

Whooping Cough (Pertussis):



What Is Whooping Cough (Pertussis)?

- an infection that spreads easily when someone with the disease coughs or sneezes
- it can cause death in babies

Whooping Cough Signs and Symptoms

Early Symptoms

Often, early symptoms are mild and like a common cold:

- runny nose
- low or no fever
- sneezing
- mild cough

Symptoms After 1-2 Weeks

Symptoms can get worse fast and can last for months. They include bad coughing attacks that may lead to:

- a “whoop” sound
- vomiting
- problems breathing
- difficulty sleeping
- extreme tiredness

Symptoms in Babies Are Different

Babies younger than 6 months old with pertussis often do not have a typical cough. In the early stages, babies may:

- gasp or gag
- feed poorly
- turn blue around the mouth
- stop breathing

Symptoms can get worse very fast. Often, babies need to go to the hospital for care.

Treat Whooping Cough Early

Call Your Doctor If You or a Family Member:

- have any symptoms of whooping cough

Your Doctor May Prescribe an Antibiotic Medicine

Early treatment with antibiotic medicine can:

- keep you from getting sicker
- prevent you from spreading the disease to others
- be given to babies and other household members to protect them from getting sick

If You Have Whooping Cough:

- stay home. Avoid contact with others until you have finished treatment
- have an adult who is not sick care for your baby
- contact your baby’s doctor

Whooping Cough Shots Prevent the Disease

Everyone needs to be up-to-date on their whooping cough shots (DTaP for children age 6 and younger; or Tdap for children 7 years and up).

Protect yourself. Protect your family.

Get Vaccinated!



Have questions?

Talk with your doctor.

<http://health.state.ga.us/pertussis>