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