



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

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



Ongoing CHCC Preparedness Measures for COVID-19 Pandemic (4/6/20)

Activation of the AOC

The CEO has activated the CHCC Agency Operations Center (AOC) from which to coordinate preparedness and response activities. The AOC team is involved with multiple organizations including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO), who provide information, resources, and guidance for the CNMI.

Airport Surveillance

The CHCC Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEP) Surveillance Unit has staff stationed at the Saipan airport around the clock to monitor and interview incoming passengers from areas with COVID-19 outbreaks. Screening began on February 1, 2020, with over **35,000** passengers screened so far.

Coordination with CNMI Agencies

Governor Ralph DLG Torres assembled a COVID-19 task force that includes a variety of government agencies, with the goal of maintaining the health and safety of CNMI residents.

Communications Taskforce

A communications and community outreach taskforce has been established within the CHCC to provide messaging and outreach regarding COVID-19 and personal protective measures.

Port Surveillance

A joint effort is being undertaken between the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Coastguard, CNMI Customs, and the CHCC PHEP and Bureau of Environmental Health (BEH) divisions to inspect all vessels that enter CNMI waters before they can make port.

Hotel Quarantine

Effective Monday, March 23, 2020, pursuant to Governor Ralph DLG Torres's Second Amended Executive Order 2020-04, Directive #8, all individuals entering the CNMI have been ordered to quarantine at a designated site for 14 days.

All incoming travelers and their luggage will be escorted by staff of the Commonwealth Office of Transportation Authority (COTA), the CNMI Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (CNMI HSEM), Department of Fire and Emergency Management Systems (DFEMS), Department of Cultural and Community Affairs (DCCA), Department of Public Safety (DPS), Department of Finance Division of Customs, and Commerce-Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control directly from the airport to a local hotel serving as the designated quarantine facility. All customs processes and health screening will take place on site at the

quarantine facility. Any health certificates held by travelers will be reviewed, and any symptoms checked and documented by medical personnel on site. From there, persons under orders to quarantine will be checked into the hotel and given details on their stay. Because the purpose of strict quarantine is to reduce the risk of disease transmission, people under orders to quarantine cannot see family or friends in person during their quarantine, however each room is equipped with internet and telephone service, and people under orders to quarantine are encouraged to communicate with family and friends often. Interaction with loved ones is protective of physical and mental health. Meals will be provided to all those under orders to quarantine, and any special dietary needs or allergies should be communicated at check-in. Friends and family members may drop off items at the quarantine facility during hours designated by the CNMI Homeland Security. Incoming travelers are strongly discouraged from travelling with any items that require refrigeration.

All new and returning healthcare workers (HCW) will be assessed according to the CHCC Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Screening Protocol. This protocol is initiated at the quarantine facility. Due to the severity of COVID-19, CHCC needs all HCWs to be available for the community. Coupled with our continuous shortage of health workers, CHCC, with consultation from regional experts, developed this protocol to allow for the medical clearance of HCWs. HCWs who present a certificate from a recognized health agency indicating a negative COVID-19 test in the last 72 hours of travel and are asymptomatic will be allowed by the CHCC medical team to exit the quarantine location. Asymptomatic HCWs without a valid certificate will be enrolled into a strict daily monitoring plan by the CHCC health team and also allowed to exit. Any symptomatic HCWs will be ordered into quarantine.

Minors who travel unaccompanied will undergo quarantine at the designated site if they do not have a health certificate. One parent or legal guardian will be allowed to stay with the minor at the designated site. Enforcement Given the importance of protecting our small island community, CHCC will work with the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and local law enforcement to enforce penalties on noncompliance of the mandatory 14-day quarantine requirement for arriving travelers. Violators of this important protective measure will receive a maximum of no more than a year imprisonment and/or no more than a \$500 fine, as provided under law.