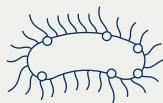


UNDERSTANDING THE RISKS

Getting Whooping Cough vs. Getting Vaccinated (PERTUSSIS)



We all want to make the best health choices for our children. So how risky is whooping cough compared to the vaccines that prevent whooping cough?

WHOOPING COUGH (PERTUSSIS) FAST FACTS



HOW CONTAGIOUS?

Highly contagious. 8 out of 10 non-immune people can get sick when exposed to an infected person.¹

Children who are not vaccinated are 8 times more likely to become infected than those who are vaccinated.¹



HOW SERIOUS?

Typically mild.

But complications can lead to serious health consequences—especially in young children.¹

Hospitalization: 1 in 3 infants younger than 1 year old with whooping cough²

Pneumonia: 1 in 5 infants hospitalized for whooping cough²

Death: 1 in 100 infants hospitalized for whooping cough²

Apnea: 2 in 3 infants hospitalized for whooping cough²



Whooping cough is also known as the “100-day cough” because it can last for months. It causes around 15 coughing spells a day that are so severe they can lead to nosebleeds and cracked ribs.^{2,3,4,5,6}

VACCINE FAST FACTS



HOW EFFECTIVE?

DTaP is 98% effective in the first year after receipt and Tdap is 73% effective in the first year, but immunity does decrease over time.⁷



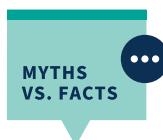
SAFETY RECORDS

Vaccines that prevent whooping cough were first licensed in the United States in 1914. The DTaP vaccine has been given since 1991.^{9,10}



HOW SAFE?

Safety reviews of DTaP and Tdap found no unexpected safety concerns for children.⁸



MYTH BUSTER

Do children with whooping cough always make the “whoop” sound? No. Whooping cough may seem like a cold at first but will start to get worse in about a week.^{2,3,11}



Five separate safety systems continuously monitor all vaccines for as long as the vaccines are given.¹²

Learn more at hhs.gov/immunization/basics/safety/index.html.

COMPARING THE TWO

WHOOPING COUGH

Common symptoms of whooping cough can include:

- Cough
- Low-grade fever
- Runny nose
- Long-lasting coughing fits followed by a high-pitched “whoop”
- Vomiting after coughing fits
- Apnea (a pause in breathing)
- Cyanosis (turning blue or purple)

VACCINES TO PREVENT WHOOPING COUGH

Common side effects of vaccines to prevent whooping cough are usually mild and last 1–3 days. If side effects occur, they can include:

- Soreness, redness, or swelling where the vaccine was given
- Low-grade fever
- Being fussy
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or stomachache
- Headache

Rare, More Serious Symptoms or Complications and Rare Side Effects

2,4,6,7,8,9,13,14

Serious symptoms or complications of whooping cough vary and can include:

- Serious and uncontrollable coughing
- Pneumonia
- Convulsions
- Vomiting with increased risk of choking
- Young infants may stop breathing
- Broken ribs
- Encephalopathy (brain disease)
- Death

Serious side effects of vaccines to prevent whooping cough vary and can include:

- High fever
- Crying for 3+ hours
- Very small risk of seizures caused by fever if DTaP vaccine is given at the same time as another vaccine
- Severe allergic reaction (generally, for every 1 million vaccines administered in the United States, only about 1–2 doses results in a severe allergic reaction)

Sources:

1. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia: <https://www.chop.edu/conditions-diseases/pertussis-whooping-cough>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/signs-symptoms>
3. Stanford Medicine Children's Health: <https://www.stanfordchildrens.org/en/topic/default?id=whooping-cough-pertussis-in-children-90-P02533>
4. Mayo Clinic: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/whooping-cough/symptoms-causes/syc-20378973>
5. National Institutes of Health: <https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/2022/12/wipe-out-whooping-cough>
6. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/hcp/clinical-signs>
7. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/basics/possible-side-effects.html>
8. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccine-safety/vaccines/dtap-tdap.html>
9. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/pinkbook/hcp/table-of-contents/chapter-16-pertussis.html>
10. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00017486.htm>
11. Medline Plus: <https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001561.htm>
12. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS): <https://www.hhs.gov/immunization/basics/safety/index.html>
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14. Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: [https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749\(15\)01160-4/fulltext](https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749(15)01160-4/fulltext)