



# Pertussis

Report a case or suspect case **within 24 hours** to local public health

## Additional Information:

Review immunization histories of all children to identify those who need additional vaccination when a case occurs in the group setting.

Whooping cough is often misdiagnosed as bronchitis or other respiratory illness in teens and adults.

Pertussis generally has 3 stages of symptoms:

Early stage:

- Runny nose
- Low-grade fever
- Cough

Later stage:

- Fits of coughs
- Whoop after fits of cough
- Vomiting after coughing fits
- Exhaustion after coughing fits

Recovery stage:

- Gradual recovery to more mild and less common coughing fits.

|                   |                                                                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Incubation Period | 6–21 days                                                                   |
| Contagious Period | Most contagious during the cold-like stage to 3 weeks after a cough begins. |

## Recommended Actions

Isolate and exclude.

Refer to a health care provider for diagnosis and treatment.

Cases:

Exclude cases until 21 days after cough onset or for 5 days after the initiation of antibiotic treatment for pertussis.

Contacts:

Exclusions for contacts will be determined by the local health agency.

Please see [Arizona Administrative Code R9-6-356](#) for specific language.

\*If you have questions please call public health for assistance and recommendations.\*

## Transmission

Contact with secretions of the nose, mouth, and throat of an infected individual. These secretions may be on surfaces or in infected droplets in the air.

## Prevention

DTaP vaccine is recommended at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 15-18 months and 4-6 years. Tdap vaccine is recommended at 11-12 years.

[CDC Updated Vaccine Schedule](#)

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## Resources

- [ADHS Pertussis Fact Sheet](#)
- [ADHS Pertussis](#)
- [CDC Pertussis](#)