



Joint Information Center - JIC Release No. 117
May 9, 2020, 11:55 a.m. (ChST)

**PCOR 2 Sunday, Continue to Practice Caution;
Medicare Enrollment Information**

COVID-19 test results are reported from multiple labs at varying times of the day. Cumulative test results will be provided this evening once all tests from today are finalized. The Guam Public Health Laboratory (GPHL) will be closed on Sunday, May 10, 2020. There will be no tests run. The GPHL will resume operations on Monday. Physicians are reminded to follow storage requirements by ensuring specimens are refrigerated at 2-8°C.

To date, there have been **151 cases** confirmed through COVID-19 testing provided with 5 deaths and **124** released from isolation. As this is an evolving situation, information is subject to change with little to no notice.

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) uses CDC's test-based criteria for releasing patients from isolation. This requires COVID-19 patients to have two consecutive negative tests at least 24 hours apart before being released from isolation.

Some cases that were previously released from isolation have returned to active isolation status after re-testing positive for COVID-19 through follow-up testing. To date, no additional cases have been linked to people released from isolation.

For updated information on COVID-19 cases on Guam, visit the COVID-19 Dashboard at <http://dphss.guam.gov/covid-19/>.

Declaration of Pandemic Condition of Readiness (PCOR) 2

Governor Lou Leon Guerrero has declared Pandemic Condition of Readiness (PCOR) 2 at **8 a.m. on Sunday, May 10, 2020**. PCOR 2 is the level with moderate restrictions and is intended to signal a positive movement toward normalcy. The PCOR 2 goals involve an effort to continue to slow the possible spread of COVID-19 while being able to gradually re-open certain business, non-governmental organization, government, and individual activities.

Industry specific guidelines are made available for businesses and non-governmental organizations on the Guam Chamber of Commerce website:
<https://www.guamchamber.com.gu/guam/guidelines-to-opening-guam-businesses-and-ngos>

Although many businesses will be open to the public, the community is reminded to continue to practice precautionary measures:

- Maintain a distance of 6 feet between yourself and others
- Wear facial coverings around others and in public establishments
- Adhere to respective business protocols in place for protection from COVID-19

- Practice good hygiene frequently
- Stay home if you are sick

While social gatherings of no more than 10 people are allowed, keep in mind the health and safety of your loved ones. Practice safe measures when around others by waving instead of hugging or embracing one another.

Medicare Enrollment Information

If a Medicare beneficiary missed their opportunity to enroll because the Social Security Administration (SSA) offices were closed or they did not know how to submit an application online to SSA, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is taking further action to ensure beneficiaries have access to the critical health care coverage they need in the wake of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak. CMS may provide “equitable relief” if circumstances described in section 1837(h) of the Social Security Act (the Act) occur. Equitable relief may be in the form of extra time for certain eligible beneficiaries to enroll in Part B or premium-Part A, or refuse automatic Part B enrollment.

In addition, eligible beneficiaries would not be subject to a late enrollment penalty for the period between the original enrollment period and the enrollment during this extension of the enrollment period. Beneficiaries are eligible for equitable relief due to the COVID-19 pandemic-related national emergency if they were unable to make their Part A or Part B enrollment choice in a timely manner due to delays and problems with access to the Social Security Administration (SSA) to file an application or enrollment election, as a result of the unexpected closure of field offices due to COVID-19.

Equitable Relief is retroactive to March 17, 2020.

For more information contact Chad Palomo of the DPHSS Division of Senior Citizens at (671) 735-7421/7415 or through email at chad.palomo@dphss.guam.gov. You may also contact the Social Security Administration’s national toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213.

For inquiries on COVID-19, contact 311 through a local number, or call the Joint Information Center at (671) 478-0208/09/10.

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