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DPHSS Confirms One New Case of Pertussis in Guam

Hagåtña, Guam – The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) received one new laboratory confirmed *Bordetella pertussis (pertussis)* report today, March 25, 2026. This is the seventh confirmed pertussis case for 2026. Epidemiologic investigation and contact tracing efforts are underway to determine the source of exposure and prevent further transmission. DPHSS continues to monitor respiratory illness trends locally, nationally, and regionally.

Pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough, is a vaccine-preventable disease. It is a highly contagious respiratory infection caused by bacteria and is primarily spread by direct contact with discharge from the nose and throat of infected individuals. 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.

DPHSS continues to encourage parents to protect their infants and young children by minimizing exposure (close contact) to persons who have cold symptoms or cough illness.

In addition, DPHSS advises the community to take the following preventative measures:

- **Get Vaccinated**
 - People of all ages need the pertussis or whooping cough vaccines
 - DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis) vaccination for infants and young children.
 - Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) vaccination for adolescents and adults, including pregnant women during the 27-36th week of each pregnancy.
- **Reduce Your Risk**
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick and avoid contact with people if you are sick.
 - Stay home if you are experiencing flu like symptoms.
 - Cover your coughs and sneezes with tissues and wash your hands regularly.
 - Sanitize high-touched surfaces.

- **Seek Immediate Care For Symptoms**

- If you think you or someone else has pertussis, see your doctor immediately.
- Follow your doctor's recommendations, wear a mask, and cover your cough/sneeze with a tissue to help stop the spread.

We appreciate your assistance in taking precautionary measures to protect yourself and the health of the community.

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