





# 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](https://healthywa.wa.gov.au)  
or scan the QR code.



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



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