

September 9, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Public Health has declared a provincial outbreak of [pertussis \(whooping cough\)](#). Pertussis can occur in people of all ages but severity of illness is greatest among infants and young children who are not yet protected by a complete vaccine series.

Ensuring you and your children are up to date on pertussis vaccines is the best way to protect children of any age from severe illness and hospitalization due to pertussis. This is especially important if you are pregnant and/or expect to have regular contact with an infant as they may not be fully immunized. Contact your health care provider, check your [MyHealthNB](#) account, or call your [local public health office](#) for records.

Pertussis-containing vaccines are free in NB for those who qualify, as indicated below:

- Infants and young children at two, four and six months of age, and a booster dose at 18 months of age.
- Children 4 years of age as a booster dose before starting school.
- Adolescents in grade 7 as part of the school immunization campaign.
- Adults who have not previously received pertussis-containing vaccines in adulthood.
- Pregnant individuals in the third trimester of every pregnancy, regardless of immunization history.

If you or your child(ren) have [symptoms of pertussis](#) contact a health care provider or 811. Individuals who have tested positive for pertussis should be excluded from work, school or childcare as directed by public health.

For further information on eligibility and where to get the vaccine, refer to this link: https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/ocmoh/cdc/content/whooping_cough.html.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "AR", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Arifur Rahman MD, MPH, DSc
Acting Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health