




Pertussis Surveillance


July 2020


July Key Points

 4 cases

 0 new outbreaks

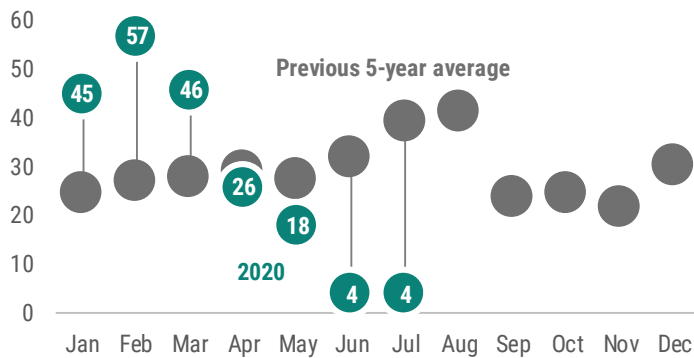
 Average of 2 contacts per case

 <1 year olds had highest incidence

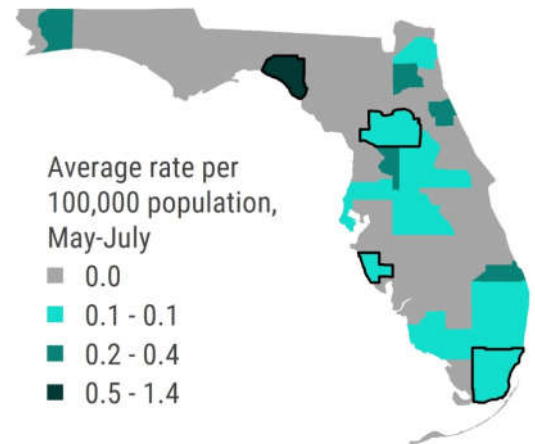
 75% cases not up-to-date or unknown vaccination status



The number of pertussis cases reported in July were stable from the previous month and was below the previous 5-year average. Elevated case counts in early 2020 may be due to a change in the case definition for pertussis; please see the last page for more information. ▼

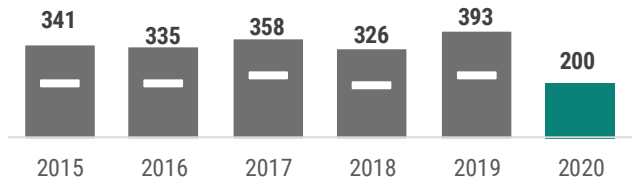


The 4 pertussis cases in July were reported among the 4 counties outlined in black. From May 2020 through July 2020 the average county rate has varied throughout the state. ▼



From January 1, 2020 through July 31, 2020, 200 pertussis cases were reported in 38 counties. ►

Since 2015, the number of pertussis cases reported annually remained stable. In 2020, case counts were similar to those seen during non-peak years at this time, as indicated by the white bars in the graph.



In July, no pertussis cases were transmitted within households or outbreak-associated. For most pertussis cases, exposure to other known cases is never identified, and they are not able to be linked to outbreaks.

No pertussis outbreaks were reported in July.

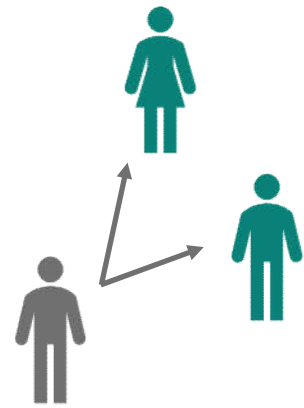
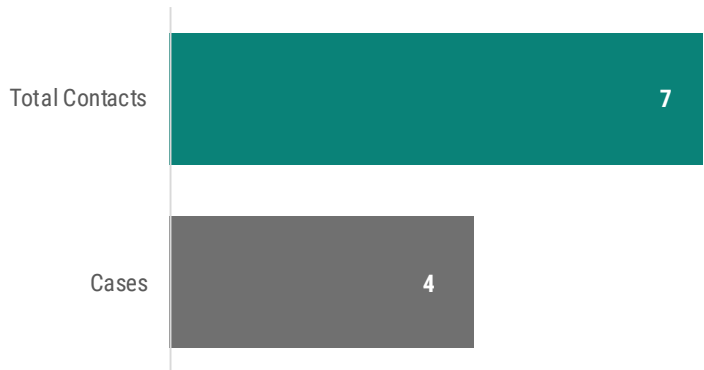
	Household-associated	Outbreak-associated	Total cases
Jul 2020	4	0	4
Prev 3 Mo Avg Apr-Jun	5	17	22



The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting health care seeking behavior, which may be impacting the diagnosis and reporting of pertussis cases that are shown in this report. For more information on the COVID-19 pandemic in Florida, please visit FloridaHealthCOVID-19.gov.



