

ONTARIO IS EXPANDING ITS FREE VACCINE PROGRAM.

The Whooping Cough booster vaccine for adults 19-64 years of age.



This whooping cough (pertussis) booster vaccine is good for life. It provides protection to adults, while preventing the spread of this highly contagious illness to children and infants. Ask your health care provider for details.

Immunization is the foundation for a healthy life.

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WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT WHOOPING COUGH

What is whooping cough?

Sometimes called pertussis, it is a serious disease especially in children. Adults are often the main source of pertussis infection to infants who are not yet fully protected. Whooping cough can cause serious problems, most often in babies – such as pneumonia, seizures or brain damage.

What are the symptoms of whooping cough?

People who get this disease have spells of violent coughing that can cause them to vomit or stop breathing for a short period of time. The cough can last for weeks and make it hard to eat, drink or even breathe.

How is whooping cough spread?

Whooping cough spreads very easily from an infected person to others through coughing or sneezing.

Why is the whooping cough booster important?

It offers all adults between 19 and 64, who were not immunized in adolescence, one dose providing lifelong protection, while preventing the spread of this highly contagious illness to children and infants. Parents and caregivers of newborns, infants and young children as well as health care workers are considered a priority to receive the vaccine.

Is the whooping cough booster safe?

Yes, it is a safe and effective vaccine. Side effects of the vaccine are mild and usually last for only a few days after getting the vaccine. Allergic reactions and other severe reactions are very rare.

The use of inactivated vaccines during pregnancy is generally considered safe for the fetus. However, pregnant women are encouraged to discuss potential benefits and possible risk to the fetus with their health care provider.

How is the whooping cough booster vaccine given?

It is given as part of the three-in-one Tdap vaccine that also covers two other serious diseases, tetanus and diphtheria. While the Tdap vaccine offers one lifetime dose against whooping cough, booster doses against tetanus and diphtheria are needed every 10 years for continued protection. Be sure to ask your health care provider for additional information.