

# Whooping cough, tetanus, and diphtheria are serious diseases... Make sure your child is protected!

## What are whooping cough, tetanus, and diphtheria?

Whooping cough (pertussis), tetanus, and diphtheria are serious diseases caused by bacteria.

## How do you catch these diseases?

Whooping cough and diphtheria are spread person-to-person through the air. Tetanus gets into the body through cuts or wounds.

## Are they serious?



Yes! Whooping cough can trigger such bad coughing that babies can't breathe. Babies are the most likely to die from whooping cough and can have complications such as seizures and brain damage. Tetanus can cause extremely painful muscle cramps all over the body. Diphtheria can lead to severe breathing problems, heart problems, and paralysis.

All these diseases can be deadly.

Ask your child's healthcare provider if your child is up to date for all vaccines!

## Is my child at risk?

Yes. Whooping cough is common all over the U.S., and recent outbreaks have caused many hospitalizations and deaths. Tetanus lives in the soil, so a child who plays outside can get infected even from a small injury. Diphtheria is rare in the U.S., but outbreaks still happen in other countries.

## How can I protect my child from whooping cough, tetanus, and diphtheria?

You can protect your child from these serious diseases with vaccination.

All children should get 5 doses of DTaP vaccine, beginning when they're 2 months old. This vaccine protects against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough). If your child misses a dose or gets behind schedule, make sure they get the next dose as soon as possible.



► For more information, visit [www.vaccineinformation.org](http://www.vaccineinformation.org)

For other vaccine handouts in this series, visit [www.immunize.org/vaccine-summaries](http://www.immunize.org/vaccine-summaries)



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