



GOVERNMENT OF GUÅHAN



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT

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Since January 2010, over 200 cases of mumps have been reported to Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS). New cases are being reported daily and this case count will continue to increase. Cases have been reported from numerous communities and villages around Guam. Most cases are occurring in upper elementary and middle school students, but almost all ages have been affected.

Mumps is a viral illness that can cause fever, headache, muscle aches, tiredness and painful swelling of the salivary glands under the ears or jaws. However, up to half of the people who get mumps have very mild or no symptoms. Rarely, people may have complications from mumps including painful swelling of the testicles in males after puberty, deafness, or swelling in or around the brain. Mumps can be spread from person-to-person through oral or respiratory secretions. Guam DPHSS urges the public to make sure that their shots are up to date to prevent mumps and other diseases. Although two doses of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccine offers the best protection against mumps (with 90% vaccine effectiveness), some people can still get mumps even if they have been vaccinated. People who are not fully vaccinated are at higher risk of getting mumps.

In order to stop the spread of mumps on Guam, Guam DPHSS is working on finding and interviewing cases, assessing risk factors, and developing the best response to stop this outbreak. A team from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is assisting Guam DPHSS in this work. The public is asked to report acute onset of painful, swollen salivary glands under the ears or jaws on one or both sides of the face, without other apparent cause and to have people sick with these symptoms stay home from work, school, or gatherings until 5 days after the swelling began (see phone number below). In addition, Guam DPHSS will soon begin calling some doctors' offices daily to check on any new mumps cases that may have been seen.

A catch-up MMR Outreach Clinic will be conducted on Saturday, May 15, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or while supplies last at the Micronesia Mall. Free MMR vaccine will be offered to children 1-18 years of age who have not received their first dose or have not completed the recommended two dose series.

Thank you for helping to protect our community by reporting any current or recent cases of illness with the above symptoms in your family. This information will help Guam DPHSS put in place the best possible interventions to prevent illness.

Ways the public can keep their families healthy:

- 1) Make sure your family members are fully immunized with the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine.
- 2) Have people sick with mumps symptoms stay home from school, work, and gatherings until 5 days after facial swelling began.
- 3) If a family member who is unvaccinated or not complete with their MMR vaccination and is exposed to someone with mumps, have them stay home for 3 weeks after the outbreak has ended.
- 4) Wash your hands with soap and water frequently, avoid sharing eating or drinking utensils, clean frequently touched surfaces, minimize contact with sick persons, cover your cough with a tissue or sleeve.
- 5) Report current or recent cases of swollen salivary glands under the ears or jaws to the number below. A public health staff person will ask a few questions that will help Guam DPHSS stop this outbreak.

Ways that the medical community can help:

- 1) Report ALL cases of acute onset of unilateral or bilateral tender, self-limited swelling of the parotid or other salivary gland(s), without other apparent cause.
- 2) If your office is selected to participate in daily reporting of these cases, please have your staff compile a list of names of patients seen with these symptoms every day. A public health staff person will call to ask for information on the cases recorded the previous day.
- 3) Remember that mumps can occur in persons who have been vaccinated.
- 4) Do not wait for test results before reporting suspected mumps cases to Guam DPHSS. Mumps IgM results may be negative during mumps infection, especially in previously vaccinated individuals.

**Suspected Mumps Cases should be reported to Guam DPHSS Immunization Program at:
Phone: 735-7143, or Fax 734-1475.**


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Director