



Protect your baby with the **whooping cough vaccine**



The best time to get the vaccine is between 16 and before 36 weeks of pregnancy

Getting the whooping cough vaccine in pregnancy will protect your baby.

The vaccine is free of charge at a participating GP practice.

www.immunisation.ie



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Protect your Baby from Whooping Cough – Get Vaccinated between 16 and 36 Weeks of Pregnancy

What is whooping cough?



Whooping cough (pertussis) is an infection of the lungs and breathing tubes. It spreads very easily and can be serious. It's important for babies, children and anyone who's pregnant to get vaccinated against it.

How serious is whooping cough?



Whooping cough is very serious for newborns and infants. They may get pneumonia or have convulsions. In some cases, it can lead to brain damage or death.



How can I protect my baby?

New babies don't get their first vaccines until they are 2 months old, but you can get vaccinated when you're pregnant. This will help protect your baby from the moment they are born.



Is the vaccine safe for me and my baby?



Yes. The vaccine is safe, and many countries around the world – such as the **UK, Australia** and the **US** – recommend it for pregnant women. The vaccine has been studied in pregnant women and no risk has been found.

Reactions are generally mild – you may get soreness or redness on your skin around where you got the injection. You may experience a mild, general reaction such as fever and fatigue for up to 48 hours. Serious side effects are very rare.

When should I get the vaccine?



Get the vaccine between **16 - 36 weeks** of pregnancy.



Where can I get the vaccine?



Contact your GP practice. They will organise a vaccine for you. The vaccine is free of charge. You can read more about the whooping cough vaccine at immunisation.ie

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www.immunisation.ie

Plain English
Approved by NALA

