

WHOOOPS!

4 COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT WHOOPING COUGH



1

Misconception #1: Only infants can have severe complications of whooping cough.

Fact: While infants are at greatest risk of severe complications, other factors such as vaccination or pre-existing medical conditions can impact the severity of whooping cough at any age.

2

Misconception #2: Childhood vaccination provides lifelong immunity.

Fact: Immunity against whooping cough wanes, so CDC recommends a booster shot between 11-18 years old & another booster every 10 years after that.

3

Misconception #3: Whooping cough is like the common cold, there is no need for testing or treatment.

Fact: Anyone with symptoms should be tested; if positive, antibiotics can be prescribed.

4

Misconception #4: Only individuals sick with whooping cough should start an antibiotic (A.K.A. prophylaxis).

Fact: There are several groups of people who need prophylaxis if exposed to whooping cough:

- Household members
- Infants <12 months old
- Pregnant persons in their 3rd trimester
- Immunocompromised persons
- Persons with contact with infants <12 months, pregnant persons in their 3rd trimester, or immunocompromised persons

QUESTIONS?

Reach out to the communicable disease team at Kane County Health Department
(630) 208-3801 & dial 4 for communicable disease