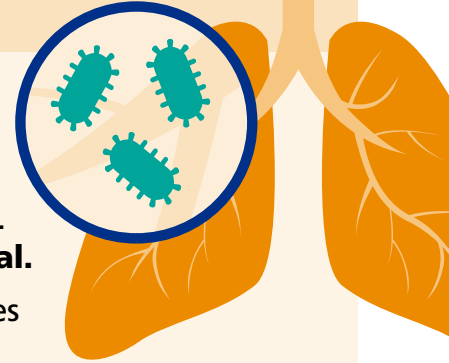


Whooping Cough – What you need to know

What is whooping cough?

Whooping cough (also known as pertussis) is a bacterial infection of the lungs and breathing tubes. It causes coughing and difficulty breathing after a coughing bout. Coughing can cause babies to turn blue or grey. It spreads very easily and can be extremely serious. **Some babies will become very unwell and need to go to hospital.**

There are more babies catching whooping cough at the moment. Babies who are too young to start their vaccinations are the most at risk.



How can you protect your baby?

While you are pregnant, you can have the whooping cough vaccination. This is the best way to protect your baby from getting whooping cough.

Your baby can have their own whooping cough vaccination when they are 8 weeks old. The vaccination you have when you are pregnant protects your baby in the first 8 weeks of their life, until they can have their own.

You can have the whooping cough vaccine when you are 16 weeks pregnant up until you are 32 weeks pregnant. Having your vaccination at any time during your pregnancy offers good protection for your baby.

It is important to be vaccinated every time you are pregnant.



Where to get your vaccination

It is easy to get your vaccination.

You can have the whooping cough vaccine at:

- your GP practice
- when going for scans
- other antenatal appointments.

Drop-in clinics are also available.

There is no need to book an appointment at these clinics. Speak to your midwife about when and where they are.

Talk to your midwife or GP to get vaccinated.

