



PARAPERTUSSIS DISEASE FACT SHEET

WHAT IS PARAPERTUSSIS DISEASE?

Parapertussis is a disease that affects the lungs. Parapertussis is similar to pertussis (whooping cough), but it is less severe.

SYMPTOMS

The symptoms of Parapertussis can be similar to a cold: sneezing, a runny nose, possibly low-grade fever, and a cough. After a week or two, the cough may become more severe and include:

- A cough that occurs in sudden, uncontrollable bursts
- High-pitched whooping sounds when breathing in after a coughing episode
- Vomiting after a coughing spell

TREATMENT

Parapertussis can be treated with the same antibiotics as pertussis, but treatment may not cure the symptoms. Preventative treatment is not generally recommended for contacts of people with Parapertussis. Preventative treatment may be considered for close contacts who are at a higher risk for more severe disease, including infants and immunocompromised people. Discuss treatment options with your doctor.

PREVENTION

- Avoid close contact with others who are coughing or otherwise ill.
- Wash your hands often.
- Cover your cough and sneezes with a tissue, or cough and sneeze into your sleeve.

DPHD EFFORTS

The DPHD investigates potential sources of illness, conducts surveillance for the spread of disease, and engages in community outreach and education.