

What is pertussis?

Pertussis, **commonly known as whooping cough**, is a highly contagious respiratory infection caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*.

Infection can lead to uncontrollable coughing and serious complications including pneumonia and hernias.

Pertussis is usually spread through close contact with others, such as coughing and sharing drinks.

Getting immunized against pertussis is the best way to protect against it.

Talk to your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or local public health office about getting the pertussis vaccine for you or your child.

