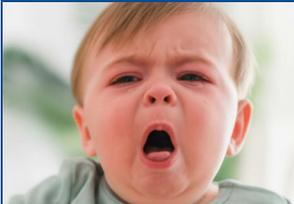


Pertussis (or “Whooping Cough”)

Pathogen Education Sheet

Overview



Pertussis (“Whooping Cough”) is a highly contagious vaccine-preventable acute respiratory infectious disease that primarily impacts children. It can be severe due to violent, uncontrollable coughing fits making it difficult to breathe, resulting in a “whooping” sound or gasp on inspiration. Recovery can take weeks to months. Complications can be serious and potentially life-threatening, with infants under 6 months of age at highest risk. Frequent cleaning & disinfection of shared spaces and high-touch surfaces with an appropriate disinfectant is important to reducing spread.^{1,2,3,4}

About the Pathogen & Infection Control Measures

Infectious Agent (Pathogen) ^{1,5}	Agent Type: Bacterium Synonym(s): “Whooping Cough” Taxonomy: Family: Alcaligenaceae ▶ Genus/Species: <i>Bordetella pertussis</i>	Characteristics: Fastidious, gram-negative bacterium requiring special media for isolation; toxin production contributes to its virulence.
Infectious Characteristics Definitions: ▶ R-naught (R₀) —the number of people that an infected person can be expected to transmit that disease to (e.g., contagiousness). ▶ Incubation period —the time from exposure to infection w/symptoms. ▶ Period of communicability —time when a pathogen can be transmitted from one person to another.	Highest risk for complications: ⁶ Infectiousness and R-naught (R₀): ^{7,8} Incubation period: ¹ Period of communicability: ⁶ Signs & symptoms: ³ Duration of illness: ¹ Severity of illness: ¹	Infants under 1 yr of age, women in 3rd trimester of pregnancy, persons with pre-existing health conditions (e.g., immunocompromised, moderate to severe asthma) Pertussis often affects 80–100% of nonimmune household contacts. Its R ₀ is 12–17, rivaling that of measles. 5–10 days after exposure, but sometimes as long as 21 days From symptom onset to up to 3 weeks after the onset of coughing fits. 3 stages of illness: Catarrhal stage (weeks 1–2): runny nose, sneezing, mild fever, developing cough; Paroxysmal stage (weeks 2–10): “Whoop” develops; Convalescent stage (weeks to months later): recovery period in which cough becomes less frequent and intense. Weeks to months (see “stages of illness” above). Ranges from asymptomatic to potentially life-threatening.
How Pertussis Spreads ¹	Person-to-person through respiratory droplets or contact with airborne droplets.	
Survival Time on Surfaces ⁹	3–5 days in dust and on plastic, and >6 weeks on stainless steel.	
Immunization/Treatment ^{1,10}	Vaccination: DtaP for infants and young children; Tdap for preteens, teens, and adults. In the event of infection, Pertussis can be treated with antibiotics during the first 1–2 weeks of symptom onset. Household and high-risk contacts should be offered post-exposure antibiotics as a preventative measure.	
Infection Control Measures	General Measures for All Spaces (commercial buildings, K–12 schools, healthcare): ¹¹ ▶ Immunization: encourage vaccination as it’s the best way to prevent whooping cough. ▶ Respiratory etiquette: cover coughs and sneezes, perform frequent hand hygiene, dispose of used tissues properly. ▶ Exclude from school/work for 21 days from cough onset or until 5 days after starting effective antibiotic therapy. ▶ Schools: Notify local public health dept of pertussis cases.	Healthcare-Specific Measures: ¹² ▶ Isolation Precautions: Standard and droplet precautions in a single patient room until 5 days after initiation of effective antibiotic therapy; pertussis cases can be cohorted together. ▶ PPE: Mask and eye protection (e.g., face shield) ▶ Patient Transport: Mask the patient ▶ Linens: Handle and manage per routine ▶ Waste: Handle and manage per routine
Cleaning & Disinfection	Routine cleaning and disinfection with a focus on shared spaces and high-touch surfaces is sufficient. Use an EPA-registered disinfectant that has kill claims against the <i>Bordetella pertussis</i> bacterium such as those listed in the Products Recommendations table below. Be sure to adhere to the recommended contact time on the product label.	

Clorox Product Recommendations:

The following CloroxPro cleaner-disinfectants can be used to effectively manage *Bordetella pertussis* on environmental surfaces and equipment.

Products for use against <i>Bordetella pertussis</i>				EPA Reg. No.	<i>Bordetella pertussis</i> contact time		
Healthcare Disinfectants							
Clorox Healthcare Bleach Germicidal Wipes					67619-12	30 sec	
Item No. 30577	6" x 5"	150 ct. Canister	6/case				
Item No. 35309	6.75" x 9"	70 ct. Canister	6/case				
Item No. 32621	6.75" x 9"	100 ct. Softpack	6/case				
Item No. 31424	6.75" x 9"	50 ct. Carton	6/case				
Item No. 30358	12" x 12"	110 ct. Bucket	2/case				
Item No. 30359	12" x 12"	110 ct. Bucket Refill	2/case				
Clorox Healthcare Bleach Germicidal Cleaner					56392-7	1 min	
Item No. 68970	32 fl. oz.	Spray	6/case				
Item No. 68832	32 fl. oz.	Pull-Top Bottle	6/case				
Item No. 68978	128 fl. oz.	Refill	4/case				
Clorox Healthcare Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner Disinfectant Wipes					67619-25	1 min	
Item No. 30825	6.75" x 5.75"	155 ct. Canister	6/case				
Item No. 30824	6.75" x 9"	95 ct. Canister	6/case				
Item No. 30826	12" x 11"	185 ct. Bucket	2/case				
Item No. 30827	12" x 11"	185 ct. Bucket Refill	2/case				
Clorox Healthcare Fuzion Cleaner Disinfectant					67619-30	1 min	
Item No. 31478	32 fl. oz.	Spray	9/case				
Clorox Healthcare VersaSure Cleaner Disinfectant Wipes					67619-37	2 min	
Item No. 31758	6" x 5"	150 ct. Canister	6/case				
Item No. 31757	6.75" x 8"	85 ct. Canister	6/case				
Item No. 31759	12" x 12"	110 ct. Bucket	2/case				
Item No. 31761	12" x 12"	110 ct. Bucket Refill	2/case				
Clorox Healthcare Spore¹⁰ Defense Cleaner Disinfectant					67619-40	1 min	
Item No. 32122	128 fl. oz.	Refill for Sprayers	4/case				
Item No. 32409	128 fl. oz.	Bottle	4/case				
Professional Disinfectants							
CloroxPro Clorox EcoClean Disinfecting Cleaner and Refill					67619-45	2 min	
Item No. 60213	32 fl. oz.	Spray	9/case				
Item No. 60094	128 fl. oz.	Refill	4/case				
CloroxPro Clorox Disinfecting Wipes					67619-31	4 min	
Item No. 15949	75 ct. Canister		6/case				Fresh Scent
Item No. 15948	75 ct. Canister		6/case				Lemon Scent
Item No. 31547	700 ct. Bucket		1/case				Fresh Scent
Item No. 31428	700 ct. Bucket Refill		2/case				Fresh Scent
CloroxPro Clean-Up Disinfectant Cleaner with Bleach					67619-17	30 sec	
Item No. 35417	32 fl. oz.	Spray	9/case				
Item No. 35420	128 fl. oz.	Refill	4/case				
CloroxPro Clorox Germicidal Bleach					67619-32	5 min	
Item No. 30966	121 fl. oz.	Bottle	3/case				

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