

Q&A

Is whooping cough back?

Older children and adults need vaccine boosters



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Answer: At this time of year, pediatricians' offices are filled with kids suffering from the flu, colds, ear infection and coughs. Unfortunately, we're seeing the return of a disease we thought was conquered—pertussis, otherwise known as whooping cough.


The U.S. Centers for Disease Control reports that the incidence of pertussis cases nationwide in the first six months of 2010 had quadrupled over 2009—the highest level of cases in 50 years.

Although we think of pertussis as a childhood disease, it actually is highly contagious and can be contracted by adults as easily as children. In fact, adults and older children are at higher risk because many have lost the immunity of their original vaccines.

The pertussis vaccine is given to infants in five doses between the ages of 2 months and 6 years. The immunity provided by the vaccine generally wears off within 10 years. So children who are vaccinated by kindergarten

are no longer safe by the time they hit high school unless they have received a booster shot. The same goes for adults, who should be revaccinated every 10 years. The vaccine is safe for pregnant women and they can get it at any time.

The pertussis vaccine is combined with vaccines for tetanus and diphtheria, which are very good vaccines themselves to keep updated.

Pertussis generally starts off as a cough and runny nose, followed by weeks or even months of severe coughing fits. Because it is often confused with a cold, people who are contagious continue interacting with others and spread the disease. That is why it is so important that everyone be regularly vaccinated. 

Linda Tetor, MD

Family Medicine, Parker Adventist Hospital



* New parents offered vaccine

Beginning Feb. 1, Parker Adventist Hospital will begin offering the pertussis vaccine to new parents who deliver their babies at The BirthPlace. To learn more about The BirthPlace, go online to parkerhospital.org/birthplace.

ASK THE EXPERTS

If you have a health question, email us at grow@centura.org. If we publish your question, we'll send you a **\$25 gift card** to a local merchant. Questions can be on any topic and will remain anonymous.

New Doctors

The following physicians have recently joined the growing team of experts at Parker Adventist Hospital. For more information on these doctors and to see a complete list of all physicians practicing at Parker Hospital, go online to parkerhospital.org/doctor.

Heidi Renee Aasheim, MD • Anesthesiology
 Kathleen Marie Adelgais, MD • Pediatrics
 Benjamin Alderfer, MD • Psychiatry
 Justin Hubbard Arbuckle, MD • Pediatrics, Ophthalmology
 John Richard Batiuchok, MD • Psychiatry
 Nicholas John Behrendt, MD • Obstetrics & Gynecology (OB/GYN)
 Jack Howard Betts, MD • Anesthesiology
 Asmeen Bhatt, MD • Hospitalist
 Sandeep Bhatt, MD • Hospitalist
 Jonathan Edward Blacker, MD • Otolaryngology (ENT)
 Ryan Andrew Caltagirone, MD • Pediatrics
 Kevin Patrick Carney, MD • Pediatrics
 Deborah Chen-Becker, MD • Pediatrics
 Claudia Lou Clopton, MD • Psychiatry
 Maureen Ann Cunningham, MD • Pediatrics
 Aruna Dash, MD • Pathology
 Bradley James Davis, MD • Neurology
 Jeffrey Todd Domingue, DPM • Podiatry, Foot and Ankle Surgery
 Meghan Ann Donnelly, MD • Obstetrics & Gynecology (OB/GYN)

Stephanie Dunn, MD • Pediatrics
 Ronald D Edelman, DPM • Podiatry
 Anna-Lisa Farmer, MD • Pediatrics
 Debra Jeanne Faulk, MD • Anesthesiology
 Julian Hart Fisher, MD • Neurology
 Mark Shepherd Fitzgerald, MD • Orthopaedic Surgery
 Jonathan Edward Franco, MD • Obstetrics & Gynecology (OB/GYN)
 Tracy Funk, MD • Pediatrics
 Crea Lynn Fusco, MD • General Surgery
 Joel Daniel Gardner, DO • Anesthesiology
 Raymond E Garrett, MD • Nephrology
 Mark Douglas Getzoff, MD • Pediatrics
 Scott Andrew Glasser, MD • Radiology
 Amanda Elizabeth Greene, MD • Pediatrics
 Robert James Greenhow, MD • Orthopaedic Surgery
 Amy Randal Grover, MD • Pediatrics
 Daniel Richard Hamman, MD • Orthopaedic Surgery
 Jennifer A Hardy, MD • Pediatrics
 Michael Aaron Heller, MD • Anesthesiology
 Gary Robert Hensley, MD • Hospitalist
 Jessica Leigh Herzog, DPM • Podiatry
 Windsong Emily Hollis, MD • Psychiatry
 Lisa Marie Hunsicker, MD • Plastic Surgery

Jessica Melloney Kentish, MD • Anesthesiology
 Robert Bruce Keyser, MD • Ophthalmology
 Kaylyn Gresh Krummen, MD • Anesthesiology
 Jay Adam Kutnick, MD • Psychiatry
 Erik Earl Lindseth, MD • Pediatrics
 Bruce Allen Lockwood, MD • Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
 David Craig Loucks, MD • Orthopedic Surgery
 Vijay Maggio, MD • Neurology
 Judith O Margolis, MD, MPH • Anesthesiology
 Joseph William Markey, MD • Neurology
 Sara Powers Merrill, MD • Anesthesiology
 Donald Michael Merrill, MD • Anesthesiology
 Irene Monica Minkoff, MD • Hematology/Oncology
 Arvind Mohanram, MD • Anesthesiology, Pediatric
 Rupa Narra, MD • Pediatrics
 Kelly Newgent, MD • Pediatrics
 Christopher William Nichols, MD • Neurology
 James Kilty O'Brien, MD • Critical Care
 Cristina Maria Pagett, MD • Hospitalist
 Sandra Lynn Peterson, MD • Psychiatry
 Justin Jediciah Petrolla, MD • Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
 David Lee Priebe, MD • Family Medicine

Jonathan Biram Ramharack, MD • Hospitalist
 Melissa Gale Reynolds, MD • Pediatrics
 Michelle Patterson Rhodes, MD • Pediatrics
 Sharon M Sagel, MD • Pediatrics
 Stephen Michael Santangelo, MD • Anesthesiology
 John Joseph Santos, MD • Pediatrics
 Monali Sarkar, MD • Hospitalist
 Sara Jane Scherrer, MD • Hospitalist
 Andrew William Smith, MD • Anesthesiology
 Steven Howard Spillers, MD • Neurology
 Kelly Fitzgerald Stees, MD • Anesthesiology, Pediatric
 Timothy Richard Stidham, MD • Pediatrics
 Sarah Hinkel Sullivan, MD • Pediatrics
 Joseph Scott Turner, MD • Hospitalist
 Clay C Watson, MD • Infectious Diseases
 Keith Michael Weisz, MD • Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine
 Jason Charles Wells, MD • Pulmonary/Critical Care
 Joel E Wilson, MD • Anesthesiology
 Megan Elizabeth Woodman, MD • Obstetrics & Gynecology (OB/GYN)
 Kristin Truell Woodward, MD • Anesthesiology
 Adel Kabir Younoszai, MD • Pediatrics, Cardiology
 Jason Peter Zamkoff, MD • Pediatrics