

What is Whooping Cough?

Maybe you know it as Pertussis! This bacterial infection is only found in humans and spreads easily from person to person. It affects the respiratory system. It is usually spread by coughing or sneezing, or when you share breathing space with an infected individual. This bacteria releases toxins that can cause the airway to swell.

Whooping Cough Symptoms

Early symptoms can last for 1 to 2 weeks and can include:

- Runny nose
- Low-grade fever
- Mild, occasional cough
- Apnea – a pause in breathing (in babies)

After 1 to 2 weeks and as the disease progresses, the traditional symptoms of pertussis may appear and include:

- Paroxysms (fits) of many, rapid coughs followed by a high-pitched “whoop” sound
- Throwing up during or after coughing fits
- Exhaustion (very tired) after coughing fits

Many babies with pertussis don't cough at all and instead causes them to stop breathing and turn blue.

Whooping Cough Prevention

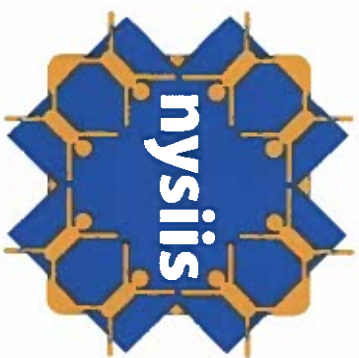
Get Vaccinated Against Pertussis

Get Antibiotics if Household Member has Pertussis

Wash Your Hands Often with Soap or Sanitizer

Avoid Close Contact with Sick Individuals

Stay Home if You Might have Whooping Cough



Having trouble finding records of your Tdap vaccine history? Talk to your health care provider about getting your vaccine records into NYSIIS!



Tioga County Public Health

1062 State Rt. 38

Owego, NY 13827

607-687-8600

Public Health
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tiogacountyny.com



What Do You Mean You Didn't Get Vaccinated Against Whooping Cough!?



Whooping Cough Can Be Deadly for Infants and Babies!

Babies & Young Children

Children need to be vaccinated against Pertussis five different times between ages 2 months through 6 years of age

DTaP Vaccines Are Needed at:

2 months 4 months 6 months
15 - 18 months 4 - 6 years



Approximately half of babies less than 1 year old who get pertussis need treatment in the hospital!

Children need a 6th vaccine against pertussis (Tdap) between 11 - 12 years old.

People of all ages need WHOOPING COUGH VACCINES



Adults

Did you know that you need at least one vaccine for pertussis during your adult life? This can be given at anytime after age 18.

Like many other diseases, babies rely on everyone to be vaccinated against harmful diseases, like whooping cough, in order to help keep them safe.

If You Get Pertussis Even Though You Were Vaccinated...

- In most cases, the cough won't last as long
- Coughing fits, whooping, and vomiting after coughing fits occur less often
- The percentage of children with long pauses in breathing, blue/purplish skin coloration due to lack of oxygen & vomiting is less

Pregnant Women

Pregnant women should get a Tdap vaccine during the third trimester (between weeks 27 - 36 weeks) during each of their pregnancies!

Getting vaccinated against whooping cough early on in your third trimester allows your baby to have short-term protection against whooping cough during their first few months of life when they are most vulnerable.



Grandparents

You play an essential part in your grandchild's life and health. Babies that get whooping cough, often catch it from family members.

Before you snuggle your newest bundle of joy, make sure you have had your Tdap vaccine.