



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

April 19, 2024

**MEDICAL ADVISORY: PERTUSSIS CASES IN HAWAII ISLAND RESIDENTS
UPDATE #1**

- HDOH has confirmed an additional pertussis case on Hawaii Island in a separate household and region. Current conditions indicate community transmission of pertussis on Hawaii Island.
- Consider diagnostic testing and treatment for pertussis in patients presenting with consistent symptoms particularly in infants and young children and those who they are in close contact with including family and household members and early childcare providers.
- Review all routine childhood immunizations in patients, including vaccination against pertussis and encourage eligible persons to get vaccinated if not up to date.

Dear Healthcare Provider:

The Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) has confirmed one additional case of pertussis (whooping cough) in an infant too young to be fully vaccinated, without travel-related exposures in a new household and region on Hawaii Island. Currently, the case is not hospitalized.

Healthcare providers are strongly encouraged to review all routine immunizations for their patients, including vaccination against pertussis and encourage eligible persons to get vaccinated if not up to date. To protect susceptible infants too young to have received the full DTaP vaccine series, pregnant persons should be vaccinated with Tdap in their third trimester. Vaccination status of household contacts and others who anticipate close contact with the infant should also be reviewed and boosters or catch-up vaccines administered according to [current recommendations](#) of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

This new case closely following 10 recently reported cases on Hawaii Island indicates ongoing community transmission of pertussis and brings the total to 11 pertussis cases on the Island from March – April 2024. Providers should **consider diagnostic testing and treatment for pertussis in patients presenting with consistent symptoms particularly in infants and young children and those who they are in close contact** with including family and household members and early childcare providers.

Persons with pertussis should be excluded from school/work until completion of five days of appropriate antimicrobial therapy. Those who do not receive appropriate antimicrobial therapy should be excluded from school/work for 21 days after onset of symptoms.

Refer to HDOH’s initial [medical advisory on pertussis cases in Hawaii Island](#) regarding actions for suspect cases presenting clinically.

Urgently report any clinically suspected case of pertussis immediately to:

- Oahu (Disease Reporting Line) (808) 586-4586
- Maui District Health Office (808) 984-8213
- Kauai District Health Office (808) 241-3563
- Big Island District Health Office (Hilo) (808) 933-0912
- Big Island District Health Office (Kona) (808) 322-4877
- After hours on Oahu (808) 600-3625
- After hours on neighbor islands (800) 360-2575 (toll free)

We appreciate your vigilance and assistance in protecting our communities from the spread of pertussis.

Sincerely,



Sarah K. Kemble, M.D.
State Epidemiologist

Additional Resources

HDOH Initial Medical Advisory on Pertussis Cases in Hawaii Island Residents:
[Medical-Advisory-Pertussis-Cases-in-Hawaii-Island-Residents_4-5-24.pdf](#)

Pertussis: Summary of Vaccine Recommendations:
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pertussis/recs-summary.html>

Signs and Symptoms: <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/signs-symptoms.html>

Diagnostic Testing:
<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/diagnostic-testing/specimen-collection-diagnosis.html>

Specimen collection for submission to State Laboratories Division:
<https://health.hawaii.gov/statelab/files/2019/05/sld-bacti-sr-pertussis-pcr.pdf>

Current recommendations and guidelines for pertussis treatment:
<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/treatment.html>

Post-exposure antimicrobial prophylaxis: <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/pep.html>