

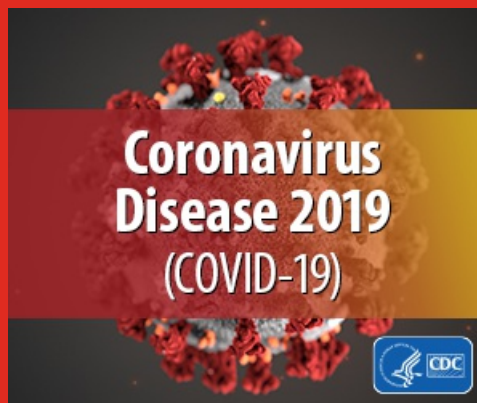


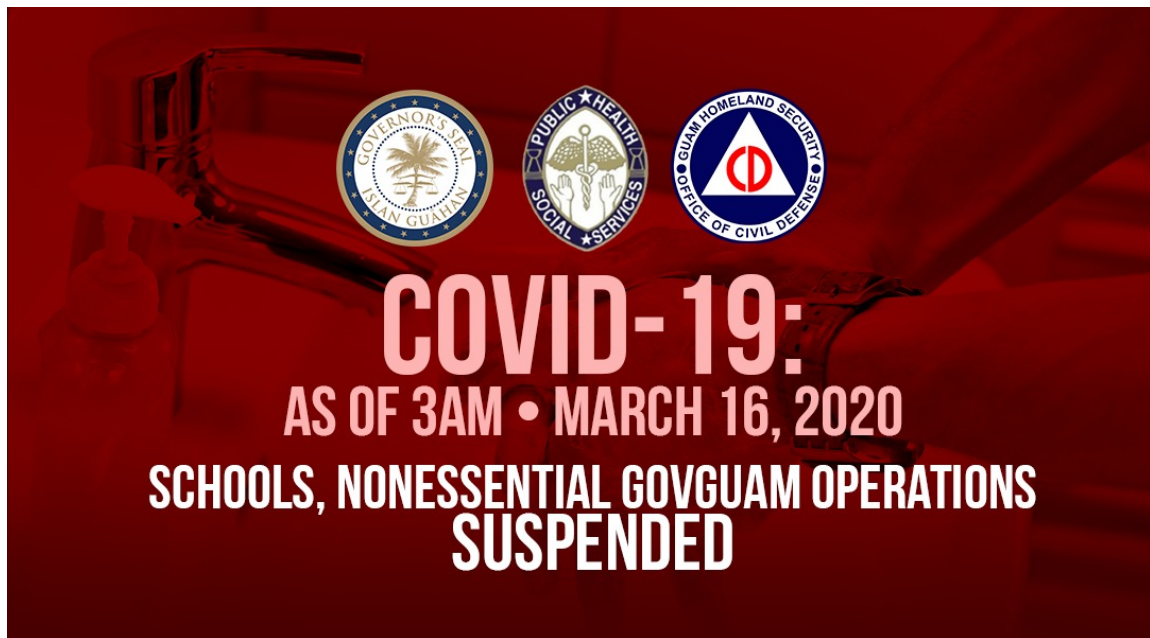
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Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) is closely monitoring the outbreak of a novel coronavirus causing respiratory illness that originated in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019. On February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) named the disease "coronavirus disease 2019" (abbreviated "COVID-19"). As of March 17, 2020 there are three (3) confirmed cases of COVID-19 on Guam. The entire Government of Guam has implemented its planned COVID-19 response to identify and contain transmission on the island. The community can do their part by limiting social interactions, following basic cough and hand-washing etiquette, and staying home when sick (even mildly). The number of confirmed cases globally is approximately 167,000 across 151 countries/territories/areas. South Korea, Italy, and Iran have the most confirmed cases outside of China. This is a rapidly evolving situation so the information on this page is subject to frequent change. For the most up-to-date and reliable information, please refer to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.





