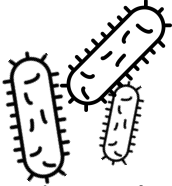
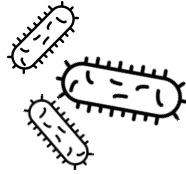


Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Fact Sheet



Pertussis, or whooping cough, is caused by bacteria. People of all ages can get pertussis.



Pertussis spreads from person-to-person through the air, usually by coughing or sneezing. A person has to breathe in droplets from an infected person to get sick.

Signs and Symptoms



Runny Nose



Cough



Vomiting or Gagging After Coughing



Exhaustion

The first signs of pertussis are similar to a common cold and include runny nose, low or no fever, and a mild cough. After one or two weeks of illness, the cough changes and is often sudden and uncontrollable where one cough follows the next without a break or breath. A high-pitched whooping sound when breathing in after a coughing episode can occur.

Pertussis can be treated with antibiotics and is most effective if started early. Cough may continue for many weeks after treatment, especially if treatment is started late in the illness.

Prevention



Wash Your Hands Often



Cover Coughs With Your Sleeve or a Tissue



Stay Home When Sick



Get Vaccinated (DTaP for children, Tdap for adults)

For More Information, Visit:



1. www.maine.gov/dhhs/pertussis
2. www.cdc.gov/pertussis

You can also call Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.