

PERTUSSIS (WHOOPING COUGH) STILL A DANGER TO INFANTS

Pertussis vaccine immunity wanes over time

Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a respiratory tract infection that can be prevented with vaccination.

PROTECTION



However, protection takes several shots to establish and then protection wanes over time.

Young infants are most at risk

Infants less than three months of age have only received one dose of the vaccine.



Infants get the most sick

A recent study found most infants less than three months with pertussis had severe disease and of those¹:

- 92% required hospitalization
- 28% intensive care admission

How to prevent infection

Make sure you and your family are up to date with your vaccines²:

1. ROUTINE CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE

- 2, 4, 6, 12-23 months and 4-6 years



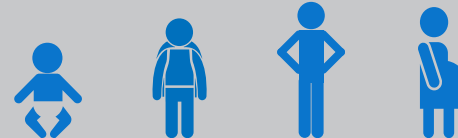
2. ADOLESCENT BOOSTER

- at 14-16 years

3. ADULT BOOSTER

4. WITH EVERY PREGNANCY

- Protective antibodies are transferred to the baby
- Best between 27-32 weeks



¹ Desjardins M, Iachimov D, Mousseau S, Doyon-Plourde P, Brousseau N, Rallu F, Quach C. Clinical characteristics of pediatric pertussis cases, Quebec 2015–2017. Can Commun Dis Rep 2018;44 (9):190-195.

² National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI). Pertussis vaccine. Part 4: Canadian Immunization Guide March 2018. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-15-pertussis-vaccine.html>