Preventing Pertussis

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Employee Wellness Health & Safety
What is Pertussis?

- Also known as **Whooping Cough**

- Highly infectious bacterial illness caused by the bacterium, **Bordetella Pertussis**

- Spread through contact with infectious droplets of the nose and throat

- Incubation period is commonly 7 – 10 days, with a range of 4 - 21 days
Signs & Symptoms of Pertussis

- Runny nose
- Red watery eyes
- Mild fever
- Paroxysmal cough characterized by a high pitched “whoop”
- Cyanotic episodes in children
- Complications include: Pneumonia, rib fractures, hernias, urinary incontinence, angina, seizures, encephalopathy, dehydration, bacterial infection and death
Who’s at Risk of Pertussis?

- Infants and children who have not completed their primary series of vaccination
- Adolescents who have not received their booster dose
- Health care workers who may be exposed
Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Tdap) Vaccine

The department of Heath and Community Services recommends:

- Administer one dose of Tdap to new hires.
- Administer one dose of Tdap to all Health Care Workers who provide direct care to infants less than 1 year of age.
To receive your Tdap vaccine please contact your Occupational Health Nurse:

**Melissa Budden**  
**West**  
292-2641

**Nicole Payne**  
**East**  
256-5709

Stop the Spread of  
**WHOOPING COUGH...**  
(Pertussis)  
Get Vaccinated.