

HEALTH ADVISORY



March 13, 2020
16:30pm ChST

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

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



CHCC-PR-20-064

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“COVID-19 Specimen Sent for Testing”

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) would like to inform the general public that the CHCC is submitting a specimen for COVID-19 testing to the Guam Public Health Laboratory. This specimen is being submitted for an individual who meets the surveillance case definition. A surveillance case is a patient whom a clinician has judged should be tested, but **does not** meet the COVID-19 person under investigation (PUI) criteria. While the patient **does not** meet the CDC case definition of a COVID-19 PUI and is considered a suspect of low priority, the CHCC is taking a precautionary stance in order to protect the CNMI community.

This does not mean that the CNMI has a confirmed case. The CHCC will provide further updates on this situation as they become available.

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:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

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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