

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Vaccination in Pregnancy

What is Pertussis?

Pertussis (otherwise known as whooping cough) is a disease that can cause serious illness requiring hospitalization, and sometimes causes death, in newborns.

Why should I receive the pertussis vaccine during pregnancy?

You may have been vaccinated as a child to protect against pertussis, however, immunity levels decrease over time, so many adults are no longer protected. Infants do not start to become immune to whooping cough until after they have their second shot at four months of age, leaving them at risk for the first few months of life.

Boosting your immunity in pregnancy will allow you to pass antibodies to your baby through the placenta, as well as through your breast milk, if you choose to breastfeed. Your baby will have the protection of your antibodies in their system until they start to develop their own, in response to their vaccines.

When should I receive the pertussis vaccine?

The vaccine is safe any time in pregnancy and is ideally given after 21 weeks of pregnancy and 4 weeks before delivery.

Who should receive the pertussis vaccine?

Pregnant women should be vaccinated for pertussis during pregnancy to decrease the chance of your baby catching whooping cough as a newborn. We also recommend that any adults who will be in close contact with baby receive a booster vaccine to decrease the chance of them catching the illness and passing it on to your baby. Your baby should also receive his or her routine childhood immunizations, which include whooping cough.

Where can I receive the pertussis vaccine?

You can receive one dose of the booster vaccine free of charge through public health clinics (see locations below or call Healthlink at 811) or at your local pharmacy with a prescription from a physician. If you have already received a booster as an adult, you can be given a prescription for the vaccine which can be filled at a pharmacy (the cost is about \$50 and is covered by most drug plans).

Community Health Centre	Address	Phone Number
Acadia Community Health Centre	132, 151 - 86 Ave SE	403-944-7200
East Calgary Community Health Centre	2nd floor, 4715 - 8 Ave SE	403-955-1250
Northwest Community Health Centre	#109, 1829 Ranchlands Blvd NW	403-943-9700
Shaganappi Complex	3415 - 8Ave SW	403-944-7373
South Calgary Health Centre	31 Sunpark Plaza SE	403-943-9300
Thornhill Library/Community Health Centre	6617 Centre St N	403-944-7500
Village Square Community Health Centre	2623 56 St NE	403-944-7000
Airdrie Community Health Centre	604 Main Street, Airdrie	403-912-8400
Cochrane Community Health Centre	60 Grande Boulevard, Cochrane	403-851-6000

Your doctor or health team member can answer any questions about whooping cough or vaccinations. For further information, type "SOGC Pertussis guideline" into an online search engine and click the first link.