



GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
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DPHSS PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY TYPHOON RECOVERY NO. 2026-11

April 23, 2026

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 week, bringing the total number of confirmed cases for 2026 to eleven (11). 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.
- **Pregnant women should receive a Tdap vaccine during every pregnancy, ideally between the 27-36th week.** This helps pass protective antibodies to the baby before birth, giving newborns early protection. Whooping cough is most dangerous for babies, and they do not start receiving their own whooping cough vaccine until they are two months old.
- **Family members and caregivers should also be up to date on their whooping cough and flu vaccinations.** This creates a strong “circle of protection” around the baby, reducing the chance of exposure during the first months of life.

Family and Caregiver Vaccine Timing

- Anyone who needs the whooping cough or flu vaccine should get them **at least two weeks before meeting or caring for the baby**, as it takes two weeks for the body to develop antibodies after vaccination.
- When one member of a household has a respiratory illness, other members are at risk for getting ill too.

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.
- 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.

Upcoming Immunization Outreach Event

- **Friday, April 24, 2026** - Sinlaku Recovery: DPHSS Care In Action *FREE Medical Care, Immunizations, General Public Health Services and Food Support* event at Micronesia Mall Center Court from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 - Eligibility: Children 4 years - 18 years old without health insurance or those covered by Medicaid or MIP
 - Available Vaccines: Routine childhood vaccinations. Note: Chickenpox vaccine will not be available. Tuberculosis skin testing will not be provided
 - Requirements:
 - Child's current shot record (Yellow Shot Card)
 - Children below 18 years of age:
 1. Must be accompanied by a parent. If other than parent, adult must have legal documents or written authorization from parent.
 2. Child's Birth Certificate
 3. Parent, guardian or authorized adult's photo ID.
- **DPHSS Guam Community Health Centers**:
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.

Vaccinations are available at:

- **Northern Region Community Health Center (NRCHC)**: (671) 635-7412
 - Monday to Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., extended hours from Monday to Friday, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

- **Southern Region Community Health Center (SRCHC):** (671) 828-7511
 - Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., extended hours Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program:** 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.

We appreciate your assistance in taking precautionary measures to protect yourself and the health of the community. Additional updates will be provided as recovery efforts continue. For more news and updates from DPHSS, follow @dphssguam on Instagram and @guamdphss on Facebook, or visit dphss.guam.gov

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