



GOVERNMENT OF GUAM  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT



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**March 19, 2020, 3:30PM (ChST)**

### **COVID-19 Departmental Updates**

As of March 19, 2020, there remains a total of **eight** confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in Guam. To date, the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) has conducted a total of 65 tests of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the COVID-19 illness. The Government of Guam has implemented its planned COVID-19 response to identify and contain transmission on island.

#### **Cleaning Hands Helps Prevent the Spread of Germs**

Regular handwashing is one of the best ways to remove germs, avoid getting sick, and prevent the spread of germs to others. Be sure to wash before and after certain activities to reduce the spread of diarrheal and respiratory illness. Follow the five simple and effective steps: 1) Wet, 2) Lather, 3) Scrub, 4) Rinse, 5) Dry.

#### **Social Distancing is Key to Protecting Yourself and Preventing Spread**

Based on what is currently known about the virus that causes COVID-19, spread from person-to-person happens most frequently among close contacts — within six (6) feet. Close contacts may include family members and co-workers. Children and adults are encouraged to practice social distancing to prevent local transmission of the virus. Community spread is defined as cases that cannot be traced back to a traveler or to those who came in contact with a person who has the novel coronavirus.

The following DPHSS health and social services are available:

#### **Division of Environmental Health:**

In accordance with Section 5 of Executive Order No. 2020-05, the Department of Public Health and Social Services issues the following guidance:

**Restaurants will be permitted to operate provided that they limit services to take-out or delivery. No in-restaurant dining is permitted beginning at 12 o'clock noon on March 20, 2020 until March 30, 2020.**

#### **Division of Public Health:**

##### **DPHSS Hotline Numbers for Medical-Related Questions**

If you feel sick or suspect you are sick with COVID-19, you should seek medical care. If symptoms require immediate medical attention, call ahead to let them know you are coming so they can prepare. If your symptoms are mild and allow you to stay home and self-isolate, but you would still like medical consultation, please 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 limited to medical-related inquiries only. A phone number to call for questions on general information about COVID-19 will be available shortly.

### **DPHSS Office of Vital Statistics opens this Friday at its new location in Tamuning**

Processing of birth, marriage, death certificates, and other vital certificates will continue when the Office of Vital Statistics reopens at its new location at the Ran-Care Building on 761 South Marine Corps Drive across National Office Supply. OVS business hours are from 8:00am-3:30pm Monday-Friday except holidays.

### **The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)**

Pursuant to the current Public Health Emergency Declaration, all WIC clinic locations will be temporarily closed effective immediately until further notice. WIC clients will be contacted to reschedule appointments and other services. For questions, please call (671) 475-0295 or 0926 or 635-7471 or 7472.

### **Stay Ahead of the Spread; Download and Share Educational Materials on Prevention Tips**

Educational resources can be found on the DPHSS website. DPHSS developed specific criteria for elderly individuals, those living with comorbidities, household members of a sick individual, travelers, schools, businesses, pregnant women, and children. Contents are primarily drawn from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). These educational print-ready materials are available for sharing, downloading, printing, and distributing: <http://dphss.guam.gov/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-n-cov/>.

### **Division of Public Welfare:**

#### **How to Access DPHSS Public Welfare Services for Clients without Telephone Service**

As the entire island is urged to practice social distancing during this state of public health emergency due to COVID-19, the DPHSS Bureau of Economic Security (BES) advises its clients that BES program applications and forms may be downloaded from the department's website [dphss.guam.gov](http://dphss.guam.gov)

- On the address bar TYPE [www.dphss.guam.gov](http://www.dphss.guam.gov)
- CLICK on **DIVISIONS**, drop down and select **Public Welfare (DPW)**
- To the right of this page under **DPW Resource Links: CLICK on BES Resource Page**. This page will provide you with a list of forms.
- CLICK on the form you want to download.

Anyone having any questions regarding BES' services may contact their designated site:

- BES Northern at (671) 635-7488 (Dededo)
- BES Southern at (671) 828-7542 (Inarajan)
- BES Central at (671) 735-7256 (Mangilao - Castle Mall)

### **Division of Senior Citizens:**

#### **Information Unit to Help Senior Navigate Information on COVID-19, Aging Services**

Beginning this Friday, March 20, 2020, and until further notice, seniors may access assistance from the Information Unit of the Senior Services Branch by telephone or email. Services include providing information and coordination of services for Guam's senior citizens, age 60 years and older or for caregivers of the National Family Caregiver Support Program. Seniors can receive help with Information, Referral, and Assistance activities, such as:

- How they can protect themselves against COVID-19 and Available Aging Services;

- Supportive Services to assist seniors and/or their caregivers in identifying and coordinating available resources within the community.

Assistance is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. by calling (671) 638-3812, (671) 638-3815, or (671) 638-3819 or by email to Chad Palomo at [chad.palomo@dphss.guam.gov](mailto:chad.palomo@dphss.guam.gov) or Evelyn Manibusan at [evelyn.manibusan@dphss.guam.gov](mailto:evelyn.manibusan@dphss.guam.gov).

### **Clients of Senior Citizens and Adult Day Care Centers to Continue Receiving Emergency Dry Goods**

During the COVID-19 state of public health emergency, lunch meals of dry goods for clients of the 12 Senior Citizens and three Adult Day Care Centers will continue. The emergency dry goods will be dropped off to clients at their homes, or a family member of the senior has the option to pick up the meals for their senior at the congregate site by contacting either Senior Center Operations at 477-3454 or Adult Day Care Center program at 788-7155.

### **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. - 5 p.m.



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