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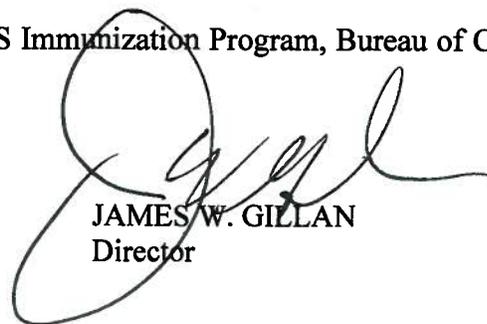
End of Pertussis Outbreak

The Director for the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) has declared the end of the 2015 Pertussis Outbreak on Guam. More than 42 days (2 incubation periods) have elapsed since the cough onset of the last confirmed case on island. A total of 99 suspect cases were reported to the DPHSS Immunization Program. Of the total case reports, 30 were laboratory confirmed, 3 were classified as probable cases that met the clinical case definition of pertussis, and 1 case was epi-linked. The remaining 65 cases, previously classified as suspect, were determined not to be pertussis.

The DPHSS encourages all parents to protect their infants and young children by ensuring they receive all their shots on time to prevent and control vaccine-preventable diseases in the future. In addition, all health care providers should continue to follow the immunization schedule as recommended by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practice (ACIP). If vaccination is contraindicated because of illness, a follow-up appointment should be scheduled.

Your continued support in our efforts to increase the immunization rates on island is essential to prevent future outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

For more information, please call the DPHSS Immunization Program, Bureau of Communicable Diseases at 735-7143/148.



JAMES W. GILLAN
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