[COVID-19 PRESS RELEASES AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS](#)

- Press Release- March 16, 2020: Unverified Messages Circulating; DPHSS Medical Information Phone Lines Available
- Executive Order 2020-04: Relative to Responding to Confirmed Cases of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Executive Order 2020-03: Relative to Declaring a State of Emergency to Respond to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Press Release- March 15, 2020 (3): Updated Information on Confirmed Cases; School Closures
- Press Release- March 15, 2020 (2): Three Individuals Confirmed Positive for COVID-19
- Press Release- March 15, 2020 (1): GMHA Visitor Policy Changes; Mayors Council Suspends All Village Events
- Press Release- March 14, 2020: Guam Public Health Laboratory Tests Three Individuals for COVID-19; All Cleared for COVID-19
- Press Release- March 13, 2020: Guam Public Health Laboratory Tests Four Surveillance Cases; All Cleared for COVID
- Press Release- March 12, 2020: Guam Establishes Localized PUI Criteria; Two Tests Pending Analysis
- Press Release- March 12, 2020: Two Surveillance Cases Negative for COVID-19; Two Others to be Tested
- Press Release- March 11, 2020: No Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 While Influenza-Like Illnesses and Pneumonia Cases Have Decreased Since Late 2019
- Press Release- March 10, 2020: Guam Public Health Laboratory Works to Validate Results of Newly Arrived COVID-19 Test Kits; No Suspect or Confirmed Cases.pdf
- Press Release- March 8, 2020: Ferry Flights from China Monitored; More Health Screenings at Guam Airport
- Press Release- March 5, 2020: Officials Track Events in the Region; United Airlines Guam Marathon Rescheduled

- Press Release- March 4, 2020: No Confirmed Cases of COVID-19; Officials Continue to Monitor Events in the Region
- Press Release- March 1, 2020: Increased Medical Screening for Outbound Passengers from South Korea to the United States; No Confirmed Cases of COVID-19
- Press Release- February 29, 2020: Guam Communicable Disease Response Plan and Protocol Remains in Place; No Confirmed Cases of COVID-19
- Press Release- February 28, 2020: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Updates Evaluation Criteria
- Press Release- February 27, 2020: Multi-Agency Efforts Continue to Prepare for COVID-19
- Press Release – February 26, 2020: Coronavirus Guidance Regarding Student and Employee Travel and Visiting Schools
- Press Release- February 26, 2020: Laboratory Testing Update by Guam Public Health Laboratory
- Press Release- February 25, 2020: Officials Monitor Increased COVID-19 Cases in the Region.docx
- Press Release- February 21, 2020: Guam Airport to Equip Facility with Thermal Scanners
- Press Release- February 12, 2020: Guam Ready to Receive Test Kits
- Press Release- February 7, 2020: Administration Denies Entry of Potentially-Infected Vessel
- Press Release- February 7, 2020: DPHSS Continues to Follow Protocols in Place; CDC Diagnostic Test Kits Requested No Confirmed Cases
- Press Release- February 5, 2020: DPHSS Addresses Recent Headlines on Rumors of Coronavirus on Guam
- Press Release- February 3, 2020: Travel Ban Takes Effect
- Press Release- January 30, 2020: Updates, Multi-agency Efforts, and Patient/Provider Information
- Press Release – January 27, 2020: No Coronavirus Case in the Marianas; DPHSS to meet with stakeholders
- Press Release- January 24, 2020: Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCov)
- Press Release – January 19, 2020: Officials Monitor Outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan, China; Low Threat to Guam

SYMPTOMS* OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

Patients with COVID-19 have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness. Symptoms can include

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

*** Symptoms may appear 2–14 days after exposure. If you have been in China within the past 2 weeks and develop symptoms, call your doctor.**



www.cdc.gov/COVID19

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COVID-19: What You Should Know

- Fact Sheet
- [What the Public Should Do](#)
- Myth Busters and FAQs
- [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers \(non-healthcare settings\)](#)
- [Information on COVID-19 for Pregnant Women and Children.pdf](#)
- [Interim Guidance to Help Household Members Get Ready for COVID-19](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Administrators of US Childcare Programs and K-12 Schools to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to COVID-19](#)
- [Powerpoint Presentation by medical epidemiologist, U.S. Public Health Service, Lt. Commander W. Thane Hancock.](#)

- Interim Guidance for Dialysis Facilities
- [Strategies to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Facilities](#)
- Official CDC Guidance on Global Travel on Cruise Ships
- [People at Risk for Serious Illness from COVID-19](#)
- For all incoming travelers, including residents: Voluntary Self Quarantine Letter

Washing Hands Saves Lives

What Older Adults Need to Know

Elderly individuals and those with comorbidities (chronic diseases or other sicknesses) are most vulnerable to adverse health outcomes from COVID-19. Here is what you need to know to keep them safe.



