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GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
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Dengue information to be presented at Guam Community College Multipurpose Auditorium Tonight at 6 p.m.

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), along with partner agencies, continue efforts to mitigate the spread of the dengue virus on Guam.

No new cases were confirmed in the last 24 hours. There remain nine confirmed cases of locally acquired dengue infection and six confirmed cases of imported dengue infection since April 24, 2019. DPHSS continues to receive reports of suspect cases as a result of the department's increased community outreach and timely reporting by Guam healthcare providers.

As a reminder, the dengue virus is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito and cannot spread directly from person-to-person. Anyone who lives in or travels to an area where dengue virus is found can get it from mosquito bites.

Heavy Rainfall May Potentially Increase the Number of Mosquitos

"After a heavy rainfall, like what we experienced with the recent passing of the typhoon, we may expect an increase in the number of mosquitoes on island in the next week. Debris scattered from the storm with accompanying rain can provide more breeding sites for mosquitoes," said Tom Nadeau, Chief Environmental Public Health Officer with the Division of Environmental Health. "It will take the effort of the entire community to minimize this from happening by cleaning up around their homes and businesses."

Prevent Mosquito Breeding Sites

- Reduce the number of new mosquitoes that carry dengue by eliminating the places they lay eggs. Once a week, empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out any items that hold water like tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flower pot saucers, or trash containers. Mosquitoes lay eggs near water.
 - Tightly cover water storage containers (buckets, cisterns, rain barrels) so that mosquitoes cannot get inside to lay eggs.
 - For containers without lids, use wire mesh or screen with holes smaller than an adult mosquito. Window and door screens sold at hardware stores have mesh small enough to keep mosquitoes out.

- Use larvicides to kill larvae in large containers of water that will not be used for drinking and cannot be covered or dumped out.
- If you have a septic tank, repair cracks or gaps. Cover open vents or plumbing pipes. Use wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito.

Dengue Presentation

As part of an aggressive outreach commitment, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to provide DPHSS with technical assistance on epidemiological surveillance, monitoring, and risk communications. Part of the initiative is providing informational briefs to key stakeholders and the community. Informational briefings can be made available upon request.

Presentation Tonight at Guam Community College

The community is invited to an educational presentation on dengue at 6 p.m. tonight, Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2019 at the Guam Community College Multipurpose Auditorium (Building 400).

For more information, visit <http://dphss.guam.gov/dengue-fever/> or contact DPHSS, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (671) 735-7159. If there is an emergency, dial 911.


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