



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
MAGA'HAGAN GUAHAN
GOVERNOR OF GUAM

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
SEGUNDO MAGA'LÁHEN GUAHAN
LT. GOVERNOR OF GUAM

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

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



THERESA C. ARRIOLA, MBA
DIRECTOR

PETERJOHN D. CAMACHO, MPH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

AMANDA LEE SHELTON, MPA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

PRESS RELEASE PR26-088

April 28, 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 thirteen (13). 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.**
 - Whooping cough vaccine for those around babies
 - Whooping cough is most dangerous for babies, and they do not start receiving their own whooping cough vaccine until they are two months old. The best way to protect newborns is for pregnant women to receive a Tdap vaccine during each pregnancy.
 - Family members and caregivers should also be up to date on their whooping cough and flu vaccinations to create a circle of protection around the baby.

- **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.

Vaccines Available at DPHSS

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):

NRCHC – Dededo:

Regular Hours: Monday to Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Extended Hours: Monday to Friday, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (until Thursday, April 30, 2026)

SRCHC – Inalåhan:

Regular Hours: 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. (until Thursday, April 30, 2026)

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.

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

For more news and updates from DPHSS, follow @dphssguam on Instagram and @guamdpshs on Facebook, or visit dphss.guam.gov

#####