The Basics

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are typically found in animals, but in some instances, can infect humans and spread by person-to-person transmission, which is happening with COVID-19. Both MERS and SARS were coronaviruses that originated in bats. COVID-19 originated in Wuhan, China and the vast majority of the confirmed cases across the world are located there. Patients testing positive for COVID-19 have also been identified in 28 other countries, including the Philippines, Japan, and United States. Severity of the disease ranges from mild, cold-like symptoms to death. Continue reading for more information.

Click
Here

PHYSICIAN'S ALERT

UPDATED COVID-19 PUI CRITERIA AND TESTING: March 12, 2020

On March 4, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) broadened its criteria for evaluating persons under investigation (PUI) for COVID-19 as access to COVID-19 testing expands to more locations.

As of March 12, 2020, testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the COVID-19 illness, will be available at the Guam Public Health Lab (GPHL). As DPHSS continues to monitor for possible cases of COVID-19 and to keep our community safe, GPHL will test specimens from patients who meet the following criteria:

1. COVID-19 PUI- "Patients with symptoms of COVID-19 and are at high risk."

- **Hospitalized patients** with:

- Fever and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) AND a history of travel from affected geographic areas within 14 days of symptom onset
- Fever with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, acute respiratory disease syndrome [ARDS]) without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)

- Persons with clinical signs/symptoms of COVID-19 who have had close contact with a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset

2. SURVEILLANCE CASE- "Patients that a clinician has judged should be tested, but **does not** meet the COVID-19 PUI criteria."

- Surveillance cases of COVID-19 will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Testing of surveillance cases may be capped based on testing availability. Clinicians should work with DPHSS to coordinate testing through GPHL. Clinicians should use their judgement to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested. Most patients with confirmed COVID-19 have developed fever and/or symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing). Clinicians are strongly encouraged to test for other causes of respiratory illness (e.g., influenza).

Priorities for testing surveillance cases include:

- Symptomatic individuals such as older adults (age ≥ 65 years) and individuals with chronic medical conditions and/or an immunocompromised state that may put them at higher risk for poor outcomes (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, receiving immunosuppressive medications, chronic lung disease, chronic kidney disease).
- Any persons including health care personnel, who within 14 days of symptoms onset had close contact with a suspect or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient, or who have a history of travel from affected geographic areas within 14 days of symptoms onset.

Mildly ill patients should be encouraged to stay home and contact their healthcare provider by phone for guidance about clinical management. Patients who have severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, should seek care immediately. Older patients and individuals who have underlying medical conditions or are immunocompromised should contact their physician early in the course of even mild illness.

If a patient meets the PUI or surveillance case criteria described above, providers should immediately notify DPHSS and implement recommended infection prevention and control practices (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>) as well as notify infection control personnel at the health care facility.

Once a PUI or surveillance case has been determined, health care personnel (HCP) should collect specimens required for COVID-19 testing: one (1) nasopharyngeal (NP) swab. **HCP collecting specimens for COVID-19 testing from PUIs and surveillance cases should adhere to Standard, Contact, and Airborne Precautions, including the use of eye protection.** These procedures should take place in an Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR) or in an examination room with the door closed. Please follow GPLH's guidelines for proper Specimen Collection, Submission, and Transport.

A patient who has been identified as a PUI will be isolated at a health care facility. DPHSS will begin contact tracing (tracking down contacts of the PUI and ask them to stay home in order to prevent the illness from spreading further).

A surveillance case will be home isolated until results from the test specimen is known.

GPLH relocated from its Mangilao facility to the third floor of the RAN-CARE Building at 761 South Marine Corps Drive, Tamuning, Guam 96913.

