

Weekly Pertussis Update for Washington State

Washington State Department of Health

2026 year-to-date (YTD) confirmed and probable cases reported through 04/11/2026 (week 14).

This update summarizes all reports of pertussis in persons with illness onset dates during CDC weeks 1 - 14. The included reports were received by local health jurisdictions (LHJs) and reported to Washington State Department of Health (DOH) – Communicable Disease Epidemiology. Lab result reporting and case investigations take time, so it sometimes takes 3 to 4 weeks after a positive test for a case to be classified as confirmed or probable pertussis. The data presented in this report is therefore subject to change over time.

There have been a total of 219 cases reported statewide so far in 2026, compared to 966 cases reported by week 14 in 2025. Dates for the 2025/2026 comparison are based primarily on symptom onset dates. For information about pertussis case counts in prior years, please refer to DOH’s [Communicable Disease Annual Reports](#) or the [Annual Pertussis Reports](#).

Figure 1: Number of Pertussis Cases Reported in Washington State by CDC Week of Symptom Onset: 2025 (blue) vs 2026 (red)

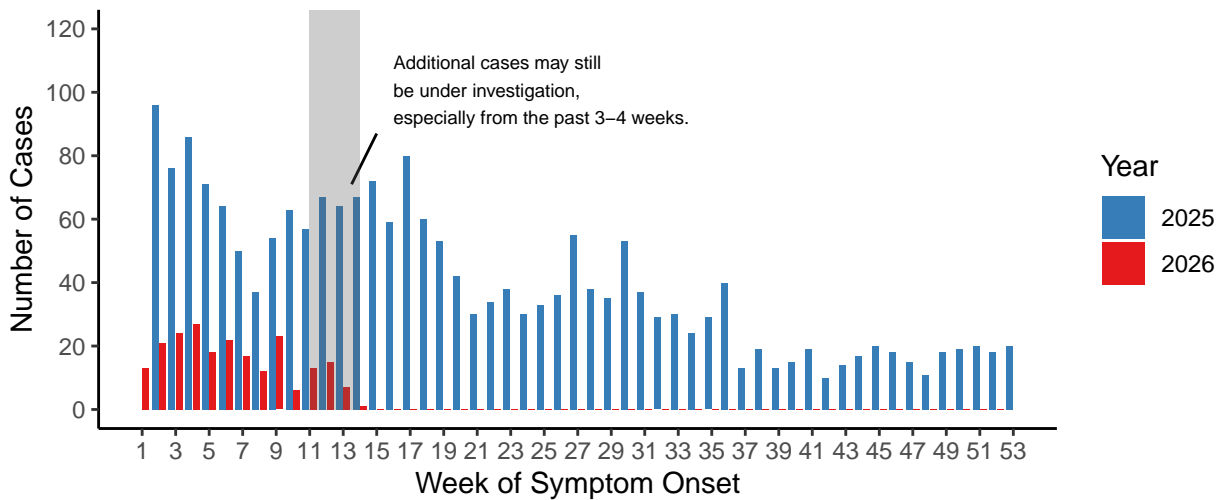


Figure 2: WA State Pertussis Cases Reported by Month and Year (black) with Projected Baseline and Epidemic Thresholds (red dashed lines), 2016 through year-to-date 2026¹. The most recent 2 months may still be incomplete (dotted line).

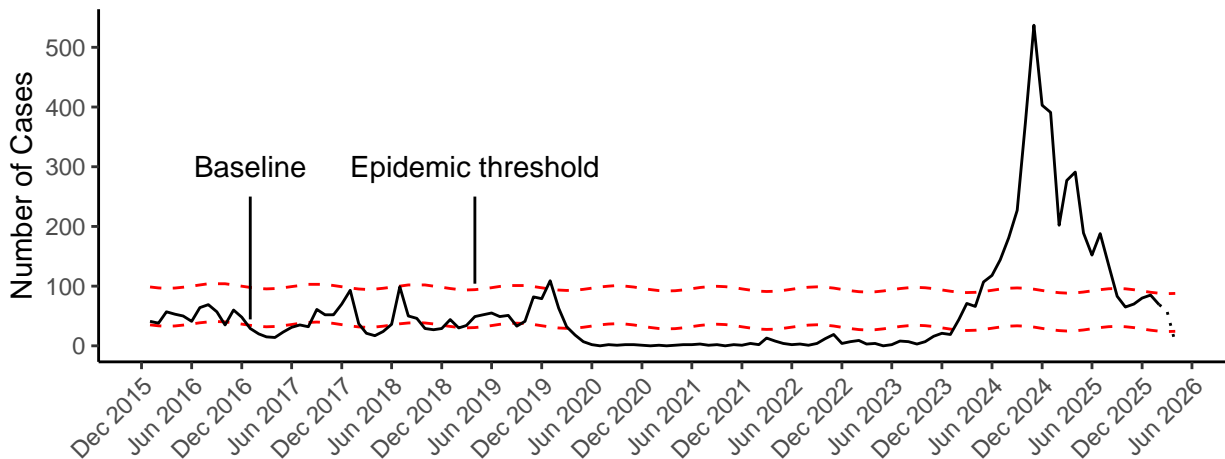


Table 1: WA State Pertussis Cases by Age Group, 2026 weeks 1 - 14

Age Group	OFM 2025 Population	Number of Cases	Rate per 100,000 persons	% of cases by age group*
< 1	83,352	22	26.4	10
1 - 4	339,798	50	14.7	23
5 - 9	465,771	45	9.7	21
10 - 13	395,787	26	6.6	12
14 - 18	509,403	30	5.9	14
19 - 24	612,812	20	3.3	9
25 - 44	2,312,222	13	0.6	6
45 - 64	1,907,074	11	0.6	5
65+	1,488,878	2	0.1	1
All ages	8,115,097	219	2.7	100

*Due to rounding, percentages may not always add up to 100%

The overall year-to-date incidence rate is 2.7 pertussis cases per 100,000 Washington residents from weeks 1 through 14, with an incidence rate among infants under one year of age of 26.4 cases per 100,000 (see Table 1). Infants under one year of age are among the most vulnerable to severe pertussis disease.

