The number of pertussis cases reported in 2018 remained similar to that seen during the previous 3 years, which is expected given the cyclical nature of pertussis. A total of 11 outbreaks were reported, the majority of which occurred in schools and daycares. Vaccination is the best way to prevent pertussis, and 42% of cases were never or under vaccinated.

From January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018, 328 pertussis cases were reported in 35 counties.

Since 2014, the number of pertussis cases reported annually decreased. Pertussis is cyclic in nature with peaks in disease every 3-5 years.

The number of pertussis cases reported each month in 2018 was below the previous 5-year average except for in November.

In 2018, 85 (26%) of 328 total pertussis cases were associated with transmission within households and 41 (13%) were outbreak-associated.

There were a total of 11 outbreaks in 5 setting types reported in 2018. For most pertussis cases, exposure to other known cases is never identified, and they are not able to be linked to outbreaks.

Vaccination is the best way to prevent pertussis infections. The majority of pertussis cases in 2018 were too young for vaccination, not up-to-date on vaccinations, or had unknown vaccination status.
Case Data
- Current case data are preliminary and will change as new information is gathered. The most recent data available are displayed in this report.
- Pertussis, varicella, hepatitis A, and measles are reportable diseases in Florida. Case information is documented by county health department (CHD) epidemiologists in Merlin, Florida’s reportable disease surveillance system.
- Only Florida residents are included in case counts, but contact investigations are conducted for all exposed individuals.
  - Pertussis, varicella, hepatitis A, and measles case counts include both confirmed and probable cases.
- Map counts and rates are determined by the individual’s county of residence; these data do not take into account location of exposure.
- CHD epidemiologists also report outbreaks of pertussis, varicella, and hepatitis A into Merlin.
  - Household-associated cases are defined as ≥2 cases exposed within the same household.
  - Pertussis and mumps outbreaks are defined as ≥2 cases associated with a specific setting outside of a household.
  - Varicella outbreaks are defined as ≥5 cases associated with a specific setting outside of a household.
  - Measles outbreaks are defined as any person acquiring measles while in Florida.
- For more information about reportable diseases, please visit FloridaHealth.gov/DiseaseReporting.
- For more information about Florida’s guides to surveillance and investigation, including disease-specific surveillance case definitions, please visit FloridaHealth.gov/GSI.

Population Data
- Population data used to calculate incidence rates are from FLHealthCHARTS (Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set).
- For more information about FLHealthCHARTS, please visit FLHealthCharts.com.

Vaccination Data
- Vaccination data for identified cases are from Merlin, as documented by CHD staff.
- Vaccination status is determined using the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents Aged 18 Years or Younger, 2018.
- For more information about immunization schedules, please visit www.CDC.gov/Vaccines/Schedules/index.html.
- Individuals are considered up-to-date on vaccinations if they have received the recommended number of doses of vaccine for a particular disease for their age at the time of their illness onset. Individuals are considered under-vaccinated if they have received at least one but not all doses of vaccine recommended for a particular disease for their age at the time of their illness onset.