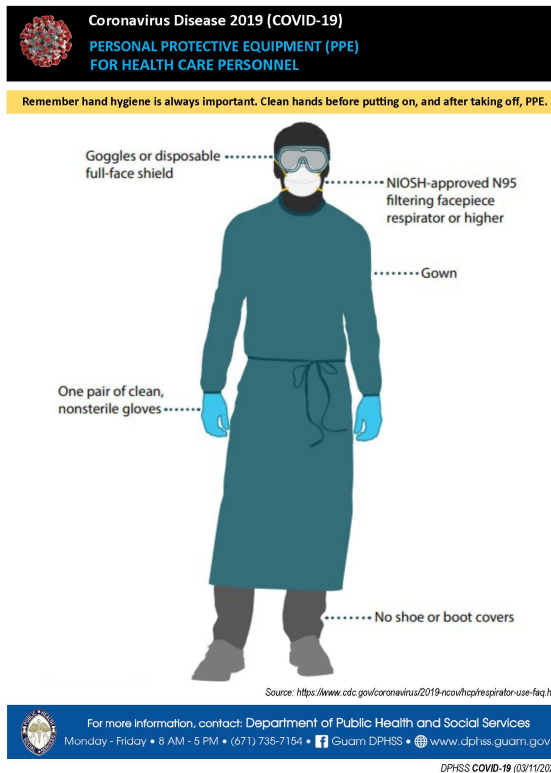
For more information, contact Anne Marie Santos, GPLH Laboratory Administrator via email at

AnneMarie.Santos@dphss.guam.gov.

LINDA UNPINGCO DENORCEY, MPH
DIRECTOR

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Healthcare Personnel

More Information on
PPE



Community Resources and Educational Materials

These print-ready materials can be downloaded, printed, and distributed to help raise awareness about the prevention of respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19.

For the General Population:

- Tips that Can Help Prevent the Spread of illnesses, including coronavirus_GP (4.25" x 11")
- Tips that Can Help Prevent the Spread of illnesses, including coronavirus_GP (8.5" x 11")
- Tips that Can Help Prevent the Spread of illnesses, including coronavirus_GP (18" x 24")
- Stop Germs! Wash Your Hands_GP (4.25" x 11")
- Stop Germs! Wash Your Hands_GP (8.5" x 11")
- Stop Germs! Wash Your Hands_GP (18" x 24")

For Children and Teens:

- Stop the Spread of Germs_Children_Teens (4.25" x 11")
- Stop the Spread of Germs_Children_Teens (8.5" x 11")
- Stop the Spread of Germs_Children_Teens (18" x 24")
- Stop Germs! Wash Your Hands_Children_Teens (4.25" x 11")
- Stop Germs! Wash Your Hands_Children_Teens (8.5" x 11")
- Stop Germs! Wash Your Hands_Children_Teens (18" x 24")

For Healthcare Settings:

- Stop the Spread of Germs that Can Make You and Others Sick_Healthcare (4.25" x 11")
- Stop the Spread of Germs that Can Make You and Others Sick_Healthcare (8.5" x 11")
- Stop the Spread of Germs that Can Make You and Others Sick_Healthcare (18" x 24")
- Important Notice to Patients-Visitors Door Sign_Healthcare (11" x 17")
- Airborne Precautions (8" x 11")
- Contact Precautions (8" x 11")
- Droplet Precautions (8" x 11")

Passenger Health Alert Cards (for international travelers arriving on or departing from Guam):

- Health Alert Cards: Simplified Chinese
- Health Alert Cards: Traditional Chinese
- Health Alert Cards: Korean
- Health Alert Cards: Japanese
- Health Alert Cards: English



This website is the official website for the Department of Public Health and Social Services. This website was developed by individuals with disabilities and has been tested for accessibility by manually auditing for screenreader testing, keyboard testing, high contrast, color contrast, browser zoom, and text zoom.

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Related Sites

[Medicare.gov](#)

[Flu.gov](#)

[CDC.gov](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

[Choose My Plate](#)

[STD/HIV Program – Prutehi Hao](#)

[National Diabetes Education Program](#)

[SMP Resource](#)

[Protect Your Baby from Whooping Cough](#)



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