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 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
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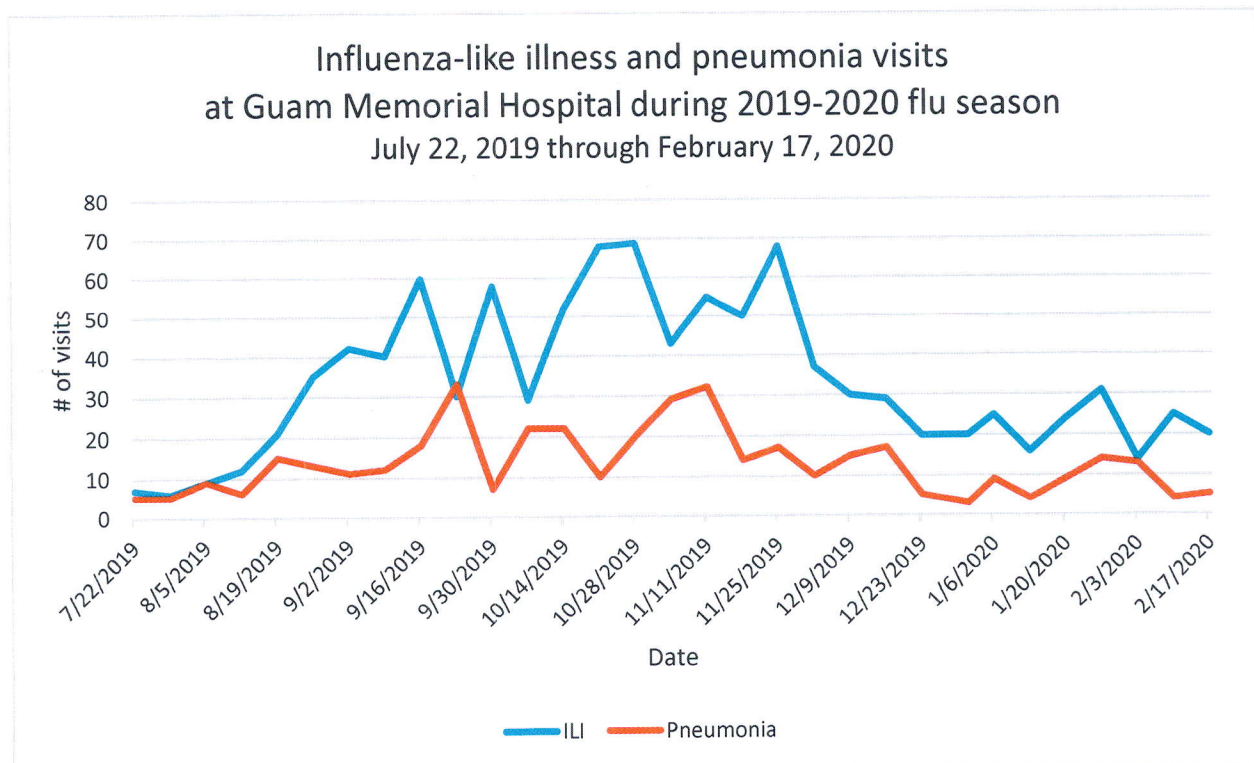
March 11, 2020

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**No Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 While Influenza-Like Illness and Pneumonia Cases Have Decreased Since Late 2019**

The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) continues to work with local and federal partners to address the potential threat of the virus that causes COVID-19. Currently, 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.

DPHSS monitors influenza-like illness (ILI) and other syndromes, including pneumonia, on a weekly basis using emergency room data. Syndromic surveillance for ILI can be an early warning system for potential outbreaks of respiratory illnesses like COVID-19. Cases of influenza-like illness at the Guam Memorial Hospital's emergency room, Guam's current syndromic surveillance site, peaked at the end of November 2019 at 60-70 cases per week and have decreased to 20-30 cases per week in 2020. This pattern is also observed in all of the morbidity reports received from other hospitals and health care clinics.



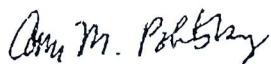
It's currently flu and respiratory disease season and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends getting a flu vaccine, taking everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of germs, and taking flu antivirals if prescribed. While flu and COVID-19 may have similar symptoms, allowing DPHSS to monitor COVID-19 using ILI surveillance, having a fever and cough does not necessarily mean that you have COVID-19. Currently, the Guam Public Health Lab can test for COVID-19 at the Hawaii State Laboratories Division and Guam is following their criteria for a PUI. Guam has sent out a physicians' alert to inform health care providers of the new criteria for a PUI. If you are ill and experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or flu or a cold, call your health care provider and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19. This will help the health care provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

Everyone in our community can take steps now to prepare for this emerging public health threat by doing everyday preventative measures and prevent the spread of all respiratory illnesses:

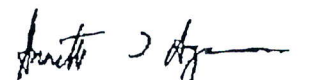
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. However, if soap and water are not readily available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your mouth, eyes, and nose with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Practice proper cough etiquette – cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects or surfaces.
- Stay home when you are sick – do not go to work or school.

  
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