



Babies aren't fully immunised against whooping cough until they're around 5-months old.<sup>1</sup>

But YOU can get immunised when you're between 28 and 38 weeks pregnant.<sup>1</sup>

It's recommended by the Ministry of Health and it's FREE.<sup>10</sup>



Ask your doctor or practice nurse about whooping cough immunisation NOW.



And remember to also ask family members and friends who'll be in contact with your newborn to get a booster vaccination to help protect themselves and your baby.<sup>12</sup>

1. Ministry of Health:Your Health; Immunisation for pregnant women. Available at <https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/immunisation/immunisation-pregnant-women> Accessed 19 March 2019 2. CDC. Pertussis. Questions and Answers. [accessed June 2018]; Available at: <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4212.pdf> 3. ESR Pertussis Report December 2018. Available at [https://surv.esr.cri.nz/PDF\\_surveillance/PertussisRpt/2018/PertussisReportDecember2018.pdf](https://surv.esr.cri.nz/PDF_surveillance/PertussisRpt/2018/PertussisReportDecember2018.pdf). Accessed 14 February 2019 4. CDC. Pertussis. Complications. [accessed June 2018]; Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/complications.html> 5. NHS UK. Whooping cough. [accessed June 2018]; Available at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/whooping-cough/> 6. CDC. Pertussis. Causes and Transmission. [accessed June 2018]; Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/causes-transmission.html> 7. ACOG Committee Opinion. Number 718, September 2017. [accessed June 2018]; Available at: <https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Immunization-Infectious-Disease-and-Public-Health-Preparedness-Expert-Work-Group/Maternal-Immunization> 8. Wendelboe AM et al. *Pediatr Dis.* 2007;26:293-99 9. Zepp F et al. *Lancet Infect Dis.* 2011;11:5 57-570 10. Ministry of Health:Publications; Immunisation Handbook 2019 (2nd edition) March 2018. Available at <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/immunisation-handbook-2017-2nd-ed-mar18-v4.html>. Accessed 18 March 2019. 11. Pesek R et al. *Allergy* 2011;66:25-31 12. GlaxoSmithKline New Zealand. *Boostrix* Data Sheet. GSK NZ; 2018. Available at <https://medsafe.govt.nz/profs/datasheet/b/boostrixinj.pdf>. Accessed 12 April 2019.

*Boostrix*<sup>®</sup> (combined diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis (dTpa or Tdap) vaccine) is available as an injection. *Boostrix* is for booster immunisation of people aged 4 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 spasms, 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 [www.medsafe.govt.nz](http://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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# PREGNANT? FREE WHOOPING COUGH VACCINE<sup>1</sup>



28-38 weeks  
OF EVERY  
PREGNANCY<sup>1</sup>

# WHAT IS WHOOPING COUGH?

Whooping cough (also known as pertussis) is a highly contagious bacterial disease which can be very serious, especially for young children.<sup>2</sup> Symptoms include repeated coughing fits, difficulty breathing, and a characteristic 'whoop' noise when gasping for breath.<sup>2</sup>

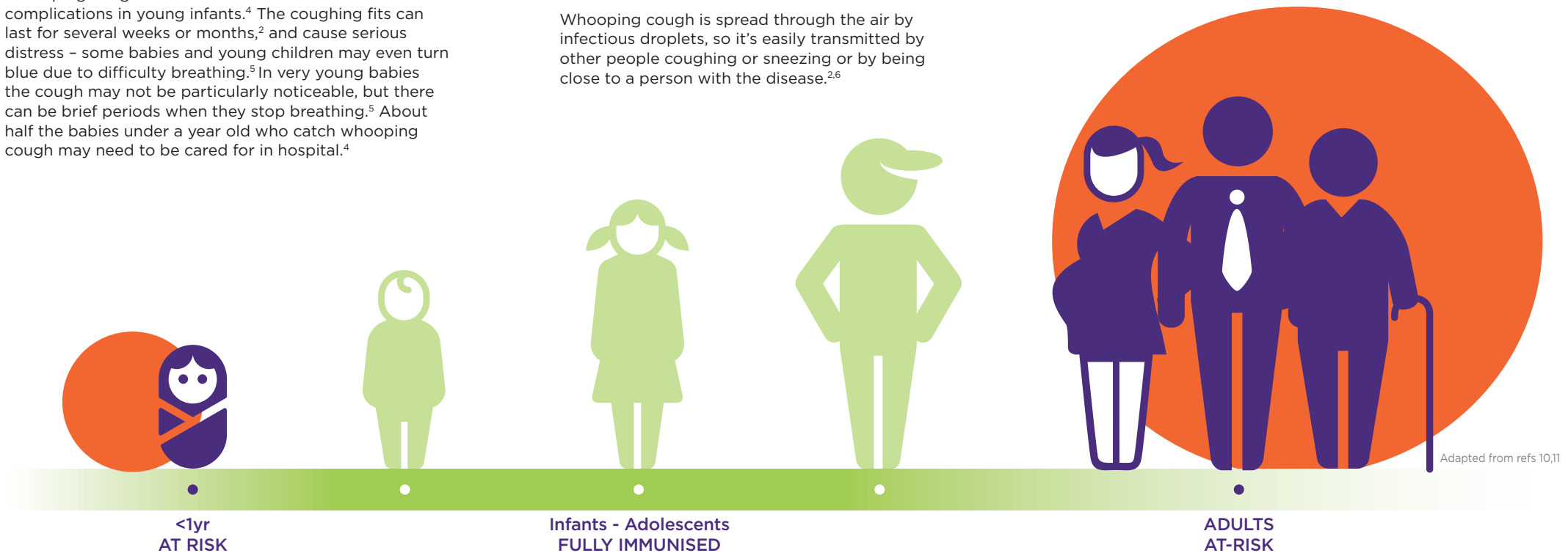
New Zealand is currently experiencing a whooping cough outbreak.<sup>3</sup>

## What could happen to my baby?

Whooping cough can cause serious and sometimes fatal complications in young infants.<sup>4</sup> The coughing fits can last for several weeks or months,<sup>2</sup> and cause serious distress – some babies and young children may even turn blue due to difficulty breathing.<sup>5</sup> In very young babies the cough may not be particularly noticeable, but there can be brief periods when they stop breathing.<sup>5</sup> About half the babies under a year old who catch whooping cough may need to be cared for in hospital.<sup>4</sup>

## How can my baby catch whooping cough?

Whooping cough is spread through the air by infectious droplets, so it's easily transmitted by other people coughing or sneezing or by being close to a person with the disease.<sup>2,6</sup>



## Why is my newborn baby vulnerable?

Babies under 2-months of age are at the highest risk of serious complications.<sup>7</sup> Newborn babies have no natural protection against whooping cough at birth or in the first few months of life, leaving them unprotected and highly vulnerable.<sup>7,8</sup>

## Who is most likely to spread whooping cough to my baby?

Over 70% of infant cases are passed on by the parents or close family.<sup>8,9</sup> Mothers, fathers, siblings, extended family or caregivers can risk passing on whooping cough, without knowing they have the disease.<sup>6</sup>