

**PERTUSSIS****PERTUSSIS**

When children get pertussis, they cough so hard and fast — over and over — until the air is gone from their lungs and they are forced to inhale with a loud “whooping” sound. At first, pertussis acts like a cold with sneezing, runny nose, fever, and a mild cough. But after a week or two, the severe coughing spells begin. It can take over a month or longer for the spells to stop. Children under 1 year old can get very sick from pertussis and have to go into the hospital. Some of them may even die from the disease. Pertussis vaccine is usually given to children together with tetanus and diphtheria vaccines in one shot called DTaP.