

HEALTH ADVISORY



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road, Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



March 6, 2020
12:04PM ChST

CHCC-PR-20-059

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Suspected COVID-19 Case Confirmed Negative Through Additional Clinical Assessment”

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) would like to advise the public that the suspected COVID-19 case mentioned in a health advisory released on Thursday, March 5, 2020 (CHCC-PR-20-056) has been confirmed negative for COVID-19 through additional clinical assessment and extensive consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The patient presented with additional symptoms that are not consistent with COVID-19, and was diagnosed with a different upper respiratory illness.

It is important to note that there are a variety of upper respiratory diseases that present with symptoms similar to COVID-19, especially in the early stages (cough, fever, difficulty breathing). In order to not overwhelm testing facilities, it is imperative that clinicians stay up to date with the latest case definition for COVID-19, and rule out other possible causes of a patient's symptoms. The CHCC would like to thank the CDC and our clinicians for their timely guidance and thorough examination of this case.

The CHCC would also like to remind the public that best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 and other illnesses is to practice good basic health and hygiene. See attached posters and other print materials for information on protecting against the spread of disease.

For more information, please reach out to the CHCC Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEP) surveillance unit at (670)234-8950.

For more information about CHCC programs, please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html>

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