Pertussis
"Whooping Cough"

For more information
about Pertussis...

Ask your doctor
<u>or</u>
local health department

Ohio Department of Health
Immunization Program
246 North Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

1-800-282-0546
614-466-4643

Get
Vaccinated!

Protect yourself <u>AND</u>
the ones you love

What is pertussis?

Pertussis or "whooping cough" is a serious respiratory infection that spreads easily from person to person. It can cause coughing spells so severe a person can crack a rib or have difficulty breathing. It can lead to weight loss, incontinence, rib fractures, pneumonia, seizures, hospitalization and even death.

How does pertussis spread?

Pertussis spreads in respiratory droplets and is transmitted through close contact with an infected person. Symptoms usually appear within 7 to 10 days of exposure; however, the disease can be spread well before symptoms appear.

Who is most at risk?

Although serious consequences may occur at any age, young infants who are not fully vaccinated have the highest risk of complications from pertussis.

How can pertussis be prevented?

The best way to prevent pertussis is through vaccination. This is especially important for anyone who is in contact with infants. Currently, there are two types of vaccine to protect against pertussis-DTaP and Tdap. In addition to pertussis, each of these vaccines provides protection against tetanus and diphtheria.

Who should receive the vaccine?

- Children under 7 years of age should receive five doses of DTaP.

- Adolescents 11 through 18 years of age should receive one booster dose of Tdap, preferably at age 11-12 years.

- Adults 19 through 64 years of age should substitute Tdap for one booster dose of Td (tetanus-diphtheria) vaccine.

- An adolescent or adult who gets a severe cut or burn should substitute Tdap for one booster dose of Td.

- New mothers who have never received a dose of Tdap should get a dose as soon as possible after delivery. If vaccination is needed during pregnancy, Td usually is preferred over Tdap. Check with your doctor.