

PRESS RELEASE



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Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CNMI advances to Level 1 on CDC Travel Health Notice list for low risk of COVID-19 & the CHCC & the Governor's Covid-19 Task Force revise quarantine protocols

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently lowered the CNMI to Level 1 category on its Travel Health Notice list for low risk of COVID-19.

To achieve Level 1, destinations must have less than 10 cases over the past 28 days. Per the CDC, [the primary criteria for destinations with a population of 200,000 or less are:](#)

1. COVID-19 case counts (cumulative new cases over the past 28 days)
2. Continuous review of new case trend data over the past 28 days

The CHCC attributes the upgrade in category to the efforts of the residents of the CNMI. As of April 26, 2021, the CNMI has fully vaccinated 17,652 persons, representing 46.3% of the eligible population.

Recently, the CHCC and the Governor's COVID -19 Task Force hosted its second village outreach vaccination event on Saturday, April 24, 2021, at the Kagman Community Center, administering 47 Moderna vaccines to first-dose recipients who registered on site, as well as through the CHCC call center at (670) 682-SHOT.

The CHCC and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force will be hosting the next outreach event on Wednesday, April 28, at the Multi-Purpose Center, from 8 a.m. - noon; as well as Saturday, May 1, from 8 a.m. – noon, at the Northern Marianas College. Walk-ins for first dose COVID-19 vaccination will be accepted at these locations.

The CDC and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration have lifted the pause on the use of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine. However, the CHCC is awaiting further guidance from CDC before resuming use at its vaccination sites.

In addition, the CHCC and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force have revised quarantine protocols to be rolled out in a phased approach, effective April 29, 2021. The new protocols take into consideration the originating location of incoming travelers (returning residents and visitors) and vaccination status.

The CHCC and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force is starting to shift toward re-energizing the CNMI while keeping the islands safe. It is important that all who qualify for vaccination to do so to protect those who do not (including children). The CHCC thanks all who have submitted to vaccination for their contribution to the health of the CNMI.

All individuals will be tested on arrival and on the fifth day after arrival regardless of status application. Depending on which status an individual applies for, a home inspection or interview will take place before being approved for a modified quarantine.

Updated Traveler Protocols Entering the CNMI

Group A: Travelers fully vaccinated in the CNMI

- Arrival Procedures:
 - Will be transported to the quarantine facility and be tested on arrival
 - CHCC staff will verify vaccination status
 - Home and lodging will be inspected by CHCC staff and must pass for approval; all eligible household/lodging members must be fully vaccinated

- Quarantine Procedures:
 - If home/lodging inspection passes, monitoring and quarantine are NOT required (allowed to move freely around the CNMI)
 - Will be tested on 5th day
 - Travelers must practice the 3 Ws: wear a mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance

Group B1: Critical Essential Workers that are approved by the CNMI Health Official

- Arrival Procedures:
 - Will be transported to the quarantine facility and be tested on arrival
 - CHCC staff will verify vaccination, if Critical Essential worker is vaccinated, IF APPLICABLE
 - Home and lodging will be inspected by CHCC staff and must pass for approval; all eligible household/lodging members must be fully vaccinated

- Quarantine Procedures:
 - Home/Lodging Self-Quarantine with limited movement
 - Will be tested on 5th day
 - 5-day monitoring is required

Group B2: Essential Workers that are approved by the CNMI Health Official who have proof of vaccination

- Arrival Procedures:
 - Will be transported to the Quarantine Facility and be tested on Arrival
 - Provide Proof of Vaccination to be verified by CHCC Staff
 - Home and lodging will be inspected by CHCC Staff and must pass for approval; all eligible household/lodging members must be fully vaccinated

- Quarantine Procedures:
 - Home/Lodging Self-Quarantine with limited movement
 - Will be tested on 5th day
 - 5-day monitoring is required

Group B3: Essential Workers that are approved by the CNMI Health Official who are not vaccinated or do not have proof of vaccination

- Arrival Procedures:
 - Will be transported to the quarantine facility and be tested on arrival

- Quarantine Procedures:
 - 5-day mandatory quarantine at the designated government quarantine facility
 - Will be tested on 5th day
 - Modified transportation to and from place of work

Group C: Travelers from a Level 1 Jurisdiction according to CDC COVID-19 travel recommendations, who did not layover in a Level 2 or higher jurisdiction and who have proof of their official vaccination record

- Arrival Procedures:
 - Will be transported to the quarantine facility and be tested on arrival
 - Proof of vaccination to be verified by CHCC Staff
 - Home or lodging will be inspected by CHCC Staff and must pass for approval; all eligible household/lodging members must be fully vaccinated

- Quarantine Procedures:
 - Home/Lodging Self-Quarantine
 - Will be tested on 5th day
 - 5-day monitoring is required

Group D: Travelers who do not qualify for Group A, B1, B2, B3, or C

- Arrival Procedures:
 - Will be transported to the quarantine facility and be tested on arrival

- Quarantine Procedures:
 - Standard quarantine at designated government quarantine facility
 - Will be tested on 5th day

All travelers should still practice the 3 Ws: wear a mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance (stay at least 6 feet/2 meters from people who are not from your travel group, avoid crowds). Travelers are also encouraged to watch their health for signs of illness.

Vaccination requirements/verifications:

- Fully vaccinated means an individual must have received full vaccination series greater than 14 days from last dose.
- Only official vaccination record from a U.S. State, Territory, or foreign country's immunization program will be accepted (For the U.S. affiliated Pacific islands, immunization reports are routinely available via the CDC-supported WebIZ application).
- The CDC vaccination card is not an official vaccination record.

Home/lodging inspections:

- Approval for home/lodging self-quarantine may take 24-48 hours depending on workload. Individuals may be required to quarantine at the designated government facility pending approval.
- If the home/lodging inspection fails, individuals will be required to quarantine at the designated government facility.

Violation of the any of these agreements or noncompliance with CHCC Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection personnel will result in the automatic termination of the traveler's status. The traveler will be banned from applying for future essential status and additional penalties may be applied. Noncompliance may result in fines and/or prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.

The CDC's travel recommendations by destination list can be found at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travel-notice.html.

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.

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