



# American Samoa Department of Health



## Health Alert

### **Pertussis or “Whooping Cough” Outbreak in Samoa**

The Government of Samoa has officially declared an outbreak of Pertussis (Whooping Cough) following six confirmed cases reported by the Ministry of Health. Cases range in age from 3 weeks to 40 years, with the majority being infants under 1 year old. Pertussis or whooping cough is spread by bacteria from person to person. Travelers to Samoa and the Pacific region, especially during the upcoming holiday season, should follow these travel protocols and recommendations:

#### **Be on the look out for the following symptoms:**

##### **1. Early Stage (1-2 weeks):**

- Runny nose
- Mild cough
- Low fever

##### **2. Severe Stage (1-6 weeks or longer):**

- Severe coughing fits that may end with a "whooping" sound when breathing in
- Vomiting or extreme tiredness after coughing
- Trouble catching your breath

#### **Please adhere to the following protocols:**

- **Wear a Mask:** If you are experiencing any flu-like symptoms, or come into contact with anyone displaying the symptoms above please wear a mask
- **Good Hygiene:** ASDOH recommends practicing good hygiene to help prevent the spread of bacteria and viruses that can cause many respiratory illnesses.
- **Avoid travel to high-endemic regions.** If you are unable to avoid travel to these high-risk regions, please take every precaution as outlined above to keep yourself safe.
- **Vaccination:** Visit your nearest Community Health Center and inquire about a pertussis vaccination

**Passengers arriving into American Samoa who present with symptoms will be screened on arrival.**

If unsure, seek medical attention or visit your nearest healthcare facility at DOH or LBJ Hospital. Please call 219 or 633-5871 for more information regarding this advisory. ASDOH would like to thank you for your attention to this important matter, and wishes you and your family a safe and festive season.



*[Signature]*  
11/29/24  
**219 or 633-5871**



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