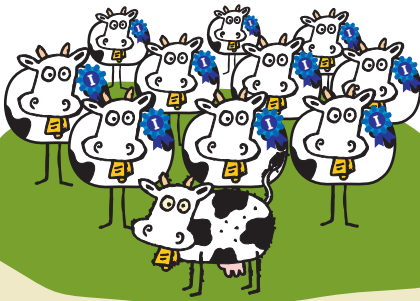


# Vaccine Preventable Diseases *still happen!*

27% of Spokane County children are **under-immunized**. This means that **more than 1 in 4** children that your child comes in contact with, **don't have all the immunizations they should have!**



## HERD IMMUNITY

**Herd immunity** describes a type of **immunity** that occurs when a large portion of the population (or herd) has been **vaccinated**, which provides protection to unvaccinated people. If a disease can be passed from person to person, it is harder to pass that disease when there are people who are immune to it. The more immune people there are, the less likely it is that an unvaccinated person will come into contact with someone who has the disease.

**FOR EXAMPLE:** To have protective herd immunity against pertussis, it is estimated that **92-94%** of the population should be vaccinated.

## Read Reagan's Story:

Reegan was born in August of 2006. Less than six weeks later she developed a cough and had difficulty breathing. Prior to going to the emergency room, Reegan had several severe coughing episodes where she stopped breathing and turned bluish. Reegan was admitted to the pediatric intensive care unit with a diagnosis of pertussis (whooping cough). It was thirteen days before Reegan left the hospital with her family. Luckily, Reegan recovered and is now a happy, healthy child!

Reegan was too young to be immunized against pertussis. Unfortunately, pertussis is a disease that has not gone away. Young children who are at high risk for complications of pertussis can catch it from adults and older children whose immunity has faded over time.



## What can YOU do as a parent?

### Know when it is time for your child's immunizations

Of parents/guardians who reported they did not know when their child's immunizations were due, only 53% of their children were fully immunized.

### Ask your doctor to send a reminder card

Of parents/guardians who reported they received reminder cards for immunizations, 79% of their children were fully immunized.

### If your employer does not allow time off for you to have your child immunized, give them a copy of this fact sheet

Forty-one percent of parents/guardians reported that they would have to take time off from work to have their child immunized. Of those parents/guardians, 71% of their children were fully immunized compared to 79% fully immunized if the parent/guardian did not have to take time off from work.<sup>1</sup>

## Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (whooping cough)) → Vaccination for adolescents & adults!

### Get vaccinated with your children to help protect your family against these diseases!

Tdap is the first vaccine for adolescents and adults that protects against all three of these serious diseases. Diphtheria & pertussis are spread from person to person, and Tetanus enters the body through cuts, scratches, or wounds. To learn more about Tdap visit CDC's National Immunization Program website at [www.cdc.gov/nip](http://www.cdc.gov/nip)