



**Joint News Release**  
**February 26, 2020**  
**1:30 p.m. (ChST)**

### **Coronavirus Guidance Regarding Student/Employee Travel and Visiting Schools**

In light of the ongoing concerns regarding the spread of the 2019 novel coronavirus, abbreviated as COVID-19, the Guam Department of Education (GDOE), in consultation with the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), is taking a heightened position of caution by implementing preventative measures to ensure student and staff safety.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued the following travel guidance related to COVID-19:

- South Korea — Level 3, Avoid Non Essential Travel — last updated February 24;
- China — Level 3, Avoid Non Essential Travel — last updated February 22;
- Japan — Level 2, Practice Enhanced Precautions — last updated February 22;
- Hong Kong — Level 1, Practice Usual Precautions — issued February 19.

#### **GDOE Travel Restrictions for Students/Employees**

Out of an abundance of caution, and effective immediately, the GDOE will prohibit any school-sponsored student or employee travel to any country with confirmed cases of COVID-19 outside of the United States. This prohibition includes but is not limited to student or employee travel to China, The Republic of Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Macau, Australia, and the Philippines.

Furthermore, the GDOE will prohibit any visits to GDOE campuses from students or schools from countries with confirmed cases of COVID-19. This guidance will be effective immediately until the end of the school year.

“The Guam Department of Education is doing its due diligence to ensure the safety of all of our students and staff,” GDOE Superintendent Jon Fernandez said. “We are implementing these measures to safeguard student and employee health and safety and in order to ensure we avoid any actions which may put our students or staff at risk.”

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