



Free Whooping Cough vaccine

Council is encouraging parents of newborns and pregnant women to protect their baby by protecting themselves with a free whooping cough vaccine.

The government funded Boostrix vaccine is available through Council's public immunisation sessions held on the first Tuesday and Wednesday of the month throughout the Shire. The next session will be on Tuesday 6 October and it's important people call to book the vaccine to ensure it will be available on the day.

Those eligible for the whooping cough vaccine are pregnant women in their third trimester (from 28 weeks), their partners (who live with or will have regular contact with the baby) and parents of newborn babies (including adoptive parents and foster parents) born on or after 1 June 2015 (before the baby is six months old).

Immunisation Program Team Leader, Tim DeVere, said Whooping Cough, also known as Pertussis, is a highly infectious disease that can cause serious complications, sometimes death. Babies under six months of age are at most risk.

"They are especially vulnerable to the infection and are not fully protected against whooping cough until their six-month vaccination schedule is complete," he explained. "Whooping cough continues to circulate in our community and even if you were vaccinated as a child, you may no longer be protected. It is recommended that Boostrix is given for every pregnancy."

For information on session times refer to Council's website or contact the Immunisation Unit on 5662 9361, or contact your local doctor.

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