



Joint News Release

March 8, 2020

6:30 p.m. (ChST)

Ferry Flights from China Monitored; More Health Screenings at Guam Airport

The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) continues to work with local and federal partners to address the threat of the virus that causes COVID-19. Currently, there are no persons under investigation (PUI) and there are **no** confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Guam. Guam continues to assess the situation as it evolves. With any change in status, anticipate timely notification.

Ferry Flights from Xiamen, China to Guam

United Airlines recently acknowledged that "ferry flights" originating from China transit through Guam. These flights are committed to the transport of crew and cargo, and are exempt from the Trump travel ban. These flights have no passengers. Generally, a crew of four U.S.-based pilots pick-up pre-positioned repair parts and/or an aircraft to be flown to Xiamen.

Out of an abundance of caution, crew members on a ferry flight on March 7 were screened at the airport by the DPHSS nurses upon their arrival and screened and cleared again on Sunday morning, prior to their departure. These screenings are in accordance with CDC and DPHSS protocols.

Additional Precautions Taken at the Airport

Ten health care staff working in shifts, including Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, and Certified Nurse Aides, will be positioned at the Guam International Airport Authority (GIAA) as early as Tuesday, upon completion of training. As part of their duties, they will assess airline passengers for inbound and outbound flights between Guam and countries with travel advisories and health notices relative to COVID-19. Additional health care staff are being recruited.

GIAA has initiated measures to protect the health of all personnel. Masks and gloves are available to frontline employees. Hand sanitizers have also been installed throughout the terminal and are readily available in high traffic and passenger processing points. GIAA management continues to work with cleaning contractors on sanitation issues and will continue safety briefings across all divisions.

Port Precautions Continue; Cruise Vessel Denied Entry

Honoring its commitment to the safety of the community, the Leon Guerrero-Tenorio Administration recently denied a request to accept entry of a cruise line vessel scheduled

to dock at the Port Authority of Guam next month. The Le Soleal is a French cruise ship originating from Fiji and was scheduled to arrive on Guam on April 16. Scheduled to be on board are 350 passengers and 150 crew.

Stay Up to Date with Reputable Sources

It is important to note that the situation can change daily. 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>
- Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center:
<https://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcphc/program-and-policy-support/Pages/Novel-Coronavirus.aspx>

For more information, contact DPHSS Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., at (671) 735-7154.

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