

# Stories are Powerful



“When our daughter was 5 weeks old she began having a mild cough. Within a few days her coughing spells became much more frequent and intense; she developed a fever, and started having apnea episodes where she would stop breathing for several moments. It became clear that we were dealing with something very serious. We brought her to the doctor where our fears were confirmed, she was diagnosed with pertussis (whooping cough).”

~ Emily (mom)

**Stories like these show the severity of vaccine-preventable diseases and how immunizations help protect children and the community. Data and statistics are easily forgotten, but stories get remembered.**

“Our son, Benjamin, is in treatment for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia—a type of cancer of the blood and bone marrow. He was just 2 years old when he was diagnosed in 2010 and is in the midst of three years (at best) of chemotherapy and steroid treatment. Ben and other people like him with weakened immune systems rely on “herd immunity” to protect them from diseases such as chickenpox, whooping cough, measles, and other vaccine-preventable diseases.”

~Laura (mom)



Read these full stories and more from Minnesota parents at [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/stories/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/stories/index.html)