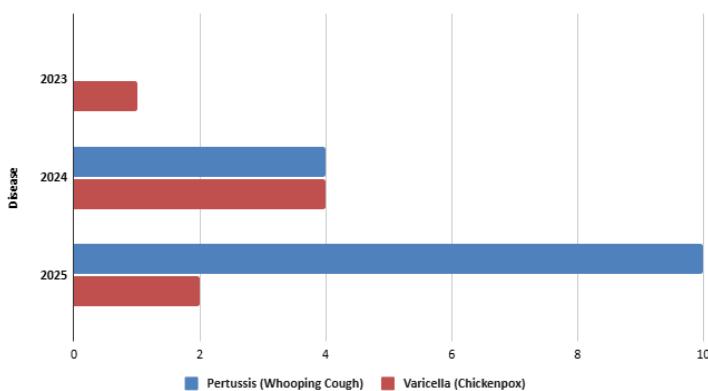


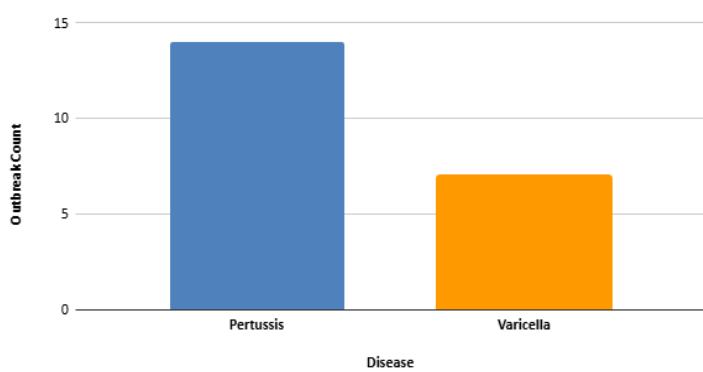
Surveillance Snapshot: Gwinnett 2023-2025

Pertussis and Varicella

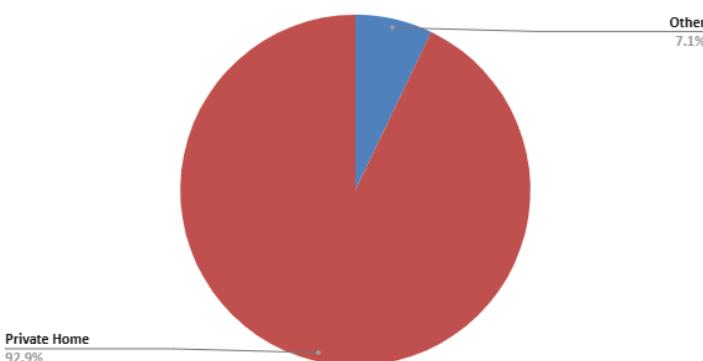
Gwinnett County Pertussis and Varicella Outbreaks by Year (2023-2025)



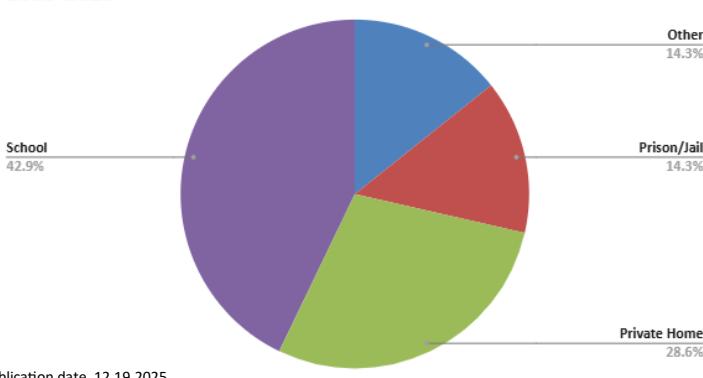
Total Pertussis and Varicella Outbreaks in Gwinnett County 2023-2025



Pertussis Outbreaks by Exposure Setting in Gwinnett County 2023-2025



Varicella Outbreaks by Exposure Setting in Gwinnett County 2023-2025



Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Pertussis is a highly contagious respiratory infection and reportable disease caused by the bacteria *Bordetella pertussis*. Although it is often thought of as an infant illness, pertussis can affect people of all ages and is especially dangerous for infants who are too young to be fully vaccinated. The disease spreads easily through respiratory droplets when an infected individual coughs or sneezes. Symptoms begin with mild cold-like illness but progress to severe coughing fits which can last for weeks and can lead to complications like pneumonia, rib fractures, encephalopathy, weight loss, and hospitalization. From 2023-2025, there were a total of 14 documented pertussis outbreaks in Gwinnett County. Outbreaks are defined as two or more cases in a household, one to two cases in a childcare facility, and three or more cases in a school. Cases must occur within 21 days of each other. 92.9% of the outbreaks in Gwinnett county occurred in private homes, highlighting the significance of household spread, which often occur when un/under-vaccinated adults and adolescents unintentionally expose young children. Pertussis vaccination, DTaP for young children and Tdap for preteens, pregnant women, and adults, is the most effective way to prevent disease and protect infants.

# of Outbreaks	2023	2024	2025
Pertussis	0	<5	10
Varicella	<5	<5	<5

# of Outbreak-Associated Cases	2023	2024	2025
Pertussis	0	15	34
Varicella	<5	9	9

Varicella (Chickenpox)

Varicella, commonly called chickenpox, is a highly contagious respiratory viral infection caused by the varicella-zoster virus. While often mild, chickenpox can lead to complications such as bacterial skin infections, pneumonia, and hospitalization, particularly among unvaccinated or immunocompromised individuals. From 2023 to 2025, there were a total of 7 documented varicella outbreaks in Gwinnett County. 42.9% of outbreaks were in schools, 28.6% in private homes, and the remainder occurred in correctional facilities and other settings (14.3% each). The two-dose varicella vaccine provides protection against most illnesses and remains the primary strategy for limiting outbreaks. Public Health efforts focus on verifying vaccination status, providing exclusion guidance for schools and childcare, and supporting high immunization coverage to prevent reemergence of large outbreaks. GNR offers pertussis and varicella vaccines at all health centers.

GNR Epidemiology Team: 770-339-4260

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