Whooping cough (pertussis) information

Your child has been in contact with someone who has whooping cough (pertussis)

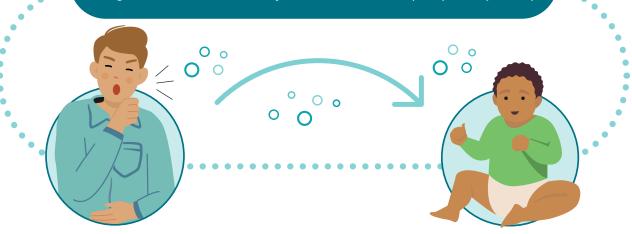


What is whooping cough?

Whooping cough is caused by bacteria called *Bordetella pertussis*. It causes a coughing illness that can last for weeks to months ("100-day cough"). It can be very serious for babies.

Antibiotics can treat the infection.

Whooping cough can spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes and you breathe it in (droplet spread).



Symptoms of whooping cough



Runny nose

Cough

Sometimes the cough is so severe it can lead to:

- A whooping sound when breathing in
- Vomiting after a coughing fit

What do I need to do?

Watch your child for symptoms for **three weeks** after last contact with whooping cough.

If they get a coughing illness



See a doctor.



Tell them that your child knows someone with whooping cough. Take this information with you.



The doctor can arrange testing and antibiotics.



Your child should take the antibiotics and limit their contact with others for **five days.** Do not go to daycare, school or other settings.

Prevention is best



Whooping cough (pertussis) vaccine is recommended and free in childhood - at six to eight weeks, four months, six months, 18 months, four years and 12 years - as well as during pregnancy.

It is also recommended for other adults who have close contact with young children or who have not had a booster in the past 10 years. See below links or ask your doctor for more details.

For more information, visit healthywa.wa.gov.au or scan the OR code.



Call us on
1300 623 292,
Monday to Friday,
8am to 5pm,
for advice.



 $\mathcal{N}\mathcal{M}$

CONSUMER

Boorloo (Perth) Public Health Unit

- Anita Clayton Centre,3/311 Wellington Street, Perth WA 6000
- **½** 1300 623 292
- bphu@health.wa.gov.au
- www.nmhs.health.wa.gov.au



This document can be made available in alternative formats on request.