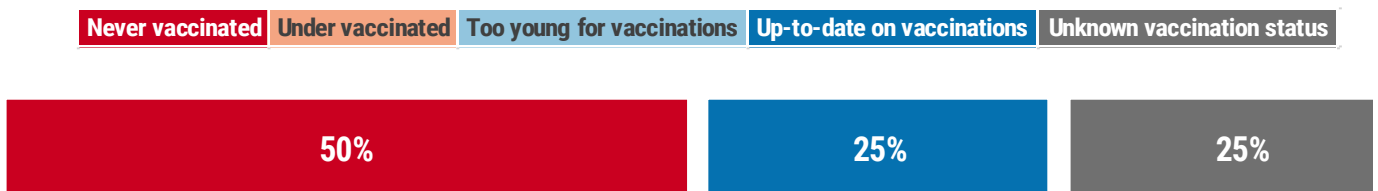
For each pertussis case reported in July, there was an average of 2 contacts for whom antibiotics were recommended to prevent illness. For those diagnosed with pertussis, antibiotics can shorten the amount of time they are contagious to others. Antibiotics can also be used to prevent illness in those who have been exposed to someone with pertussis while they are contagious.



In July, the rate of pertussis was highest among infants <1 year old at 0.9 cases per 100,000 population, which is consistent with previous months. Infants experience the greatest burden of pertussis infections, not only in number of cases but also in severity. Infants <2 months old are too young to receive vaccinations against pertussis, which is why vaccination of parents, siblings, grandparents, and other age groups is so important to help prevent infection in infants.

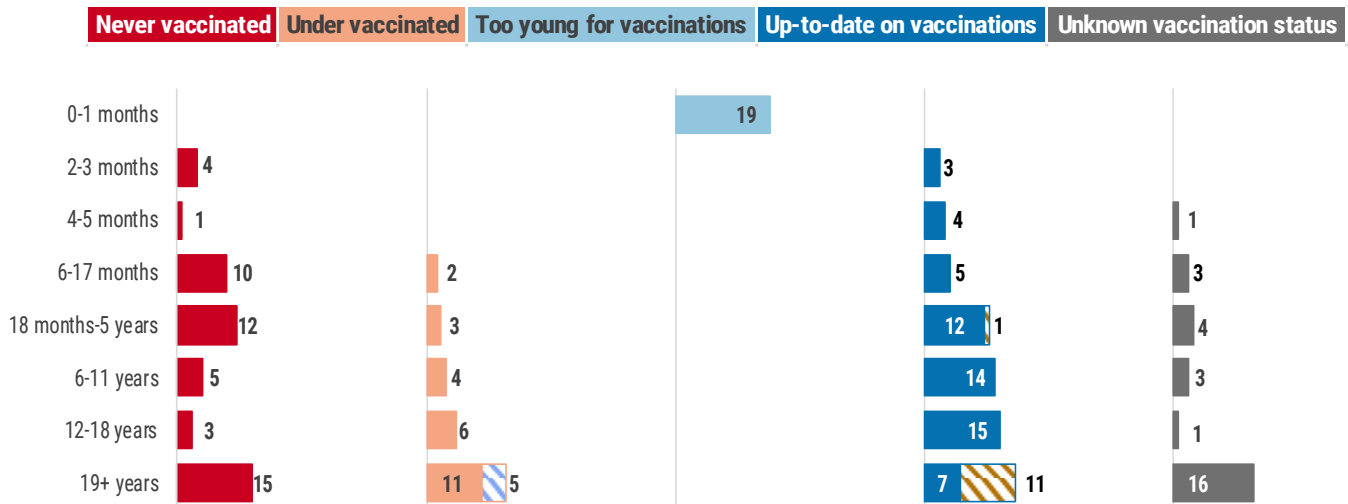


Vaccination is the best way to prevent pertussis infections. In July, 75% of individuals reported with pertussis had not received the recommended number of pertussis vaccinations for their age or had unknown vaccination status. Self-reported vaccination status that could not be verified is shown with a diagonal pattern. Vaccination against pertussis is important for everyone including infants, children, teenagers, and adults. Pregnant women should get vaccinated during the third trimester of each pregnancy to protect their babies. See the last page of this report for links to vaccination schedules recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.





In 2020, the majority of adults aged 19 years and older with pertussis were not up-to-date on their pertussis vaccinations or had unknown vaccination status. **In general, those who have received at least one pertussis vaccination have less severe outcomes than those who have never been vaccinated.** Self-reported vaccination status that could not be verified is shown with a diagonal pattern.



National activity

The number of pertussis cases gradually increased since the 1980s, peaking in 2012 at levels not seen since the 1950s. Since 2012, the number of pertussis cases started gradually decreasing. Pertussis incidence has remained highest among infants <1 year old and lowest among adults ≥20 years old since the 1990s.

Pertussis surveillance goals

- Identify cases to limit transmission in settings with infants or others who may transmit pertussis to infants
- Identify and prevent outbreaks
- Identify contacts of cases and recommend appropriate prevention measures, including exclusion, antibiotic prophylaxis, and immunization
- Monitor the effectiveness of immunization programs and vaccines

To learn more about pertussis, please visit [FloridaHealth.gov/Pertussis](https://www.floridahealth.gov/Pertussis). For more information on the data sources used in Florida for pertussis surveillance, see the last page of this report.