



Joint Information Center - JIC Release No. 7

March 16, 2020, 5:30 p.m. (ChST)

Twelve Individuals Test Negative for COVID-19

The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) tested 12 individuals for COVID-19 on Monday, March 16, 2020. All tested negative for SARS-CoV-2.

From March 12, 2020 through March 16, 2020, a total of 26 tests have been performed. To date, three tested positive and 23 tested negative for COVID-19.

The Government of Guam is aggressively implementing its planned COVID-19 response to identify and contain transmission of COVID-19 in Guam. From Sunday into Monday morning, the DPHSS has been actively conducting contact tracing for the three positive COVID-19 cases that were identified on Sunday.

DPHSS Continues Investigation into Three Confirmed Cases

All three confirmed cases identified on Sunday remain in isolation. DPHSS is continuing its contact tracing investigation, which includes identifying close contacts of the individuals. Close contacts will be quarantined and actively monitored by DPHSS for 14 days.

COVID-19 Screening and Testing

Testing for COVID-19 is ONLY available for people who meet the testing criteria. If you are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, please call your healthcare provider. You can also call these numbers to speak with a registered nurse: (671) 480-7859; (671) 480-6760/3; (671) 480-7883. These numbers are operational daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. and are specific to medical-related questions, only. For those who meet PUI criteria and without insurance, testing is available through a doctor's order.

Residents Urged to Practice Social Distancing

Earlier today, Governor Lou Leon Guerrero ordered a 14-day suspension of all non-essential government operations, ordered the closure of schools, and prohibited large gatherings effective immediately. During this time, in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19, all students, employees, and the public are encouraged to practice social distancing. During this period, individuals should avoid large groups. Take extra measures to put distance between yourself and others to further reduce your risk of being exposed to this new virus. Social distancing includes avoiding high fives, shaking hands, hugs, or close contact with others.

Stay Up to Date with Reputable Sources

It is important to note that the situation can change quickly. The community is reminded to only share official notices and visit the following links for the most up-to-date information:

- CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

- DPHSS website: <http://dphss.guam.gov/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-n-cov/>
- GHS/OCD website: <https://ghs.guam.gov/coronavirus-covid-19>

For media inquiries, contact the Joint Information Center at (671) 478-0208/09/10 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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