

WHOOPING COUGH VACCINATION IN PREGNANCY

What is Whooping Cough?

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

Why Should Pregnant Women have a Whooping Cough Vaccine?

- Having a whooping cough vaccine during pregnancy 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. Side effects from vaccines are no more common in pregnant women than in non-pregnant women.
- Vaccines, like any medication may have side effects that are usually short-lasting and rarely require treatment or medical attention.
- Common side effects of whooping cough vaccines include:
 - One in ten people have pain, redness, swelling or hardness at the vaccine site.
 - Fever, tiredness, body aches can occur but are less common.

If I Have Received a Recent Whooping Cough Vaccine, Do I Need to be Vaccinated Again?

- Yes, it is recommended that all pregnant women are vaccinated irrespective of when last vaccinated.
- Vaccinating every pregnancy ensures that every newborn receives the highest possible concentration of whooping cough antibodies.

Can I Have Whooping Cough and Influenza Vaccines on the same day?

- Yes, both vaccines can be given on the same day if the timing is right for receiving both

How Do I Get the Whooping Cough Vaccine?

- The best time to get vaccinated is in your third trimester between 20 and 32 weeks.
- All pregnant women and their partners are eligible to receive a **Free** whooping cough vaccine.
- The vaccine is available at **Monash Immunisation:** Located at Private suite i Jessie MacPherson, Level 2, 246 Clayton Rd, Clayton
Phone: 9594 6320

Opening Hours: 8:30am to 3:45pm - Monday to Friday.

No appointment necessary

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