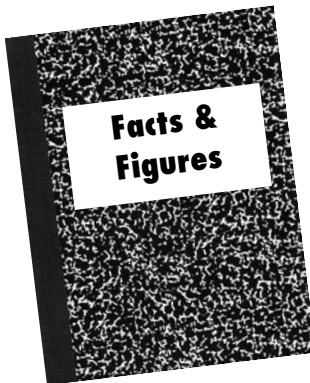


# Pertussis Tools for Schools



## Symptoms of Adolescent Pertussis: What to Watch Out For

- The first symptoms of pertussis often mimic the symptoms of an upper respiratory infection, including:
  - A low-grade fever
  - A runny nose
  - A cough that progressively becomes more severe
- Remember:
  - Severe coughing episodes may persist for up to 10 weeks
  - Adolescents generally exhibit different symptoms of the disease than infants, often without the classic “whoop,” making it difficult to diagnose
  - For these pertussis sufferers, severe coughing episodes can lead to vomiting, a hernia, or even a broken rib
- Pertussis is rarely fatal in this age group, however the mortality rate is high in unvaccinated infants who can catch the illness from adolescent family members or babysitters

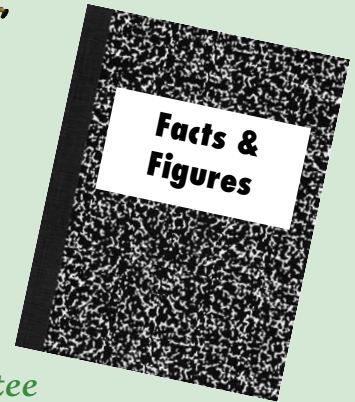


## Pertussis Facts and Figures: The Numbers Are Growing

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
- There were almost 20,000 cases in 2004 - the highest number of reported cases in more than 40 years. In comparison, approximately 1,000 pertussis cases were reported in 1976
  - Adolescents aged 10 - 19 are being impacted by pertussis, with approximately 40 percent of these cases in the adolescent population
  - There was a 743 percent increase in reported adolescent pertussis cases in the last decade
  - Childhood immunization against pertussis wears off five to 10 years after the last routine vaccination shot, typically administered when children are between four and six years old. Because of this waning, many adolescents are vulnerable and unprotected against this serious disease.



## Talk To Your Teens: Guarantee A Healthy School Year



Because the typical high-pitched “whoop” often associated with pertussis is not common in adolescents, it often makes the disease difficult to recognize. Therefore, we encourage school nurses, teachers and parents to be aware of the possible symptoms listed above and seek appropriate medical evaluation. Observation and communication are extremely important in the early detection and treatment of the highly contagious disease.

In May 2005, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a booster vaccine to be administered as a single dose to adolescents aged 10 to 18 years of age which adds a pertussis component to the routine tetanus/diphtheria booster currently recommended for teens. Prior to this approval, there was no pertussis vaccine approved for use in U.S. children seven years of age or older.

Teens should receive a booster shot to protect against whooping cough.