



GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

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PRESS RELEASE PR26-049

January 23, 2026

**DPHSS Confirms Two New Pertussis Cases
Live Updates Available on Epi-Report Dashboard**

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) received two laboratory-confirmed reports of *Bordetella Pertussis (pertussis)*. This brings the total number of confirmed pertussis cases for 2026 to three. Epidemiologic case investigation and contact tracing have been initiated to determine the source of the exposure. DPHSS continues to monitor respiratory illness trends across the island. Residents can view the latest surveillance figures regarding respiratory illness and historical data on the official Guam Communicable Disease dashboard at: <https://elc.guam.gov/epi-reports>.

Pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough, is a contagious respiratory illness. Early symptoms of whooping cough appear similar to the common cold and usually include runny or stuffy nose, low-grade fever; and a mild, occasional cough. About 1-2 weeks after the first symptoms start, people may develop coughing fits, which can last for several weeks. These coughing fits can cause individuals to make a high-pitched “whoop” when they inhale after a coughing fit, vomit during or after each fit, feel tired, have difficulty sleeping, struggle to breathe, or fracture a rib.

“Babies younger than 1-year old are at greatest risk for whooping cough and having severe complications, such as pneumonia, dehydration, seizures, and brain damage,” said DPHSS Chief Medical Officer Dr. Robert Leon Guerrero. “Some infants may not cough at all. Instead, they may have apnea or struggle to breathe. Individuals with immunocompromising conditions or moderate to severe medically treated asthma are also at high-risk for developing a severe infection. It is important to note that vaccination is effective in preventing pertussis.”

Recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Recommended Vaccine	Age Group	Recommended Schedule
Diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis (DTaP)	< 7 years old	One dose at each of the following ages: 2, 4, 6, and 15-18 months, and 4-6 years

Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap)	7-10 years old	Individuals who are not fully vaccinated with DTaP: 1 dose of Tdap as part of the catch-up series: if additional doses are needed, use Td or Tdap. A Tdap booster dose to be administered at age 11-12 years old.
	11-18 years old	Individuals who have not received Tdap: A single dose, preferably at age 11-12 years old.
	19 years or older	Adults who have not received Tdap previously or for whom vaccination status is unknown should receive a single dose.
	Pregnant women	One dose during each pregnancy (preferably during 27-36 weeks gestation). If Tdap is not given during pregnancy, administer immediately after delivery.

DTaP and Tdap vaccines funded by DPHSS through the Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program are for children 18 years and under who are Not Insured, enrolled in Medicaid or Underinsured. Individuals with private health insurance must contact their primary healthcare provider for a vaccine availability.

These vaccines are available for VFC eligible children at the following DPHSS locations:

Northern Region Community Health Center (NRCHC) and Southern Region Community (SRCHC):

- To schedule an appointment to receive the vaccine, individuals can call NRCHC at (671)- 635-7412/7456/7547 or call the SRCHC at 671-828-7623.

Individuals may also call the **Bureau of Family Health and Nursing Services (BFHNS)** located in the NRCHC at (671)-634-7408 for more information on clinic hours and location.

DPHSS advises the community to contact your primary care provider if you are experiencing flu or pertussis-like symptoms and take precautions such as staying home if not feeling well. We appreciate your assistance in taking precautionary measures to protect yourself and the health of the community.

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