FORTBEND HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



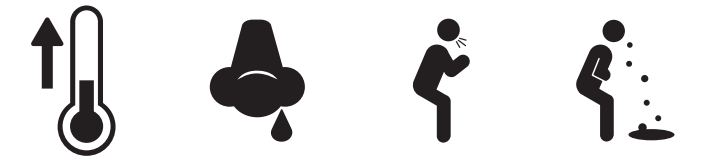
# WHOOPING COUGH

**Whooping cough, or pertussis, is a very contagious respiratory illness. The bacteria is found in the nose, throat and mouth of an infected person, and can be easily spread.**

If you have concerns about pertussis, contact your healthcare provider or call your local health department at 281-238-3500.

## Symptoms

Symptoms occur within 5 to 21 days after someone has been exposed. Symptoms to look for include:



Low fever | Runny nose | Cough | Vomiting after cough

Contact a healthcare provider immediately if you or your child are struggling to breath.

## How does it spread?

The bacteria that causes whooping cough is found in the nose, throat and mouth. When a person with whooping cough **sneezes** or **coughs**, they release small particles with the bacteria in them. Other people can then breathe in the bacteria.



## Prevention

### Vaccination

Whooping cough affects people of all ages. The best way to prevent it is to get vaccinated.

To find out when you should get the whooping cough vaccine, visit the CDC website.

Looking for a pharmacy to get the whooping cough vaccine for you or your child? Visit Vaccines.gov.

Clinical Health Services offers free vaccines to eligible Fort Bend County Residents.

### Good Hygiene

Practice good hygiene by

1. Covering your coughs and sneezes
2. Washing or sanitizing your hands often
3. Cleaning frequently touched surfaces

## Treatment

If you believe that you or your child have whooping cough, see a doctor as soon as possible. **Whooping cough is treated with an antibiotic**, and if treated early, the antibiotics may reduce both the contagiousness and severity of the disease.

*Source: CDC.gov*



*Reviewed: November 2024*