

# Why get vaccinated against whooping cough?

Ask the McNally family of Michigan.



**Infants are too young to be vaccinated against pertussis (whooping cough). Make sure you and your loved ones are vaccinated against pertussis. It could save a precious child's life.**

## Francesca's Story

On May 17, 2012, Francesca Marie McNally lost her life to pertussis. She was only three-months-old. Francesca's mother, Veronica, believes she had pertussis and passed it on to Francesca as well as her three-year-old son. Because the disease can be difficult to diagnose, it went unrecognized in all of them by numerous health care providers. Francesca was sent home from the pediatrician's office and the emergency room – neither of which recognized she had pertussis. The McNallys weren't told to protect Francesca from pertussis by surrounding her with vaccinated adults and children, forming a cocoon of protection. By the time she was admitted to the pediatric intensive care unit, it was too late. Francesca's life may have been saved if she had been surrounded with vaccinated individuals.

*Pertussis is very contagious. Eight out of 10 people will be infected when exposed to someone with the disease.*

*Pertussis is commonly misdiagnosed and under-diagnosed.*

*Older children and adults often give pertussis to infants and young children.*

*Pertussis can be particularly severe, even deadly in infants.*