



# News Release

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**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Pertussis (Whooping Cough) on the Increase in Washington**

Pertussis is a serious disease caused by bacteria that are highly contagious. The cough often lasts for weeks. Half of all children under a year of age infected with this disease are hospitalized.

**Everyone who can be immunized should get vaccinated to protect not only themselves but to protect newborns and young children who are most at risk for serious illness.**

To help prevent the spread of Pertussis it is important to update your immunizations with a Tdap vaccination. Tdap boosters are recommended for all adolescents 11-12 years of age. Adults that have not received a Tdap vaccine should get one dose now.

All pregnant women should be vaccinated at 27-36 weeks of their pregnancy to help protect their baby. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends **Tdap vaccination during each pregnancy.**

Younger children need to be on time with their regular Dtap immunizations as well. Immunizations are available through your medical providers and many local pharmacies. Help to reduce the numbers of people impacted by this serious illness.

**Get your Tdap Booster's NOW!**

Chelan Douglas Public Health  
*"Always Working for a Safer and Healthier Community"*