



GOVERNMENT OF GUÅHAN



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT

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Since January 2010, over 450 cases of mumps have been reported to Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS). Although the number of reported cases has declined since last spring, new cases continue to be reported. Although two doses of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccine offers the best protection against mumps, a small number of people can still get mumps even if they have been vaccinated. Last May, DPHSS offered a 3rd dose of MMR vaccine to students in grades 4-8 in seven schools (i.e., Adacao ES, Astumbo MS, Chief Brodie ES, FB Leon Guerrero MS, LP Untalan MS, Machananao ES, and Tamuning ES) that demonstrated the highest attack rates. Over 1100 children in these 7 schools received the 3rd dose of MMR last May.

To evaluate the success of the 3rd dose intervention, during the week of Oct 4th, DPHSS distributed a follow-up survey. **Returned surveys are requested from ALL students who were in grades 4-8 last year in one of the above-mentioned 7 schools (regardless of which school the student attends now), including those who received the 3rd dose and those who did not.** DPHSS is requesting parents to return the surveys to school administrators as soon as possible.

Without the return of these surveys it will be impossible to determine if this intervention was successful and should be repeated in future outbreaks. The results of this investigation may help inform national policy makers about administering a 3rd dose of MMR in outbreak settings.

Mumps is a viral illness that can cause fever, headache, muscle aches, tiredness and painful swelling of the salivary glands under the ears. Rarely, people may have complications from mumps. Mumps can be spread from person-to-person through oral or respiratory secretions. DPHSS urges the public to make sure that their shots are up to date to prevent mumps and other diseases.

Thank you for helping to protect our community by returning these surveys this week to school teachers and officials. This information will help DPHSS put in place the best possible interventions to prevent illness.

Ways that parents can help:

- 1) If your child was in grade 4-8 at one of the seven schools selected for the 3rd dose MMR intervention last May, return follow-up surveys to school officials early this week.
- 2) If your child attended one of the seven schools last year in grades 4-8, but you have not received a survey, please contact your current school's health counselor.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Remember that mumps can occur in persons who have been vaccinated.

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) 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.
- 4) Report current or recent cases of facial swelling to the number below. A public health staff person will ask a few questions that will help DPHSS stop this outbreak.

Questions or reports of suspected mumps cases should be reported to DPHSS, Immunization Program at: Phone: 735-7143/160, or Fax: 734-1475.



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