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

The data

The disease

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

Transmission

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

Symptoms

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.

Calendar

It is recommended that the FIRST DOSE is taken at 6 weeks of age; with FURTHER DOSES administered 4 to 8 weeks apart, at 10 to 14 weeks of age and at 14 to 18 weeks of age.

A REINFORCEMENT DOSE is recommended during the second year of life preferably.

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); combined with diphtheria, tetanus, inactivated polio, and Hib (pentavalent); and combined with diphtheria, tetanus, hepatitis B, inactivated polio, and Hib (hexavalent).

For more information, visit: www.paho.org/immunization