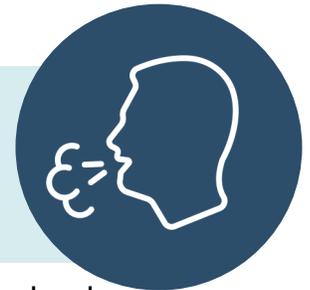


Tdap Vaccine and Pregnancy

You can start protecting your baby from whooping cough now

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is an illness that causes severe coughing that makes it hard to breathe. Whooping cough can affect people at any age, but it's most serious in babies and young children. Whooping cough may cause babies to stop breathing. Babies are too young to get their own vaccine, so they depend on the adults in their life to help protect them. Getting the Tdap vaccine during pregnancy can help protect your baby from whooping cough.

Whooping cough spreads very easily from person to person, and babies are at greatest risk.



Whooping cough spreads through the air when a sick person coughs. It can be hard to tell the difference between whooping cough and a cold, so it's important that people who are at highest risk for infection, like babies and young children, are protected.



The Tdap vaccine is a safe, effective way to protect your baby against whooping cough.

The Tdap vaccine has been thoroughly tested and is safe for you and your baby. You cannot get whooping cough from the vaccine. Health care professionals that specialize in caring for pregnant people, like midwives and doulas, agree it's important to get the Tdap vaccine.

You should get a Tdap vaccine during each pregnancy.



The Tdap vaccine provides the most protection two weeks after vaccination, but the level of protection drops over time. That's why you should get vaccinated during every pregnancy, so that each of your babies has the best protection against the disease.

Getting the Tdap vaccine during your third trimester means your baby will be born with protection from whooping cough.



By getting the Tdap vaccine in your third trimester, you can start building your baby's protection before they are born. This protection will help keep them safe in the time between birth and when they're ready for their first whooping cough vaccine. It is important to get your Tdap vaccine before the baby is born, since newborns are at the highest risk of getting sick in the first few months after birth.



It is safe to breastfeed after getting the Tdap vaccine.

The Tdap vaccine does not affect the safety of breastfeeding. In fact, by getting vaccinated during pregnancy, you will be able to continue sharing protection against whooping cough as soon as your milk comes in. If you wait until after your baby is born to get the Tdap vaccine, your baby will not be protected.

You may be eligible for a free Tdap vaccine through the Vaccines for Adults program.



The Vaccines for Adults program provides free vaccines to people who meet certain criteria, like being uninsured or having insurance that does not cover the cost of vaccination. Most local and Tribal health departments are Vaccines for Adults providers. Contact your health department for more information.
dhs.wi.gov/lh-depts/counties/index.htm

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BUREAU OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Wisconsin Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dph/bcd.htm> | DHSDPHBCD@dhs.wi.gov

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