



Joint Information Center - JIC Release No. 277

August 20, 2020, 5:20 p.m. (ChST)

COVID-19 Cases Identified at Simon Sanchez and John F. Kennedy High Schools; Four Additional GPD Officers Test Positive for COVID-19

COVID-19 test results are reported from multiple labs at varying times of the day. The Joint Information Center will report cumulative COVID-19 test results once a day, unless unavailable.

For updated information on COVID-19 cases on Guam, visit the COVID-19 Dashboard and Situation Report at <http://dphss.guam.gov/covid-19/>.

COVID-19 Cases Identified at Simon Sanchez and John F. Kennedy High Schools

The Guam Department of Education (GDOE) is working closely with the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) to conduct contact tracing after a confirmed COVID-19 case was identified at both Simon Sanchez High School (SSHS) and John F. Kennedy High School (JFKHS).

On Thursday, August 20, 2020, the GDOE was notified that two employees, one at SSHS and one at JFKHS, tested positive for COVID-19. This is the second confirmed COVID-19 case identified at SSHS, with the first reported on August 12, 2020. Contact tracing efforts are ongoing, and close contacts of the confirmed cases will be contacted directly by DPHSS.

A close contact is an individual who has come in face-to-face contact with a confirmed COVID-19 individual for at least 10 minutes or more and within six feet, or who has had direct contact with infectious secretions of the confirmed COVID-19 individual (e.g. being coughed on). Both the confirmed cases and close contacts will not be permitted to return to campus until cleared by DPHSS.

Areas of the SSHS and JFKHS campuses have been identified for cleaning and disinfecting and will be off limits to personnel until those processes are complete.

All GDOE employees are reminded to adhere to health and safety protocols while on campus. Not only are schools cleaned and sanitized daily, but other safety precautions are in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to include the following: required face coverings for all students and staff; temperature screening upon arrival; 6 feet physical distancing; regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and common areas; and encouraging employees to wash hands and sanitize often.

Four Additional GPD Officers Test Positive for COVID-19

On Thursday, August 20, 2020, the Guam Police Department (GPD) was made aware of four additional police officers who had tested positive for COVID-19. The officers are currently in home isolation. The four officers are assigned to GPD's specialized unit and have minimal contact with the greater community.

GPD is working alongside DPHSS with ongoing contact tracing and assures the community that all mitigation needs are being done to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 within GPD. All GPD personnel who have been identified as close contact with all confirmed positive cases are in home quarantine and await COVID-19 test results.

With the recently confirmed four cases, a total of nine police officers have now tested positive for COVID-19. Although the Guam Police Department has seen an uptick with positive COVID-19 cases within the past few days, this does not affect operations in providing the needs for the community.

For the latest information on COVID-19, visit dphss.guam.gov or guamrecovery.com. For inquiries on COVID-19, contact 311 through a local number, or call the Joint Information Center at (671)478-0208/09/10.

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