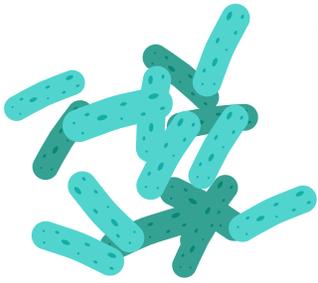


What Parents Need to Know About Whooping Cough (Pertussis)



Whooping cough activity has increased in Chautauqua County and is primarily affecting school-aged children.

What is Whooping Cough?

Whooping cough (Pertussis) is a serious respiratory infection that is caused by the bacteria *Bordetella pertussis*. It is very infectious and spreads easily from one person to another. It affects people of all ages and can be life-threatening in babies.

What are the symptoms?

- Presents similar to a common cold early on with a runny or stuffy nose, low-grade fever and mild cough
- Symptoms appear 5 to 10 days after exposure
- Cough usually worsens and severe bouts of uncontrollable coughing can develop with a high-pitched “whoop”
- Vomiting during or after coughing fits can occur



How does it spread?

Spread by direct or airborne contact from person to person.

When a person with whooping cough sneezes or coughs, they release small particles into the air with the bacteria in them. Other people can then breathe in the bacteria.

How long does it last?

Whooping cough can last weeks to months with a gradual recovery.

How long is exclusion from school or work?

- Symptomatic persons should be excluded from school or work until completion of the first 5 days of a full course of antibiotic treatment
- Symptomatic persons who do not take antibiotic treatment should be excluded for 21 days from the onset of cough
- Under-immunized and unimmunized children attending daycare should be excluded immediately until they have met immunization requirements for admission

How can you prevent Whooping Cough?

The best way to prevent whooping cough is to get vaccinated according to the recommendations for tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (DTaP or Tdap).

Contact your primary care provider, the Chautauqua County Health Department, or check your local pharmacy for vaccine availability.

People of all ages need WHOOPING COUGH VACCINES



DTaP for young children	Tdap for preteens	Tdap for pregnant women	Tdap for adults
✓ 2, 4, and 6 months ✓ 15 through 18 months ✓ 4 through 6 years	✓ 11 through 12 years	✓ During the 27-36th week of each pregnancy	✓ Anytime for those who have never received it
www.cdc.gov/whoopingcough			