WHY AM I AT RISK?

Have chronic asthma or COPD?
Whooping cough can cause serious health complication in adults with an existing chronic respiratory disease.1,2

65-years or older?
Our immunity naturally reduces as we age making us more susceptible to illnesses.3 People aged 65 or older are at 4 to 6 times greater risk of being hospitalised due to whooping cough.1,2

If you’re in one of these at-risk groups of people, talk to your doctor or healthcare professional about a Boostrix vaccination.


Boostrix® (combined diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis (dTpa or Tdap) vaccine) is available as an injection. Boostrix is for booster immunisation of people aged 14 years and older against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough).

Boostrix is government funded for 11 year olds as part of the national immunisation schedule, and for pregnant women between 28 and 38 weeks gestation. (Category B1). It is also available as a private-purchase prescription medicine – you will have to pay normal doctor’s visit fees and a prescription charge. A trained pharmacist can also administer Boostrix to a person aged 18 years and older. A 0.5 mL dose contains not less than 2.5 LfU of diphtheria toxoid, not less than 5 LfU of tetanus toxoid, and three purified antigens of Bordetella pertussis (8mcg of pertussis toxoid, 8 mcg of filamentous haemagglutinin, and 2.5 mcg of 69 kDa outer membrane protein). Tell your healthcare professional if you are pregnant or breastfeeding to be informed of the benefits and risks of Boostrix.

Boostrix should not be administered if you or your child are hypersensitive to any component of this vaccine or similar vaccines, or have had swelling or disease of the brain after previous pertussis (whooping cough) vaccination, or any problems with blood clotting or the nervous system (such as spams, epilepsy and brain disease) after earlier immunisation against diphtheria or tetanus. Common side effects include fever, irritability, fatigue, malaise, headache, loss of appetite, vomiting and diarrhoea, and local reactions such as pain, redness, bruising, itching, or swelling at the injection site. If you or your child have side effects, see your doctor, pharmacist, or health professional. Additional Consumer Medicine Information for Boostrix is available at https://www.medsafe.govt.nz. Ask your doctor if Boostrix is right for you or your child. Boostrix is a registered trade mark of the GlaxoSmithKline group of companies. Marketed by GlaxoSmithKline NZ Limited, Auckland.

Adverse events involving GlaxoSmithKline products should be reported to GSK Medical Information on 0800 808 500.
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Whooping cough is a vaccine preventable disease. In New Zealand infants are fully immunised against whooping cough at around 5-months of age. Children also receive boosters at 4 and 11-years as part of the free National Immunisation Schedule.

Our immunity to whooping cough reduces over time, so we need a booster every 10 years to stay fully immunised but most adults are not aware of this.

When did you last have a whooping cough booster vaccination?

Whooping cough is more contagious than the flu.

One infected person can pass whooping cough on to up to 17 unprotected others.

New Zealand is currently experiencing an ongoing national outbreak.

What is Boostrix?

Boostrix is a combined diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine. You can ask for Boostrix as a booster vaccination for these three life-threatening illnesses at your local GP practice and pharmacies.

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Visiting children under 5-months?

Infants aren’t fully immunised until around 5-months of age so make sure you get a Boostrix vaccination because their protection starts with you.

In healthy adults whooping cough is often difficult to diagnose - you may think you just have persistent cough (often referred to as a 100-day cough).

It can however become more than just annoying, causing complications such as:

- Urinary incontinence
- Pneumonia
- Rib fractures.

And even life-threatening especially in unprotected newborns and adults with existing health conditions.

Not being protected yourself means you could easily pass on this highly contagious disease without knowing you had it in the first place.

Whooping cough isn’t just a childhood disease.