

PERTUSSIS

What you need to know to protect yourself and your family



What is Pertussis?

Pertussis (whooping cough) is a serious and very contagious illness.

How does it spread?

Pertussis is spread from person to person when an infected person sneezes or coughs.

Who is at risk?

Anyone can get pertussis, even fully vaccinated children and adults.

People who live in the same household with a person with pertussis are very likely to get the disease.

What are the symptoms?

Pertussis starts with cold-like symptoms and a mild, occasional cough.

The cough becomes more persistent and causes coughing fits. The cough may become violent, causing vomiting or turning blue.

Some people experience a whooping noise, but many do not.

What should I do if I have symptoms?

Contact your doctor if you believe that you have pertussis.

A doctor can diagnose Pertussis based on the symptoms and laboratory tests.

Antibiotics prescribed by a doctor are used to treat pertussis and prevent the spread of disease.

How can I protect myself and my family?

If you have pertussis you should stay at home and away from others until you have completed 5 days of antibiotics.

Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when you sneeze and cough.

Check with your doctor to be sure you and your family are fully vaccinated.

Pregnant women should receive pertussis vaccine with each pregnancy, preferably during the third trimester.



For more information contact your doctor or refer to:



Chester County Health Department
610-344-6252



www.chesco.org/health
<http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/index.html>