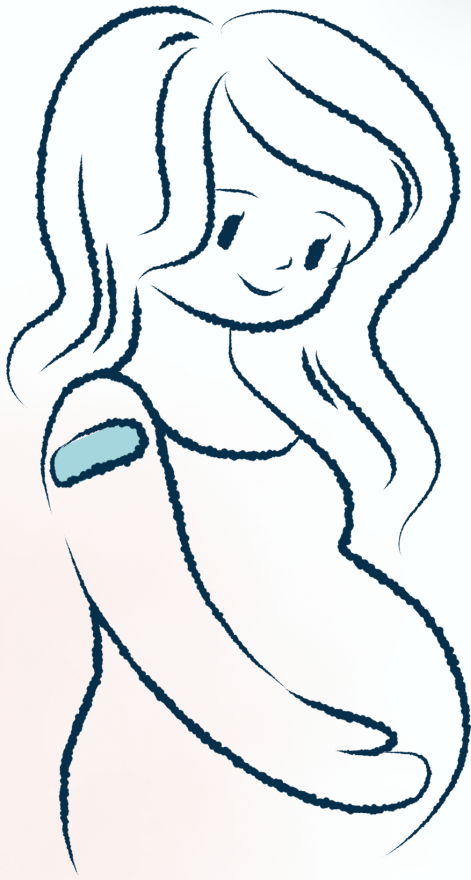




Immunisation
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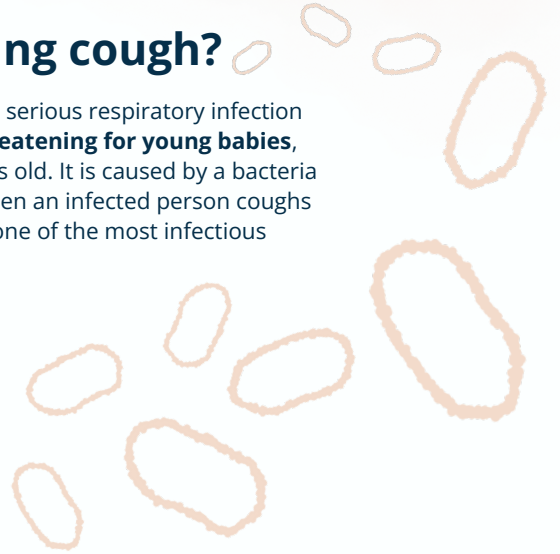
PREGNANCY VAX FACTS

WHOOPIING COUGH

Pregnancy vaccination against whooping cough can help protect you and your baby from serious illness, hospitalisation, and death.

What is whooping cough?

Whooping cough (pertussis) is a serious respiratory infection that can be **severe and life-threatening for young babies**, especially those under 6 months old. It is caused by a bacteria that spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes, and is regarded as one of the most infectious diseases in the world.



Why is whooping cough vaccination important during pregnancy?

Getting vaccinated against whooping cough during each pregnancy helps **provide protection to your unborn baby** from this potentially fatal respiratory illness, especially until they are old enough to receive their first whooping cough vaccination. Pregnant women who have been vaccinated can pass protective antibodies against whooping cough to their babies through the placenta, helping shield them from this disease during their **most vulnerable months**.

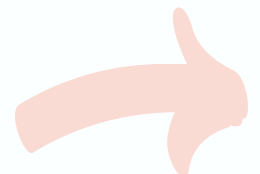
What are the benefits of getting vaccinated against whooping cough during pregnancy?

Getting vaccinated against whooping cough during pregnancy can help to protect you and your baby from the serious consequences of whooping cough, including:

- Severe coughing fits that can make it difficult for babies to breathe
- Pneumonia
- Apnea (pauses in breathing)
- Seizures
- Brain damage
- Death

When should I get vaccinated against whooping cough during pregnancy?

The whooping cough vaccine is recommended **between 20 and 32 weeks** of every pregnancy. You can have a whooping cough vaccine at the same time as receiving a flu vaccine and/or COVID-19 booster.



PREGNANCY VAX FACTS

WHOOPING COUGH



Is the whooping cough vaccine safe during pregnancy?

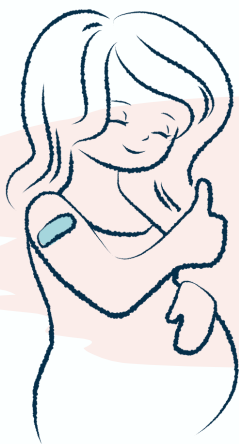
Yes, the whooping cough pregnancy vaccine has been extensively tested and monitored, and is safe for both pregnant women and their babies. The whooping cough vaccine has been approved for pregnant women by the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), which is the Australian government body that regulates medical products. The TGA considers the safety, quality and efficacy of every ingredient in a vaccine before a vaccine is registered for use in Australia.

The safety of pregnancy vaccines are actively monitored by AusVaxSafety, Australia's active vaccine safety monitoring system, with no safety concerns identified.



Are there any risks or side effects associated with getting vaccinated against whooping cough during pregnancy?

The whooping cough vaccine is very safe for pregnant women. The most common side effects are soreness, redness, or swelling at the injection site. Less frequently, the whooping cough vaccine can also cause mild fever, headache, fatigue, and muscle aches. **These side effects are usually mild and go away within a few days.**



How can I get vaccinated against whooping cough during pregnancy?

Whooping cough vaccines are free for all pregnant women in Australia. Talk to your GP, obstetrician, midwife or trusted pharmacist about getting vaccinated against whooping cough during each pregnancy.

What else can I do to protect my baby from whooping cough?

The best way to protect your unborn baby from whooping cough is to get vaccinated during pregnancy. However, parents can provide further protection against whooping cough by encouraging regular visitors to be up-to-date on their vaccinations, practicing good hygiene, limiting exposure to sick individuals, and seeking prompt medical attention if symptoms arise.

