



Joint Information Center - JIC Release No. 276

August 19, 2020, 11:05 p.m. (ChST)

Saturday, August 22, Community Testing Postponed; DPHSS Shifting its Efforts to Target Testing; Delay in COVID-19 Test Results

COVID-19 test results are reported from multiple labs at varying times of the day. The Joint Information Center will report cumulative COVID-19 test results once a day, unless unavailable.

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

Saturday, August 22, Community Testing Postponed

Community Testing scheduled for Saturday, August 22, 2020 at the St. Francis Church and School Parking Lot in Yona has been postponed. A new date will be announced at a later time.

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) is reaching its capacity for storage space for specimens and will need more time to be able to run the remaining tests as efficiently as possible. DPHSS assures the public that specimen samples are properly stored and preserved.

DPHSS Shifting its Efforts to Target Testing

Mass testing from April, 25, 2020 to July 30, 2020 by DPHSS resulted in 6,808 people tested and only 42 confirmed COVID-19 positive cases or less than 1%. Of these 42 cases identified during mass screenings, 26 people had a household or community contact, 14 had no known contact with confirmed COVID-19 cases, and 2 were travel related.

Based on this data, DPHSS will be shifting its COVID-19 screening efforts to target testing to focus on high-risk groups, contact tracing, symptomatic patients, travelers, and quarantined individuals.

Delay in COVID-19 Test Results

Due to the large number of samples submitted for COVID-19 testing to the Guam Public Health Laboratory (GPHL), DPHSS is informing patients that there will be a delay in issuing individual test results.

“Getting patients accurate and timely results remains a priority for the department,” said DPHSS Acting Director Art San Agustin. “Patients can expect to receive their results within seven days. The most vulnerable, including health care workers and those who are close contacts to a positive case, are prioritized.”

Patients can opt to receive their COVID-19 test results via DPHSS’ Guam Community Health Center (CHC) secure email service by sending a request to covidresults@dphss.guam.gov. Further instructions will be provided via email to patients before COVID-19 test results are sent.

DPHSS advises the public that the CHC COVID-19 secure email address is utilized to only send test results to patients. If you have other inquiries about COVID-19 testing, you can visit the DPHSS website at dphss.guam.gov or call 311 from a local number and dial option 1.

Patients who have not received their results within seven days may also contact the Northern Region Community Health Center (NRCHC) at 635-7525/6.

For the latest information on COVID-19, visit dphss.guam.gov or guamrecovery.com. 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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