

WHOOOPS! 4 Misconceptions About Whooping Cough!

Misconception #1: Only infants can have severe complications of whooping cough

Fact: While infants are at greatest risk of severe complications, other factors such as vaccination or pre-existing medical conditions can impact the severity of whooping cough at any age.

Misconception #2: Childhood vaccination provides life long immunity

Fact: Immunity against whooping cough wanes, so CDC recommends a booster shot between 11-18 year old & another booster every 10 years after that.

Misconception #3: Whooping coughing is like the common cold, there is no need for testing or treatment.

Fact: Anyone with symptoms should be tested; if positive, antibiotics can be prescribed.

Misconception #4: Only individuals sick with whooping cough should start an antibiotic

Fact: There are several groups of people who need prophylaxis if exposed to whooping cough:

- Household members
- Infants <12 months old
- Pregnant persons in their 3rd trimester
- Immunocompromised persons
- Persons with contact with infants <12 months, pregnant persons in their 3rd trimester, or immunocompromised persons

Questions?
Reach out to the Kane
County Health Department
(630) 208-3801
and press 4 for
communicable disease

