

INFORMATION SHEET

Whooping cough (Pertussis) – Information for cases and their families.

This information sheet tells you about whooping cough and what to do if you or a member of your household has been diagnosed with it.

Whooping cough, also called pertussis, is a bacterial infection which causes bouts of coughing for 2 to 3 months or more. The cough eventually goes away but severe illness can occur in vulnerable people, particularly babies and young children. For more information on whooping cough, please visit the [NHS Inform page](#).

Key points:

- People with whooping cough remain infectious for 48 hours after starting appropriate antibiotics, or (if they are not treated with appropriate antibiotics) for 21 days from the start of their cough.
- Anyone who has been diagnosed with whooping cough should therefore not attend nursery/school/work and should avoid contact with others until they are no longer infectious. Provided they are then well enough, they can return to normal activities once:
 - They have been treated with antibiotics for whooping cough for 48 hours, or
 - If the person with whooping cough is not treated with antibiotics, 21 days have passed since the cough began.
- If any other member of your household develops symptoms of whooping cough, they should get assessed by their GP and should avoid contact with others as set out above.

When to call Public Health:

Infants under 1 year who have not been fully vaccinated against whooping cough / pertussis are more vulnerable to developing severe illness following infection.

For that reason, people who belong to the following groups may need preventative antibiotics and immunisation following close contact with a person with whooping cough:

- Infants under 1 year
- Pregnant women
- Healthcare workers who work with infants and pregnant women
- People whose work involves regular, close or prolonged contact with infants.

If any of the following categories of people live with you (or with your child, if it is your child who has pertussis) **please call PHPU on 0141 201 4917 or email PHPU@ggc.scot.nhs.uk so that we can assess whether preventative antibiotics and immunisation are needed. Please state the reference number from your text message when you contact us.**

If you need this information in another language, please call **0141 201 4917** and say your name, your phone number and your language. We will call you back with an interpreter.