

Mayo Clinic Minute: What is whooping cough?

VIDEO	AUDIO
	-----whooping sound----
	It's the heart-wrenching sound of a young child with the highly contagious respiratory illness known as whooping cough.
	-----whooping sound----
Jesse Bracamonte, D.O. Family Medicine Mayo Clinic	"It's caused by the bacteria known as Bordetella pertussis. It gets the name whooping cough, typically, due to the characteristic cough or the "whoop" that, typically, children make."
	-----whooping sound----
	Mayo Clinic's Dr. Jesse Bracamonte says that whoop sound is created when attempting to take in a breath after a severe hacking cough.
Dr. Bracamonte	"Fortunately, there's a vaccine available for infants and children and adults to get immunized to prevent the Bordetella pertussis from occurring. It decreases the risk of transmission and protects your overall immunity."
	The CDC recommends all young children should receive the DTaP vaccine in a series of five vaccinations at ages 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 15 to 18 months, and 4 to 6 years. Adolescents, adults and anyone who is pregnant should have a Tdap booster vaccination.
Dr. Bracamonte	"I think this vaccine is very important for kids because, in most cases, the more severe illness of whooping cough affects children or younger children, particularly under a year of age, where sometimes hospitalization can occur."
Jason	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Jason Howland.