



Expecting? Protect Your Baby from Whooping Cough.

Babies Are Most At Risk

Whooping cough disease (also called pertussis) causes very serious coughing fits. Some babies stop breathing and even die.

Expectant Moms Need Tdap Protection

Ask your doctor for a whooping cough shot (Tdap) during your third trimester of pregnancy, even if you got it before pregnancy. You'll need a Tdap shot each time you are pregnant.

Tdap is safe for you and your baby¹. Some of the protection you get from Tdap during pregnancy passes to your baby. This will help protect your baby until she's old enough to get her first whooping cough vaccine at 6–8 weeks of age.



Circle Your Baby with Protection

To further protect your baby, family members, friends, and caregivers also need to be up-to-date on their whooping cough shots.

You can catch whooping cough again even if you had it before. Protection from past shots also wears off.

Make sure everyone 11 years of age or older gets a Tdap booster shot at least two weeks before they are around your baby.

Treat Whooping Cough Early

Call the doctor if:

- You or your baby are sick. Early signs of whooping cough are like a mild cold but can get worse fast; or
- You or your baby are around someone with whooping cough or a bad cough.

If your baby is having trouble breathing take him to the hospital or the doctor right away.



Dylan's Story

Before Dylan was born, I was sick and had a bad cough. I coughed so hard that it caused contractions to start early. Dylan was born a healthy, beautiful baby. But I continued to cough, and it was hard to keep Dylan awake during feedings – the only sign of pertussis he ever had.

Two weeks later, my son Dylan, died of pertussis that he caught from me. He was 17 days old. It is possible to prevent babies like Dylan from catching pertussis. Now I urge parents to vaccinate their children, and adults to get a Tdap booster. I don't want to see any family suffer the way mine has.

For more personal stories, go to shotbyshot.org

Reference:

1. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2013, February 22). Updated Recommendations for Use of Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid, and Acellular Pertussis Vaccine (Tdap) in Pregnant Women — Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2012. Retrieved August 2013 from: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6207a4.htm>

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“Getting Tdap is something easy I can do to protect my baby.”

—Danielle, first time mom

