

Parents:



Protect
Yourself
And Your
Children
From
Whooping
Cough!

Why Whooping Cough is Serious:

Whooping cough, also known as pertussis, is a contagious disease that can be passed easily from person to person. It is very serious for babies and can cause them to cough so much that they cannot breathe. Hundreds of babies are hospitalized each year for whooping cough, and some die from it.

Whooping cough can cause adults or teens to have severe coughing that leads to vomiting or broken ribs. They can be hospitalized for pneumonia and miss weeks of work or school. Even worse, they can spread whooping cough to babies.

Ways to Protect Yourself & Your Family:

Make Sure Your Children are Up-to-Date on Their Immunizations

Infants and toddlers need four shots against whooping cough, and a booster before starting kindergarten. Protection from the childhood vaccine fades over time. Children 10 years of age and older can also get the new Tdap booster. **This year's 7th graders will be required to have a Tdap vaccine prior to the start of the 2010-11 school year.**

Get Your Tdap Booster

Everybody in the family should be immunized against whooping cough to protect themselves and each other. Parents should ask their doctor for the new Tdap vaccine that includes a tetanus and diphtheria booster and also protects against whooping cough.

Cover Your Cough & Wash Your Hands

Whooping cough is spread by coughing. Remind everyone to cover their mouths when coughing and to wash their hands often. **Stay home when sick.**

Protect yourself. Protect your family.

Get Immunized!

Have questions?

Allen County Health Department
www.allencountyhealthdepartment.org
Or call 419-228-4457

