

# Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

# Parapertussis

**Cause:** *Bordetella pertussis* bacteria.

**Signs and symptoms:** sneezing, runny nose, low or no fever, and a mild cough that worsens over time.

**Duration:** From a few weeks to months.

**Treatment:** Prescribed antibiotics which are most effective if started early.

**Vaccination:** Vaccines are the best ways to prevent pertussis.

- DTaP for children younger than 7 years
- Tdap for adults

**Cause:** *Bordetella parapertussis* bacteria.

**Signs and symptoms:** similar to pertussis, but typically milder. Some do not have symptoms at all.

**Duration:** Up to a few weeks.

**Treatment:** A doctor may prescribe antibiotics.

**Vaccination:** There is no vaccine for parapertussis.

**The pertussis vaccine does not offer protection from parapertussis.**

**Advanced Symptoms** of both Pertussis and Parapertussis:



Cough (Whooping)  
that worsens over time



Difficulty  
Breathing



Runny nose



Feeling very  
tired



Vomiting After  
Coughing Fits

## Prevention Methods



Vaccine (only  
available for  
Pertussis)



Wash your hands



Cover coughs  
with a tissue  
or your sleeve



stay home  
when sick



Avoid close  
contact with  
sick people



Talk to a health care provider if you have these symptoms. A doctor may swab your nose to test for pertussis or parapertussis.

**For more information, visit:** [www.maine.gov/dhhs/pertussis](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/pertussis)

