

[PKIDs Immunization Videos - Pertussis/Whooping Cough](#)

(Note: Except when noted, the speaker is shown on the screen. There is music playing softly in the background through most of the video.)

(Image of mom and son and video clip of mother holding baby)

Mom: During my ninth month of pregnancy, my older son had a playmate come over, and when the mother came to pick up that child, her infant daughter was coughing a lot. And I ask her, "Does your child have whooping cough?" And she says, "She might! We don't immunize and she's been not feeling well lately."

Doctor: Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a very contagious disease. It's caused by a bacteria that affects the lungs.

(Video clip of man coughing)

Doctor: It starts out like just a common cold, and so it's easy to spread it.

(Video clip of mother holding baby)

Doctor: It goes on then, though, to have this cough that has a "whoop" at the end. Not everybody who has whooping cough has that sound, but it is so characteristic when you do.

Mom: A week later, I ended up with a very bizarre upper respiratory infection, and I was coughing a lot. But I thought "I can't be, because I've been immunized, because I was immunized as a kid."

Doctor: The vaccine doesn't last for a full lifetime. And so none of us reach adulthood protected by our childhood immunization to pertussis. We need a booster later in life.

Mom: I would cough and cough and cough and cough, you know, literally 50 or 60 times. It was during one of these coughing spasms that my water literally broke.

(Video clip of baby yawning)

Mom: I gave birth to a very strong, healthy, 9 pound baby boy — Colin. Unbeknownst to me, when I kissed him for the first time, I passed pertussis right on to him.

(Image of Colin)

Mom: He was fine for a week, and there was no sign of any problem. And then, he ended up with that cough and he got really, really, really sick.

(Image of Colin being examined by a doctor)

Doctor: Pertussis is very serious in infants. It can lead to pneumonia, dehydration, as well as brain damage and seizures. Ultimately, it could lead to death in infants.

(Video clip of baby at rest)

Mom: He was placed in the ICU. He would cough and cough and cough until he threw up and then he'd turn blue, and then we'd have to, you know, pat him to get him going again. It was a very vulnerable period of time in our lives.

Doctor: Infants who get pertussis often need to be hospitalized...

(Image of Colin nursing)

Doctor: ...because an infant with pertussis can't suck or swallow. They need IV fluids and sometimes they need long-term nutrition, because pertussis lasts for so long. It used to be called the "Hundred Day Cough."

(Image of smiling Colin)

Mom: It, literally, almost killed my baby, and it was completely preventable.

Doctor: In order to protect those infants...

(Video clip of 4 adults and a stroller and video clip of community)

Doctor: ...we need to put a cocoon of safety around them by vaccinating the people who share the air with them. In a community, we rely on each other to be vaccinated. Anyone who breaks that chain, who isn't vaccinated, can be infected and spread it to others.

Mom: I ended up getting a disease from a child who wasn't immunized because my own immunity from childhood had worn off.

Doctor: Such a booster wasn't available until recently. Now that it is, I think it's fair for every parent to insist that everyone who shares the air with their infant is fully vaccinated.

Voiceover: Check with your provider to see if immunization is right for your family.

(Image: PKIDs.ORG Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases)