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The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) has released its Draft Rules and Regulations governing the Enforcement of Public Health Guidances and Directives during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency in preparation for a public hearing.

The DPHSS Draft *COVID-19 Public Health Enforcement Rules* promotes compliance with related COVID-19 Executive Orders and DPHSS Guidances and Directives. It deters non-compliance by levying fines or penalties upon those who may be found to be in violation of DPHSS Guidances and Directives.

"Education is always our preference but the COVID-19 Public Health Enforcement Rules provides the necessary tool we can use for enforcement of DPHSS Guidances and Directives," said DPHSS Director Art San Agustin.

Yesterday, Governor Lou Leon Guerrero signed Executive Order No. 2020-38 to temporarily suspend the Administrative Adjudication Law, thereby allowing for the expediency to have the public hearing on the draft COVID-19 DPHSS Public Health Enforcement Rules; DPHSS has scheduled public hearings for the proposed draft rules and regulations.

"DPHSS welcomes and invites public comment and input," said Director San Agustin. "This is an important part of the process. We want to hear from the community at our upcoming public hearings and we urge our community to participate."

A public hearing has been scheduled to receive public comment and input on the COVID-19 Public Health Enforcement Rules on Saturday, October 31, 2020, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. via Zoom Conference. A second public hearing will also be held on Wednesday, November 4, 2020, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. via Zoom Conference. Details will be announced in a separate public notice.

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