In 2018, there were **MORE THAN 151,000 CASES** of pertussis (also known as whooping cough) worldwide.

**Whooping cough (pertussis) is a highly contagious RESPIRATORY INFECTION caused by the bacterium Bordetella pertussis.**

Pertussis is spread mainly through the DROPLETS produced by coughing or sneezing.

The disease is MORE DANGEROUS IN INFANTS. People with pertussis are MOST CONTAGIOUS until about 3 WEEKS AFTER the cough begins.

The first symptoms usually appear 7 TO 10 DAYS after infection. They include mild fever, runny nose, and cough, which in typical cases gradually develops into a dry cough followed by whooping cough. PNEUMONIA is a relatively common complication, and seizures and brain disease occur rarely.

**Symptoms**

**The data**

**The disease**

**Transmission**

**Calendar**

**Vaccines**

Depending on local epidemiology, reinforcements may be warranted at a later date.

Vaccination of PREGNANT WOMEN is effective in protecting infants who are too young to be vaccinated.

Pertussis vaccination is normally administered with the DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis) VACCINE. In addition, it is also administered combined with diphtheria, tetanus, and Hib (quadrivalent); combined with diphtheria, tetanus, hepatitis B, and Hib (pentavalent); and combined with diphtheria, tetanus, inactivated polio, and Hib (hexavalent).

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For more information, visit: [www.paho.org/immunization](http://www.paho.org/immunization)