



EDDIE BAZA CALVO
GOVERNOR

RAY TENORIO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

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



JAMES W. GILLAN
DIRECTOR

LEO G. CASIL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

OCT 09 2015

Press Release No. 2015-082

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) received one new laboratory confirmed case of **pertussis** (whooping cough), in a 7 months old, for the week of October 04, 2015. Epidemiologic investigation of the case to determine possible source of exposure has been initiated. To date, a total of 30 laboratory confirmed, one epi-linked case, and three probable cases (met the clinical case definition) of pertussis were reported.

Pertussis is a very serious disease that can easily spread from person to person by coughing or sneezing, severe cough can last for weeks or months, sometimes leading to coughing fits and/or vomiting. Anyone can get pertussis, but it can be very dangerous for infants younger than 12 months old and people with weakened immune systems.

Recommendations to prevent Pertussis:

1. Vaccinate to protect.

- Children should get five doses of the diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine for best protection. Make sure your children receive all their doses at each of the following ages: 2 months; 4 months; 6 months; 15 - 18 months; and 4 - 6 years of age.
- All preteens, teens, and adults- including pregnant women in their third trimester- should get the tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine.

2. Minimize the spread.

- Protect infants and young children by minimizing exposure (close contact) to persons who have cold symptoms or cough illness.
- Stay home from school or work when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands often.
- Anyone suspected of having whooping cough or who is exposed to a person with the disease should be seen by their physician.

All health care providers should remain vigilant for possible cases of pertussis and to **promptly report suspect cases** of pertussis to the Immunization Program, Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, at 735-7143/7148 or 735-7135.

For more information, please call the Immunization Program at 735-7143/7135.

JAMES W. GILLAN
Director