

Born with Protection against Whooping Cough

[Announcer] This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Hi. I'm Elizabeth Briere, a pediatrician, a medical officer at CDC, and a mom of a new baby girl. Today, I want to talk to you about whooping cough and a vaccine you can get while you're pregnant, so your baby is born with protection against this *deadly* disease.

We used to think of whooping cough as a disease of the past, but it's making a comeback in the United States. Babies are at greatest risk. About half of babies younger than one who get whooping cough end up in the hospital.

Because of the name, you would expect babies with whooping cough to have a bad cough, but many don't. Instead, the disease can cause them to stop breathing. Since 2010, 10 to 20 babies have died each year from whooping cough. Most whooping cough deaths are among babies who are too young to get DTaP, the whooping cough vaccine for children. Babies have to be at least two months old before they can get DTaP.

You can help protect your baby in these first two months by getting the Tdap vaccine in your third trimester of pregnancy, preferably between your 27th and 36th week. Tdap is the whooping cough vaccine for adolescents and adults.

It's recommended during every pregnancy so that each of your babies gets the greatest number of antibodies from you, and the best possible protection from this disease. The whooping cough vaccine is very safe—for both you and your baby. Getting it during pregnancy does *not* put you at increased risk for pregnancy complications. The vaccine doesn't contain live bacteria so you can't get whooping cough from it.

I got the Tdap vaccine during my third trimester because I wanted to make sure that I did everything possible to protect my baby. It gave me peace of mind knowing that my daughter was going to be born with protection from whooping cough.

I understand that *your* baby's health is a top priority. Talk with your doctor or midwife about getting the whooping cough vaccine during your third trimester.

To learn more, visit [cdc.gov/pertussis/pregnant](https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/pregnant). That's pertussis – p-e-r-t-u-s-s-i-s.

[Announcer] For the most accurate health information, visit www.cdc.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.