

Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

Denver is in the midst of a pertussis (whooping cough) epidemic. Anyone can get whooping cough but it is most dangerous in infants and young children.

Signs and symptoms of whooping cough include:

- Cough for 1 to 2 weeks with no fever
- Severe coughing that may cause gagging or vomiting.
- When a child gasps for breath after a coughing fit, they make a “whooping” sound.
- Visit www.denverhealth.org and listen to a child with whooping cough



What you need to know

Once is not enough – Get the Tdap booster

The best way to prevent spreading pertussis is vaccination. Vaccinating children and adults is the best way to protect them from whooping cough. Parents can also help by limiting contact with anyone who has cold symptoms or is coughing.

What you need to do

Ask your doctor about whooping cough vaccines for children (DTaP) and adults (Tdap). Adults should have had a Tdap vaccine. Ask your doctor or check your vaccine records to confirm when your last vaccine was given.

Who should get vaccinated?

- Pregnant women in the second half of pregnancy
- Children in elementary and middle school who have already had the pertussis vaccine but need a booster shot
- All adults, particularly:
 - Adults who have contact with young infants
 - Adults who are school employees, child care employees and health care workers

Where you can get help

Where do I get the vaccination?

- Your doctor’s office
- Denver Public Health Immunization Clinic
605 Bannock Street
303-602-3250
(www.denverpublichealth.org/immunizationclinic)
- Many area drug stores

Visit www.denverhealth.org and listen to a child with whooping cough. The sound is unmistakable. If you have additional questions, please call Denver Public Health at **303-602-3614**.

