

Protect your child from whooping cough

Why are pregnant women advised to have the whooping cough vaccine?



- Whooping cough is a respiratory infection that can cause serious illness in young children. Unvaccinated babies under 1 year old are at greatest risk of severe illness.
- Vaccination during pregnancy protects your baby against whooping cough from birth until their first vaccine dose is given at 3 months old.
- The whooping cough vaccine is recommended for pregnant women in large parts of the world and provides infants with good protection against whooping cough.

How does the vaccine work?



- Pregnant women who receive the vaccine produce protective antibodies against whooping cough. These antibodies are passed on to the baby in the womb.
- For your baby to get protection, you must take the vaccine while you are pregnant – regardless of when you were last vaccinated against whooping cough.

During and after vaccination



- The vaccine is recommended at the 24-week prenatal check-up.
- The vaccine is given as an injection in the upper arm.
- It is normal that your upper arm can feel a bit sore, and it may also get a bit red or swollen. Some people can develop a fever, muscle aches, or feel unwell or tired. This usually goes away on its own within a few days.
- It has not been shown that the baby experiences side effects when the mother is vaccinated against whooping cough during pregnancy.
- Contact a healthcare professional if you have any questions or are concerned about discomfort/illness after vaccination.