



PUBLIC FACT SHEET

PERTUSSIS (WHOOPIING COUGH)

What is pertussis?

Pertussis is a bacterial infection of the breathing tract. It is also called **whooping cough**.

How is pertussis spread?

Pertussis may be spread through the following ways:

- Air-borne droplets of the nose or throat from people with pertussis.
- Contact with items that have these droplets on them.

What are possible symptoms?

Symptoms may include:

- Sneezing
- Runny nose
- Low grade fever
- Coughing which slowly worsens and can last for 1-2 months or longer. At the end of coughing there is a high pitched “whoop” sound. Note: babies less than six months, older children and adults often do not have the “whooping” sound.

How is pertussis diagnosed?

By an exam and by a swab of the throat.

What the treatment is for pertussis?

- Antibiotics. People should stay home until they have received at least 5 days of treatment.
- A series of immunizations given to children starting at 2 months of age.
- A booster dose is recommended for persons 10 years of age or older.
- Wash your hands after blowing your nose, coughing or touching soiled articles.

For more information on pertussis:

Ottawa County Health Department
www.miOttawa.org
Center for Disease Control and Prevention
(Enter CDC Website Here)
Phone: (888) 246-2675