

HEALTH ADVISORY



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

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



February 10, 2020
11:44AM ChST

CHCC-PR-20-048

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“CHCC Sends Low Priority Specimen for 2019-nCoV Testing”

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) would like to inform the general public that, after consultation with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the CHCC is submitting a specimen for novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV testing to the CDC laboratory in Atlanta, GA. While the patient **does not** meet the full CDC case definition of a 2019-nCoV person under investigation (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 CNMI remains a safe, coronavirus-free destination, and we will provide further updates on this case as they become available.

The CHCC would also like to remind the public that best way to protect yourself and others from 2019-nCoV 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.

Please be advised that this case has no relation to the false rumors circulating on social media today regarding a supposed 2019-nCoV case on Saipan.

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>