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Whooping Cough

Also called: Pertussis

Whooping cough is an infectious bacterial disease that causes uncontrollable coughing. The name comes from the noise you make when you take a breath after you cough. You may have choking spells or may cough so hard that you vomit.

Anyone can get whooping cough, but it is more common in infants and children. It's especially dangerous for infants. The coughing spells can be so bad that it is hard for infants to eat, drink, or breathe.

To make a diagnosis, your doctor may do a physical exam, blood tests, chest x-rays, or nose or throat cultures.

Before there was a vaccine, whooping cough was one of the most common childhood diseases and a major cause of childhood deaths in the U.S. Now most cases are prevented by vaccines [<https://medlineplus.gov/tetanusdiphtheriaandpertussisvaccines.html>]. If you have whooping cough, treatment with antibiotics may help if given early.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Start Here

- [Pertussis \(Whooping Cough\)](https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/index.html) [<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/index.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- [Pertussis Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/faqs.html) [<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/faqs.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/faqs-sp.html>]
- [Whooping Cough](https://familydoctor.org/condition/whooping-cough/?adfree=true) [<https://familydoctor.org/condition/whooping-cough/?adfree=true>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/condicion/tos-ferina/?adfree=true>]
- [Whooping Cough \(Pertussis\)](https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/whooping-cough.html) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/whooping-cough.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/whooping-cough-esp.html>]

Latest News

- [Whooping Cough Shot Works, but Many Moms-to-Be Skip It: CDC](https://medlineplus.gov/news/fullstory_168725.html) [https://medlineplus.gov/news/fullstory_168725.html] (09/28/2017, HealthDay)

Symptoms

- **Pertussis Signs & Symptoms** [<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/signs-symptoms.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/signs-symptoms-sp.html>]

Diagnosis and Tests

- **Pertussis Tests** [<https://labtestsonline.org/understanding/analytes/pertussis/tab/test/>] (American Association for Clinical Chemistry)

Prevention and Risk Factors

- **Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis Vaccines: MedlinePlus Health Topic** [<https://medlineplus.gov/tetanusdiphtheriaandpertussisvaccines.html>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/tetanusdiphtheriaandpertussisvaccines.html>]

Treatments and Therapies

- **Pertussis Diagnosis & Treatment** [<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/diagnosis-treatment.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/diagnosis-treatment-sp.html>]

Related Issues

- **Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Complications** [<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/complications.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/complications-sp.html>]

Images

- **Photos of Pertussis** [<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/photos.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/photos-sp.html>]

Videos and Tutorials

- **One Family's Struggles with Pertussis (Whooping Cough)** [<http://www.pkids.org/immunizations/videos/pertussis.html>]  (Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases)

Statistics and Research

- **FastStats: Whooping Cough or Pertussis** [<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/whooping-cough.htm>] (National Center for Health Statistics)
- **Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Outbreaks** [<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/outbreaks/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/outbreaks/about-sp.html>]

Clinical Trials

- **ClinicalTrials.gov: Whooping Cough** [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Whooping+Cough%22>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Committee Opinion No. 718: Update on Immunization and Pregnancy: Tetanus,... [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28832489]
- Article: Committee Opinion No. 718 Summary: Update on Immunization and Pregnancy:... [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28832480]
- Article: Diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus: evidence-based management of pediatric patients in... [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28749121]
- Whooping Cough -- see more articles [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=(whooping+cough[majr]+OR+pertussis+vaccine[majr])+AND+english[la]+AND+humans[mh]+AND+(jsubsetk[text]+OR+review[pt]+OR+guideline[pt]+OR+clinical+trial[pt]+OR+patient+education+handout[pt])+NOT+(letter[pt]+OR+editorial[pt])+AND+%22last+1+Year%22[edat]]

Find an Expert

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [https://www.cdc.gov/]
Also in Spanish [https://www.cdc.gov/spanish/]
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [https://www.niaid.nih.gov/] 

Children

- Help Protect Babies from Whooping Cough [https://www.cdc.gov/Features/Pertussis/]
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
Also in Spanish [https://www.cdc.gov/spanish/especialesCDC/TosFerina/]
- Whooping Cough (Pertussis) - Fact Sheet for Parents [https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/child/pertussis.html] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Woes of Whooping Cough [https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/whooping-cough.html] (Nemours Foundation)

Teenagers

- Whooping Cough and the Pertussis Vaccine [https://youngwomenshealth.org/2010/06/07/whooping-cough-and-pertussis-vaccine/] (Children's Hospital Boston)
Also in Spanish [https://youngwomenshealth.org/2007/05/14/tos-ferina-y-vacuna-antipertussis/]

Women

- Preventing Pertussis (Whooping Cough) [http://www.midwife.org/ACNM/files/ccLibraryFiles/Filename/000000003256/Preventing%20Pertussis%20%28Whooping%20Cough%29.pdf] (American College of Nurse-Midwives) - PDF

Patient Handouts

- Pertussis [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001561.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001561.htm]
- Whooping Cough also Known as Pertussis [https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pertussis/downloads/dis-pertussis-color-office.pdf]
(American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) - PDF



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Pertussis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001561.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Cough [<https://medlineplus.gov/cough.html>]

Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis Vaccines
[<https://medlineplus.gov/tetanusdiphtheriaandpertussisvaccines.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Whooping Cough* is the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/>]

Other Languages

Find health information in languages other than English
[<https://medlineplus.gov/languages/whoopingcough.html>] on *Whooping Cough*

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