

## Pertussis Information

According to the Centers for Disease control and Prevention website, pertussis is on the rise in the U.S., with more than 48,000 cases in 2012. Worldwide there are close to 16 million cases and over 190,000 deaths per year from pertussis infections. Pertussis, sometimes known as whooping cough because of the “whoop” sound at the end of the cough, can be spread easily from person to person, and affects both children and adults, with infants being especially prone to hospitalization and even death.

There is a vaccine that can help prevent pertussis. DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, and acellular Pertussis) is given as a series of five immunizations to infants and preschool age children. There is also a booster, Tdap, which contains smaller doses of the diphtheria and pertussis portion, given to children entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Pregnant women and even grandparents are encouraged to have a booster of Tdap to help protect the children they come in contact with.

Students in grades K – 5, must have 5 DTaP immunizations and a Tdap is required for those entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

For more information, visit [cdc.gov/pertussis](http://cdc.gov/pertussis)