

PRESS RELEASE



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Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Phase 1A COVID-19 Vaccination Expanded to Tinian and Rota

In December 2020, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) administered its first COVID-19 Vaccine dose to the Saipan community through strategic phases (phase 1A, 1B, 2 and 3) starting with phase 1A and then proceeding to 1B. Since then, thousands of Saipan residents have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. In partnership with the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, DFEMS, DPS, HSEM, Turnkey Solutions, and IT&E, the CHCC has expanded the vaccine distribution to CNMI residents on Tinian and Rota for persons eligible under Phase 1A.

The organization and implementation required to vaccinate at scale involves a multitude of moving parts. It takes partnerships and relationships between the public & private sectors working in sync with one another to effectively run an operation of this magnitude. Without the joint efforts from all, the planning, inventory management, transportation of vaccines, and operations coordination would not be possible on one island, let alone three.

The CNMI's COVID-19 vaccination rollout has captured a higher percentage of the population per capita compared to other US states and territories. As the CHCC cautiously expands its vaccination efforts across all populated islands within the CNMI, safety and equity are prioritized to ensure all residents have the opportunity to be vaccinated.

As more people are being vaccinated in the US, supply and planning have become more of a challenge. Everyday we hear of other jurisdictions mixing and matching Pfizer and Moderna doses because supply of each is limited. Since the beginning, both manufacturers and the FDA have advised to not mix and match vaccine options. The vaccines have been proven 95% effective in clinical trials when the same vaccine is administered and following the recommended 21 days (Pfizer) and 28 days (Moderna) apart between doses. The efficacy of the COVID vaccine when extended past the manufacturer recommended second dose date has not been established. At this time the CHCC will continue to follow the manufacturer recommended dose schedule.

With over 5,700 people vaccinated with dose 1 and 3,053 individuals who have completed the 2 dose series (as of 1/25/21), the CHCC continues to monitor side effects reported in individuals who were recently vaccinated for COVID-19 through the Vaccinate CNMI Call Center, CHCC Family Care Clinic, and Emergency Room. Side effects are expected and are common after dose 2 of the vaccine.

The CHCC will continue to expand access to the other phases in the coming months.

To register for the COVID-19 vaccine and for additional information please visit www.vaccinatecnmi.com or call (670) 682- SHOT (7468) for assistance and any other inquiries.

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

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