

Pertussis vaccines in pregnancy

Pertussis (whooping cough) is a highly contagious bacterial disease that can lead to uncontrollable coughing and in severe cases, to pneumonia, seizures, and hernias.

Pregnant persons should be immunized against pertussis in **every pregnancy**.

Immunization against pertussis during pregnancy is recommended for the following reasons:



1. Pertussis infection is most severe in infants who are too young to be immunized, and infants are not eligible to receive the pertussis vaccine until they are **two months old**.
2. Getting immunized against pertussis allows your body to produce protective proteins called antibodies that **specifically protect against pertussis infection**. When you get immunized against pertussis while pregnant, you pass on some of these antibodies to your baby. This means they get some **short-term protection** against pertussis until they are old enough to be immunized against it.

Getting immunized against pertussis during pregnancy is safe and the most effective way to protect you and your baby against pertussis infection.

The pertussis vaccine is combined with other vaccines - commonly diphtheria and tetanus vaccines - which are also safe to receive during pregnancy.

Talk to your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or public health office about getting the pertussis vaccine for you or your child.

