

# WHOOPIING COUGH VACCINATION IN PREGNANCY

## What is Whooping Cough?

- Whooping cough is a serious bacterial infection
- Whooping cough can cause prolonged bouts of coughing, making it hard to breathe.
- Babies can develop severe complications such as pneumonia and brain damage.
- Most babies require hospital admission and when the disease is severe they may die.

## What is an Immunisation?

- Immunisation protects children and adults from harmful infections.
- Immunisation builds up an immune response in the body to fight specific infections such as Hepatitis B; Pertussis (whooping cough); Measles, Mumps and Rubella.
- Vaccines contain a part of the virus or bacteria and other additives such as preservatives or components to build a better immune response.

## Why should pregnant women have the whooping cough Vaccine?

- Having whooping cough vaccine whilst you are pregnant will help protect your baby from developing whooping cough in his or her first few weeks of life.
- The immunity you get from the vaccine will pass through the placenta to your baby
- Babies do not commence their vaccines against whooping cough until they are 6 weeks old and are not fully protected until 6 months old.

## Is the Whooping Cough Vaccine Safe in Pregnancy?

- Yes. It is very safe. There is no evidence that the vaccine is unsafe for mother or baby.
- There is no evidence that the vaccine causes any ill effects in either mother or baby.
- Children born to mothers who have received the whooping cough vaccine during pregnancy should receive an additional booster dose of a whooping cough vaccine in the second year of life.

## How do you get the whooping cough vaccine?

- The best time to get vaccinated is between 20 and 32 weeks gestation.
- The vaccine is available at **Monash Immunisation:** Private suite I Jessie MacPherson, Level 2. Phone: 9594 6320

**Opening Hours:** 8:30 am to 4 pm: Monday to Friday.

**No appointment necessary**

**Cost:** The whooping cough vaccine currently costs \$35.00 for patients with a Medicare card.

*April 2019*