

Get to know PERTUSSIS

WHAT IS PERTUSSIS?

Pertussis is a toxin-mediated disease that causes a highly contagious respiratory tract infection. *Bordetella pertussis*, a bacteria found in the mouth, nose, and throat, causes it. It's marked by a severe hacking cough, high-pitched breath intake, with "whoop"-like sounds that can linger for 4-8 weeks.

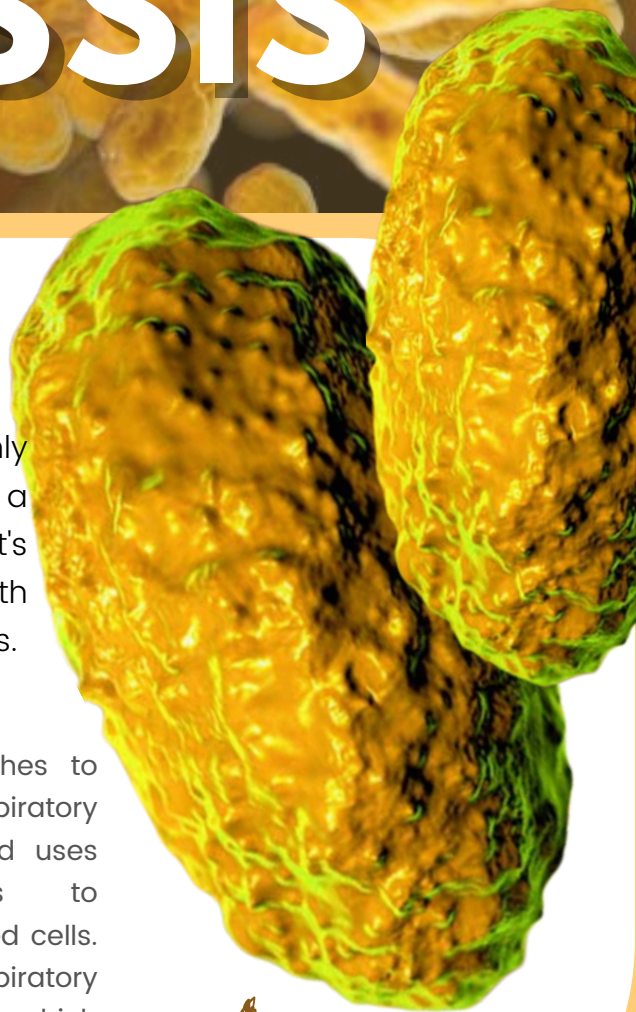
Statistical Data

- There were 151, 074 cases of pertussis worldwide in 2018. (WHO, 2021)
- The DTP3 vaccine protects against whooping cough approximately 86% of the world's target population (WHO, 2021)
- By 2018, 129 nations have attained 90% DTP3 vaccination coverage (WHO, 2021).



Pathogenicity

B. pertussis attaches to the cilia of respiratory epithelial cells and uses pertussis toxins to paralyze the ciliated cells. This will cause respiratory tract inflammation, which will eventually impede the clearance of pulmonary secretions.



TRANSMISSION

- Person to person through droplet transmission.
- Most contagious up to about 2 weeks since the onset of cough.

PERIOD OF INFECTIVITY

- The incubation period for whooping cough is typically 7-10 days, and it can last up to 21 days. It usually leads to prolonged symptoms.

PREVENTION

- Vaccination is a preventative measure. Pertussis vaccine is given together with diphtheria and tetanus vaccine, hence the name DPT vaccine.
- Hygiene

TREATMENT

- ✓ Most popular antibiotics for pertussis:
 - Azithromycin
 - Clarithromycin
 - Erythromycin
- ✓ Supportive care that includes plenty of rest and fluids can also be given.
- ✓ Eating small, but frequent may ease vomiting
- ✓ Getting rid of irritants that could trigger coughing such as smoke, dust, and chemical fumes inside the house is also helpful.

