

# Pertussis



Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Taney County Health Department



## (WHOOPIING COUGH)

### What it is

- Whooping cough, also known as pertussis, is a very contagious respiratory illness.
- Whooping cough may begin like a common cold, but unlike a cold, the coughing can last for weeks or months.
- Babies and people with pre-existing health conditions are at greatest risk for complications. Pneumonia is the most common complication. Seizures, swelling of the brain, and death are rare but possible.

### Treatment

Pertussis can be treated with antibiotics; however, people with the infection can spread it to others until they have completed five days of treatment.

### Vaccination

The best way to prevent whooping cough is to get vaccinated. Pregnant women should also receive the Tdap vaccine in their third trimester of pregnancy.

Talk to your healthcare provider to make sure you are up-to-date. People vaccinated for pertussis can still get sick, but it is usually a milder illness.

### SIGNS & SYMPTOMS



Runny Nose



Cough, Starting Mild and Worsening Over Time



Vomiting or Gagging After Coughing



Exhaustion, or Feeling Very Tired

[cdc.gov/pertussis](http://cdc.gov/pertussis)