Of the 22 infants who had pertussis so far in 2026: 19 were old enough to have received a dose of pertussis-containing vaccine, and 8 (36%) had received at least one dose.

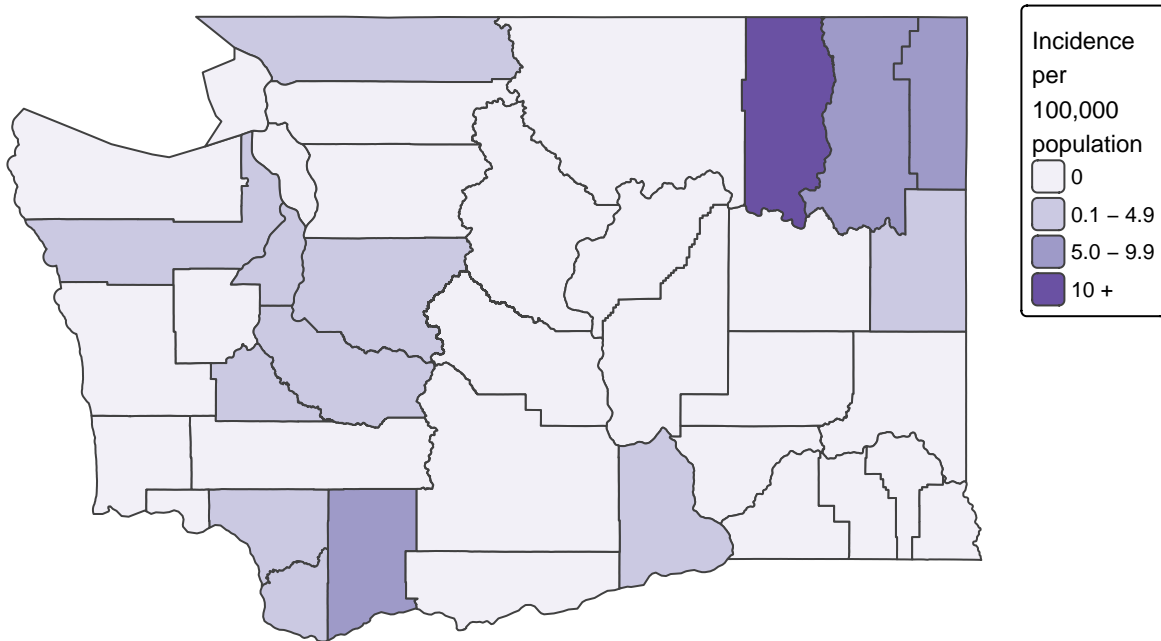
Table 2: WA State Pertussis Cases by County, 2026 weeks 1 - 14

County	Number of Cases	OFM 2025 Population	Rate per 100,000 persons
Clark	63	542,401	11.6
Pierce	31	959,901	3.2
King	29	2,411,701	1.2
Whatcom	23	240,505	9.6
Thurston	16	309,105	5.2
Spokane	11	566,001	1.9
Stevens	10	47,807	20.9
Snohomish	9	873,797	1.0
Kitsap	5	288,903	1.7
Benton	4	219,622	1.8
Cowlitz	3	114,498	2.6
Ferry	3	7,349	40.8
Grant	3	106,246	2.8
Okanogan	2	43,395	4.6
Yakima	2	264,652	0.8
Jefferson	1	33,824	3.0
Klickitat	1	23,599	4.2
Pend Oreille	1	13,948	7.2
Skamania	1	12,145	8.2
Whitman	1	49,453	2.0

Among the 20 counties with reported pertussis activity so far in 2026, the number of pertussis cases in a given county ranges from 1 to 63 and county-level YTD incidence rates range from 0.8 to 40.8 per 100,000 persons (see Table 2).

- The median and mean county-level year-to-date incidence rates in counties reporting pertussis activity are 3.1 and 6.7 per 100,000 persons, respectively.
- 19 counties have reported no pertussis cases as of CDC week 14 of this year.

Figure 3: Six-Week Pertussis Incidence Rates by County, 2026 weeks 9 - 14



The incubation period for pertussis is up to 21 days, so six weeks represents two 21-day incubation periods. The map above uses the past six weeks of data to highlight areas where the potential for continuing outbreaks of pertussis exists based on current patterns of reported pertussis disease.

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1. *Pelat C, Boëlle PY, Cowling BJ, Carrat F, Flahault A, Ansart S, Valleron AJ. Online detection and quantification of epidemics. BMC Med Inform Decis Mak. 2007 Oct 15 ; 729 – software available at <https://periodic.sentiweb.fr/>*
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