

Whooping Cough

What is whooping cough?

Whooping cough, also known as pertussis, is caused by a bacteria that spreads in the air. Early signs of whooping cough may start out like the common cold. Later it can turn into coughing fits, vomiting, or difficulty breathing.



What is happening in King County?

Whooping cough cases are increasing here in King County and across the U.S. Many of the people getting sick are children, including babies. Some have been hospitalized.



What can I do?

Vaccination is the best way to prevent whooping cough. It's especially important for babies and pregnant people, as babies can get very sick. Whooping cough vaccines are safe for children and adults, including pregnant people.

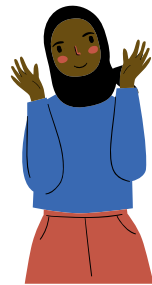
Vaccines, like any medicine, can have side effects. The most common side effects are mild and go away on their own. Look at the chart below to see which vaccine is right for you.



Babies and young children

DTaP

2, 4, and 6 months
15-18 months
4-6 years



Preteens

Tdap

11-12 years



Pregnant people

Tdap

Third trimester of each pregnancy



Adults 19+

Tdap

Anytime for those who have never gotten it



Need a doctor? Contact the Community Health Access Program by calling 1-800-756-5437 or emailing CHAP@kingcounty.gov.



Learn more about whooping cough: bit.ly/kcpertussis