

WHOOPING COUGH (Pertussis)

A serious threat to your infant's health!

THE FACTS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Pertussis can cause serious illness and even death. More than half of the infants less than 1 year old who get pertussis must be hospitalized.
- Infants under 2 months of age are extremely vulnerable because they cannot be vaccinated themselves.
- Pertussis is extremely contagious. 80% of infants contract the disease from older siblings, parents, or caregivers who may not realize they have the disease. It can be spread through a simple sneeze, cough or even talking close.
- There have been thousands of cases of Pertussis reported in the United States including Connecticut during the past few years.
- The most effective way to prevent Pertussis infection in infants is for parents, siblings and caregivers to be vaccinated with a Tdap booster. Even if you've received a pertussis vaccine in the past, the protection may have weakened.
- Many cases are not diagnosed until late in the infection because initial symptoms appear as a common cold and cough.

HELP PROTECT A BABY YOU CARE ABOUT. GET A TDAP BOOSTER.

The Tdap vaccine protects older children and adults against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, and will prevent the spread of disease to infants who are not fully immunized.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends Tdap vaccines for children 11 years old and older and adults.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health is providing Tdap vaccine for those who will have close contact with an infant up to 12 months of age. Mothers delivering babies at Danbury Hospital or New Milford Hospital will be offered the Tdap vaccine prior to discharge. Fathers, grandparents, siblings and caregivers may receive a booster vaccine for a nominal administration fee from Danbury VNA or New Milford VNA.



HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOUR BABY?

The best way to protect your baby from pertussis is to get vaccinated!

DTap is given to younger children to protect against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis. Shots are given to children at 2, 4, 6, 12 - 15 months and 4 - 6 years of age.

Tdap vaccine is given to older children and adults. Even if you were immunized in the past, the protection may have weakened and you should receive a booster shot.

To make an appointment call:

Danbury Visiting Nurse Association, Inc.

4 Liberty Street • Danbury, CT
(203) 792-4120 Ext. 0

or

New Milford Visiting Nurse Association

68 Park Lane Road • New Milford, CT
(860) 354-2216

An administration fee of \$21 is payable by cash or check.

For additional information on Pertussis visit:

Centers for Disease Control at www.cdc.gov/pertussis and State of Connecticut Department of Public Health at www.ct.gov/dph