

Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

Symptoms of whooping cough may be:



runny nose



sneezing



tiredness



severe coughing



vomiting after coughing



trouble breathing

Whooping cough is spread by:

- Coughing and sneezing
- Contact with excretions from mouth or nose
- Whooping cough spreads easily
- Can be fatal to babies and young children



It can take up to 3 weeks for illness to develop after contact with a person with whooping cough.



If you or your child have symptoms of whooping cough, **please see your doctor as soon as possible**. Early testing and treatment is important to prevent spreading whooping cough to others.

Stop the spread of whooping cough by:



Stay at home if you are sick

Stay away from child care for 21 days from onset of cough, or until at least 5 days of correct antibiotics have been taken.



Wash your hands

with soap and water regularly, especially after coughing and sneezing.

Vaccination

- Keep your child's immunisations up to date.
- A booster dose of whooping cough vaccine is recommended for any adult who wishes to protect themselves from whooping cough.
- Vaccination is recommended and free in EACH pregnancy from 20 weeks.



Cover coughs and sneezes

with a tissue, throw the tissue in the bin then wash your hands.



For more information see the Queensland Health fact sheet at:

<http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/33/150/whooping-cough-pertussis>

Please contact the Gold Coast Public Health Unit for further information

07 5667 3200