



Protect Your Baby from Whooping Cough

Whooping cough is on the rise in the U.S.

Whooping cough (pertussis) is a contagious disease that spreads easily through coughing. The disease can be very serious and even life-threatening for young babies, causing them to cough so much they can't breathe. About half of infants who get whooping cough are hospitalized.

Most babies who get whooping cough get it from family members and other caregivers. Protect your family from whooping cough by making sure everyone's immunizations are up to date.

Who needs the pertussis vaccine?

During pregnancy. To protect your baby, we recommend you receive the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccine during pregnancy, between 27 and 36 weeks. The vaccine is safe for both you and your baby.

Even if you've had the vaccine, get a booster shot during pregnancy. This is the most important thing you can do to protect your baby from whooping cough.

Adults or teens. Adults or teens who come into close contact with your baby should be up to date on their shots. Ask parents, grandparents, caregivers, and other family members if they've ever had the Tdap vaccine. If not, or if they don't know, have them check with their doctor and get their booster shot if needed.

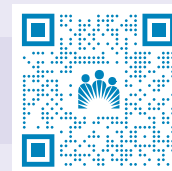
Young children. Young children should receive the DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis) series. It's given in 5 shots and is usually completed before kindergarten.

Older children. At age 11, children need a Tdap booster shot. Proof of a Tdap vaccine is required for all children starting 7th grade.



Not sure what's due? We'll remind you.

Check your health reminders at kp.org/mydoctor/whatsdue.



This information is not intended to diagnose or to take the place of medical advice or care you receive from your physician or other health care professional. If you have persistent health problems, or if you have additional questions, please consult with your doctor. If you have questions or need more information about your medication, please speak to your pharmacist. Kaiser Permanente does not endorse the medications or products mentioned. Any trade names listed are for easy identification only. Some photos may include models and not actual patients.

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