

# Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Protecting Your Baby Begins In Pregnancy



## 3700

cases of pertussis  
in Alberta.<sup>1</sup>  
2009 to 2018

## 116

cases were babies  
under 3 months of age.<sup>1</sup>  
2009 to 2018

## 1-4

deaths are related to  
pertussis each year in  
Canada. These deaths  
are most often in  
babies who are too  
young to be immunized or  
children who are  
not fully immunized.<sup>2</sup>  
1991 to 2012



## Pertussis:

- is also called whooping cough or the “100 day cough”
- spreads easily
- can cause severe coughing spells that last for weeks or months
- can lead to an infection in the lungs (pneumonia), and in rare cases, seizures, brain injury, and death
- can make it hard to breath especially for young babies
- can happen to anyone



**The Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) vaccine protects you from tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis.**

**The vaccine:**

- is recommended each time you are pregnant
- is best when given between 27 and 32 weeks of pregnancy
- protects your baby until they are old enough to be immunized
- is safe in pregnancy for both mother and baby
- is free

Ask your healthcare provider when and where to get the Tdap vaccine.  
Visit [ahs.ca/immunize](https://ahs.ca/immunize) for more information

1. Interactive Health Data Application and Communicable Disease Reporting System on October 7, 2019.

2. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/vaccine-preventable-diseases/pertussis-whooping-cough/health-professionals.html>