

PRESS RELEASE



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

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



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“No Coronavirus Case in the CNMI; Masks Do Not Need to be Worn at the CHCC”

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) would like to address rumors that have been circulating in the CNMI community today indicating that protective masks should be worn prior to entering CHCC, and that a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) case arrived on Saipan today.

Five patients were treated at the CHCC this morning exhibiting symptoms reminiscent of 2019-nCoV, and who had recently traveled to an affected area. However, these patients' illnesses were confirmed to be the flu, not 2019-nCoV.

We would also like to reassure the community that medical protective masks are not needed to be worn when entering the CHCC. We will certainly alert the public if any precautions such as this need to be taken by staff or the general public.

If there is a case of significance within the CNMI, you can be assured that CHCC will notify the community, and we continue to advise all island residents to maintain healthy hygienic practices and wash your hands to avoid leaving germs in areas commonly used by family members or the public.

If you or anyone you know has traveled to Wuhan City in Hubei Province, China, or any of the affected areas, or have been in close contact with an infected individual from any of these areas, and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, we ask that you seek medical care right away. Before you go to the doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.

For more information, please contact the CHCC PHEP surveillance unit at (670)234-8950.

For more information about CHCC programs, please follow us on Facebook and Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

This press release may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/PressRelease.html>

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