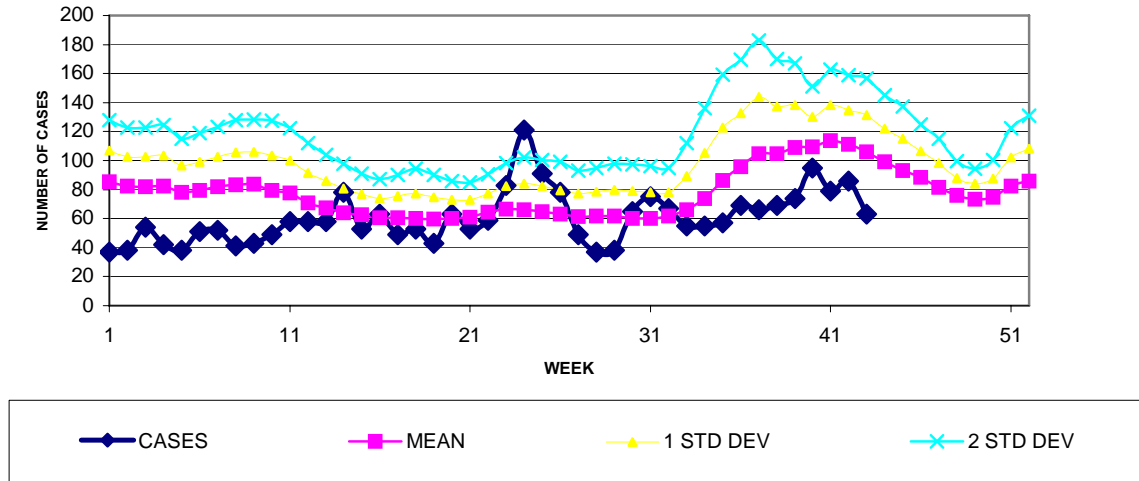


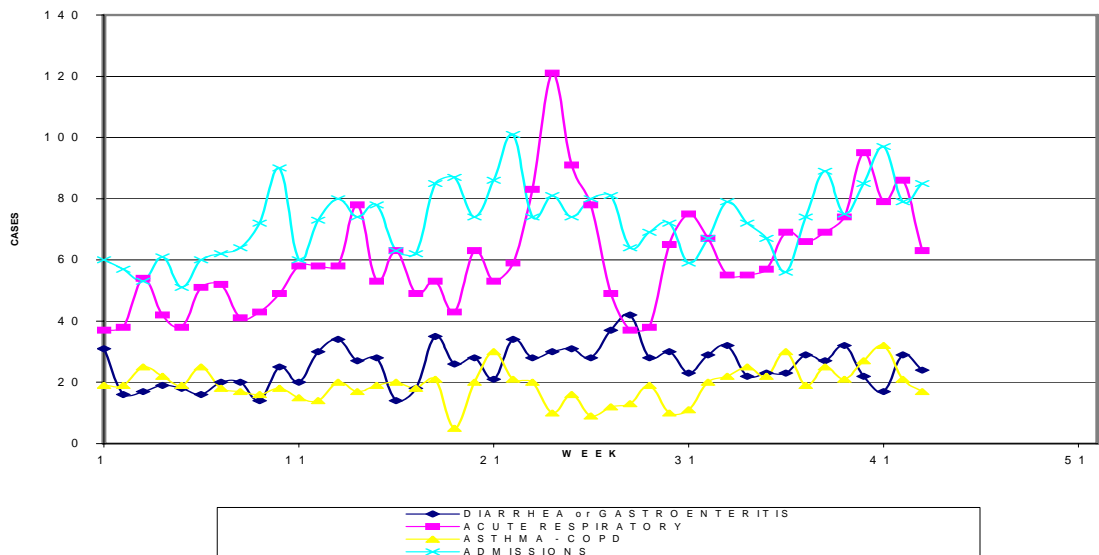
GUAM EPIDEMIOLOGY NEWSLETTER
 REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING: 10/28/2006 (Reporting week 2006-43)

