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, diptheria 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.

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