



**WHOOPING  
COUGH IS MORE  
INFECTIOUS  
THAN THE FLU**

**IF YOU'RE AGED  
65 YEARS OR ABOVE,  
TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR  
ABOUT THE RECOMMENDED  
WHOOPING COUGH  
BOOSTER VACCINATION  
AND YOUR RISK.**

## WHAT IS WHOOPING COUGH?

Whooping cough (also known as pertussis) is a highly-contagious bacterial infection. It can easily be spread by coughing, sneezing or through direct contact with fluid from the nose.

As whooping cough often presents in adults as a prolonged cough without the characteristic 'whoop' *it is believed to be under recognised.*

## WHOOPING COUGH CAN QUICKLY SPREAD

Whooping cough is more infectious than other common vaccine-preventable diseases, such as the flu, mumps, polio, rubella and smallpox.

In fact, a person with whooping cough can pass on the disease to others for *up to 3 weeks* after first showing symptoms.

## OLDER ADULTS ARE A SIGNIFICANT RISK GROUP FOR WHOOPING COUGH RELATED COMPLICATIONS

Adults aged 65 and above are more likely to develop serious complications of whooping cough than younger adults. These complications may include:

- pneumonia
- fainting
- urinary incontinence

Whooping cough complications can lead to hospitalisation with **up to 1 in 9 diagnosed cases in older adults ending up in hospital<sup>1,2</sup>** and, in rare cases, may be fatal.

## WHOOPING COUGH VACCINATION IS RECOMMENDED FOR THOSE AGED 65 AND OVER, WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED A BOOSTER IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

A single booster dose of whooping cough vaccine can reduce your risk of:

- Catching whooping cough
- A prolonged cough illness
- Developing the serious consequences of whooping cough
- Passing whooping cough on to family members and friends

To help provide ongoing protection to yourself, this recommendation applies even for:

- people who have had the disease
- people who were vaccinated as a child
- regardless of contact with young children