naturally build immunity to viruses
- Pregnant women should be given Tdap during **each pregnancy** between 27 and 36 weeks gestation, preferably during the earlier part of this time period

Infants are too Young to be Vaccinated

- Infants cannot start the whooping cough vaccine series until they are 2 months old
- The best way to protect infants from whooping cough is to vaccinate those around them, including parents, siblings, grandparents, day care and child care workers, and health care personnel
- For best ongoing protection, children should receive DTaP at ages 2, 4, 6 and 15-18 months. Delaying any of these doses puts the child at risk for getting whooping cough.

Talk to Your Health Care Provider

- Ask your doctor about Tdap and other vaccines you need to stay healthy during pregnancy, like the flu shot
- Get yourself and your family members vaccinated to protect your baby from pertussis

Where to go for More Information

- www.michigan.gov/immunize
- www.cdc.gov/vaccines
- www.frannystrong.org - read about a family affected by whooping cough

