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DPHSS Confirms Two New Cases of Pertussis in Guam

Hagåtña, Guam – The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) received two new laboratory- confirmed *Bordetella pertussis (pertussis)* reports. This brings the total number of confirmed cases for 2026 to six. A DPHSS epidemiologic case investigation revealed that both recently confirmed cases were the result of direct contact with each other. DPHSS continues to monitor respiratory illness trends across the island.

Pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough, is a vaccine-preventable disease. DPHSS is encouraging the public to ensure they are up to date with their vaccines. It is a highly contagious respiratory infection caused by bacteria. It can cause severe coughing fits (up to 10 weeks or more), followed by a high-pitched “whoop” sound when breathing in. Vomiting and exhaustion may also follow. Pertussis can lead to serious complications, especially in infants, such as pneumonia, dehydration, seizures, and brain damage. Some infants may not cough at all. Instead, they may have apnea (life-threatening pauses in breathing) or struggle to breathe.

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 are Underinsured. Individuals with private health insurance must contact their primary healthcare provider for vaccine availability.

DTaP and Tdap vaccines are available for VFC eligible children at the following DPHSS locations:

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

- To schedule an appointment to receive the vaccine, individuals can call NRCHC at (671)-635-7412 or call the SRCHC at 671-828-7511.

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.

If you are experiencing flu or pertussis-like symptoms you are encouraged to contact your primary care provider. We appreciate your assistance in taking precautionary measures to protect yourself and the health of the community.

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>.

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