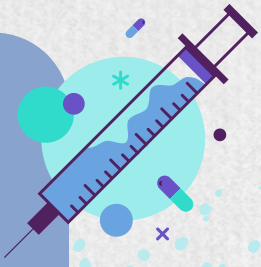


# Pertussis

## "WHOOP! THERE IT IS": EXPLAINING WHOOPING COUGH



Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a highly contagious respiratory illness caused by the bacterium Bordetella pertussis. It spreads easily through coughing and sneezing, affecting individuals of all ages. However, infants under six months, unvaccinated individuals, and those with compromised immune systems are at a greater risk of experiencing more severe symptoms. Vaccination with DTAP or TDAP can help prevent pertussis.



Symptoms include a runny nose, low-grade fever, and a mild cough that may become more severe and frequent, followed by a high-pitched "WHOOP." Babies may experience a pause in breathing, known as apnea, instead of coughing.

Patients of any age suspected of having pertussis should be placed in droplet isolation immediately. Contact Infection Prevention for recommendations on when to discontinue isolation.






Infection Prevention and Team Member Health should be notified for further guidance regarding a suspected or confirmed pertussis patient. Contact tracing and PEP may be recommmended.

For questions, please contact your local Infection Preventionist