

Pertussis Protection for You and Your Baby

Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a highly contagious bacterial infection that inflames the lungs and airways. In many people, it is marked by a severe cough followed by a deep breath that sounds like a “whoop.” In recent years, there has been an increased incidence of whooping cough in the United States.

Most people recover from whooping cough with no problems, but infants, especially those under six months of age, are more likely to suffer complications such as pneumonia. Deaths are rare, but are also more common in infants. That is why it is important for pregnant women to be vaccinated against pertussis.

It is now recommended that all pregnant women be vaccinated against pertussis during each pregnancy. You will be offered the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) vaccine between the 27th - 36th weeks of pregnancy. The immunity you develop will then be passed on to your baby. If not given during pregnancy, vaccination should be given as soon as possible after delivery.

If you have any questions about pertussis or the vaccination against it, please discuss these questions with your doctor.



UW Health Ob-Gyn Clinics

20 S. Park St. Clinic*

20 S. Park St., Suite 307
20 S. Park St., Suite 506
Madison, WI 53715
(608) 287-2830

Arboretum Ob-Gyn Resident Physician Clinic

1102 S. Park St.
Madison, WI 53715
(608) 287-5898

Union Corners Clinic*

2402 Winnebago St.
Madison, WI 53704
(608) 242-6840

West Clinic*

451 Junction Rd.
Madison, WI 53717
(608) 265-7601

*Location includes Midwifery Clinic

For a complete list of our providers and clinics, please visit uwhealth.org.