



GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
*DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT*



**LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO**  
MAGA'HAGAN GU'AHAN  
GOVERNOR OF GUAM

**JOSHUA F. TENORIO**  
SEGUNDO MAGA'LÄHEN GU'AHAN  
LT. GOVERNOR OF GUAM

**THERESA C. ARRIOLA, MBA**  
DIRECTOR

**PETERJOHN D. CAMACHO, MPH**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**AMANDA LEE SHELTON, MPA**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

## **PRESS RELEASE PR26-078**

March 24, 2026

### **DPHSS Provides Update on Pertussis and Expands Community Vaccination Efforts**

Hagåtña, Guam — Following its March 18, 2026 announcement, the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) is providing an update on pertussis activity and ongoing response efforts in Guam.

Guam detected six laboratory confirmed cases of pertussis in 2026, with evidence of local transmission. DPHSS is also monitoring pertussis activity in the region, where 30 confirmed and suspected cases have been reported, with ongoing transmission identified. Most cases have occurred among individuals who are not up to date on vaccinations, reinforcing the importance of prevention.

While this situation continues to develop, DPHSS is coordinating with regional public health partners and taking steps locally to support the community.

“We are taking proactive steps to protect our island. As we continue to monitor pertussis activity in our region, I encourage our community, especially families with young children, to get vaccinated and seek care early if they are feeling unwell.” – Governor Lou Leon Guerrero

DPHSS is preparing community outreach services, including mobile clinics, to be announced in a follow-up press release. These outreach efforts will provide:

- Pertussis vaccinations (DTaP and Tdap)
- Health guidance
- Support for individuals experiencing symptoms or concerns

Residents who may have been exposed or are feeling unwell are encouraged to seek care and take advantage of upcoming services.

“Pertussis is highly contagious, but it is preventable. The DTaP and Tdap vaccines are safe and effective, and getting vaccinated now is the best way to protect yourself, your family, and those most at risk.” – Dr. Robert Leon Guerrero, Chief Medical Officer

“Every smile we share, every hug we give, and every moment we hold close are possible when we keep each other safe and healthy. Prevention protects these moments and keeps our community well. With pertussis in the region, now is our chance to act here at home. Protect what matters most, get vaccinated against pertussis.” – Theresa C. Arriola, Director of the Department of Public Health and Social Services

DPHSS encourages all residents to:

- Check that they are up to date on DTaP and Tdap vaccinations
- Get vaccinated as soon as possible
- Seek care if experiencing symptoms

### **Vaccination Information**

DTaP and Tdap vaccines provided by DPHSS through the Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program are for children 18 years and under who are not insured, enrolled in Medicaid or MIP, or are underinsured. 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.

Pertussis vaccinations are also available at the DPHSS Guam Community Health Centers (CHC) for eligible individuals, including those who are uninsured, underinsured, or enrolled in Medicaid or private insurance. Residents are encouraged to contact their healthcare provider or the DPHSS CHC locations for more information on vaccine eligibility.

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

Vaccinations are available at:

- Northern Region Community Health Center (NRCHC): (671) 635-7412
- Southern Region Community Health Center (SRCHC): (671) 828-7511

### **When to Seek Care**

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.

### **More Information**

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>.

#####