GUAM REPORTS

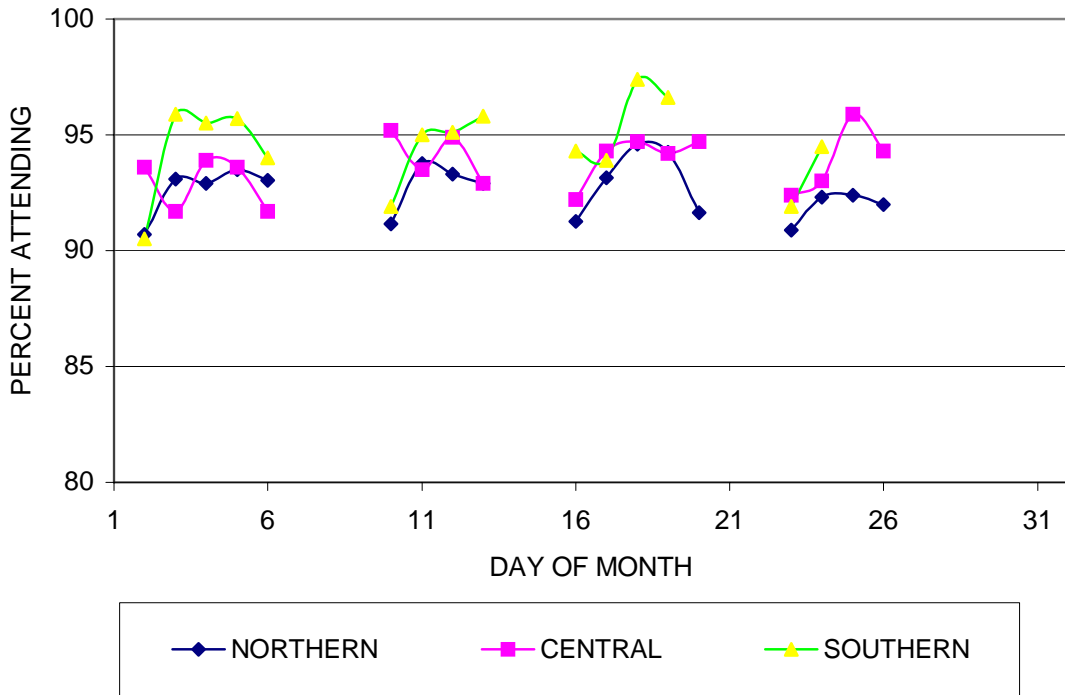
**GUAM ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEASE SURVEILLANCE, 2006;
 NUMBER OF PATIENTS SEEN IN THE GMHA-ED BY WEEK SEEN**



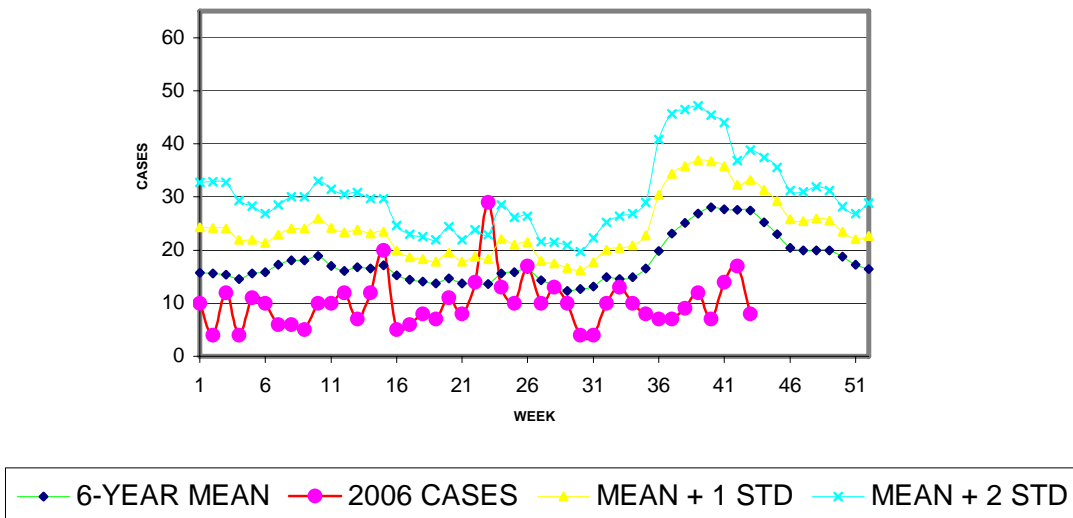
**G U A M S Y N D R O M I C D I S E A S E S U R V E I L L A N C E
 G M H A - E D P A T I E N T D I A G N O S E S B Y W E E K F O R C A L E N D A R Y**



