



GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

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



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The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) received two additional laboratory confirmed cases of **Pertussis** (whooping cough) in an 11 year old and 10 year old child. Epidemiologic investigation of the cases has not shown any linkage to a previously reported case. To date, a total of eight laboratory confirmed cases of Pertussis have been reported.

Pertussis is a very serious disease that can easily spread from person to person by coughing or sneezing. Its 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 on are urged to be on alert for possible cases of Pertussis and to **promptly report suspect cases** 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.


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