

YMCA Childcare Resource Service

EMERGENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

WHOOPING COUGH



Whooping cough is a highly contagious respiratory infection and it is important for your child care program to take the necessary precautions. Here are some tips to help prevent the spread of whooping cough in your child care.

1. Encourage all staff who care for infants to get their booster vaccine against whooping cough.
2. Require up-to-date immunization certificates for all children in your care. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that children get five doses of vaccine. The California Department of Public Health is also recommending expansion of the age range for vaccination to people seven years of age and older. These individuals should receive a one-time dose.
3. Always practice precautions to reduce respiratory infections such as hand washing, coughing into elbow or sleeve or away from people, and disinfecting the environment.
4. Carefully monitor all children and staff for coughs. Anyone developing a persistent cough should be immediately referred to his or her health care provider.

For more information on how to limit the spread of whooping cough contact the YMCA Childcare Resource Service at 1-800-481-2151, the Health and Human Services Agency immunization Branch at (866) 358-2966 or contact 2-1-1.