**GUAM PUBLIC SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BY REGION:
DAILY PERCENT ATTENDING , OCTOBER 2006**



**MEDICAL RECORDS DEPARTMENT
GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY
HOSPITAL INPATIENT DISCHARGES WITH DIAGNOSIS OF PNEUMONIA
BY WEEK DISCHARGED, 2006**



GUAM COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORT
 REPORTS RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK ENDING 10/28/2006

DISEASE	CASES
C. DIFFICILE	11
CAMPYLOBACTER	1
CHICKENPOX	6
CHLAMYDIA	10
CONJUNCTIVITIS	10
FOOD POISONING	42
HERPES ZOSTER	1
HPV	1
MRSA	15
SALMONELLOSIS	3
SCABIES	2
SCARLET FEVER	3
SHIGELLOSIS	1
STREP SORE THROAT	42
TB EXTRA-PULMONARY	3
TB PULMONARY	14
TRICHURIASIS	1
VRE	1

FOOD POISONING

A preliminary report from Japan (source as yet undocumented) is that the apparent foodborne illness experienced recently on Guam by a Japanese tour group and several local persons was due to Norovirus infection.

Noroviruses are a group of related RNA viruses that cause gastroenteritis in humans. Norovirus infections have made news recently as the cause of outbreaks of gastroenteritis on cruise ships. These viruses are transmitted via the fecal-oral route. The most common means of infection is contact with an infected individual or contact with contaminated food and water. The viruses are highly contagious; only 100 viral particles are likely required to establish infection. Noroviruses can survive freezing and heating temperatures of up to 140°F. Recurrent infections can occur throughout life because of the diversity of norovirus strains and the lack of cross-strain or long-term immunity.

Recent studies in the U.S. suggest that noroviruses cause up to 17% of community cases of diarrhea and that 7% of cases require physician treatment. Norovirus gastroenteritis typically lasts 24-48 hours. Death is extremely rare except in patients particularly vulnerable to dehydration. Symptoms typically develop 24-48 hours after ingestion of contaminated food or water or after contact with an infected individual. Each episode is short-lived, lasting approximately 1-2 days. Complaints typically include nausea and vomiting (profuse, nonbloody, nonbilious), watery diarrhea, abdominal cramps, headache, low-grade fever, and myalgia

Commonly incriminated sources of norovirus infection include contaminated water supply, salads, cake frosting, clams, oysters, and meats. Infections may result from contaminated water supply, undercooked foods, or improper hand washing by an infected food preparer. Because of viral shedding during profuse vomiting and diarrhea, secondary transmission commonly occurs among close contacts of an infected person.

Outpatient treatment is usually adequate. Patients should receive oral rehydration and rest. Activity may be resumed as tolerated but patients should be instructed to observe strict handwashing. The disease is usually self-limited to 24-48 hours. Antidiarrheal agents may be used sparingly but should be avoided in children.

Secondary spread of infection can be prevented through appropriate hand washing and disposal of infectious materials. In an inpatient setting, contact isolation precautions will help limit nosocomial spread.

Sources: Center for Disease Control *and* WebMD

PERTUSSIS

As of October 17, 2006, the number of confirmed pertussis cases remains unchanged at 7. Two new suspect cases have been reported with the onset of cough for the most recent case being 10/25/2006.