

Whooping cough

Also called: pertussis

A highly contagious respiratory tract infection that is easily preventable by vaccine.

Rare

Fewer than 1 million cases per year (India)



Preventable by vaccine



Treatable by a medical professional



Spreads easily



Requires a medical diagnosis



Lab tests or imaging often required



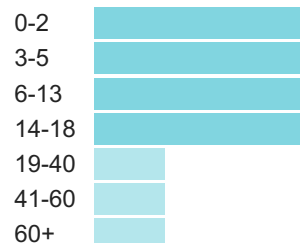
Short-term: resolves within days to weeks

Whooping cough is particularly dangerous for infants.

Besides a cough that sounds like "whoop", symptoms include a runny nose, nasal congestion and sneezing.

Treatment includes antibiotics.

Ages affected



How it spreads

By airborne respiratory droplets (coughs or sneezes).

By skin-to-skin contact (handshakes or hugs).

By saliva (kissing or shared drinks).

Symptoms

Requires a medical diagnosis

Besides a cough that sounds like "whoop", symptoms include a runny nose, nasal congestion and sneezing.

People may experience:

Cough: can be chronic, severe, or with phlegm

Nasal: congestion, runny nose, or sneezing

Whole body: fatigue or fever

Also common: episodes of no breathing, vomiting, or watery eyes

Consult a doctor for medical advice

Note: The information you see describes what usually happens with a medical condition, but doesn't apply to everyone. This information isn't medical advice, so make sure that you contact a health care provider if you have a medical problem. If you think you may have a medical emergency, call your doctor or a emergency number immediately.

Sources: Apollo Hospitals and others. [Learn more](#)