

PRESS RELEASE



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

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



Nov. 1, 2021
5:30 p.m. ChST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHCC-PR-21-188

CNMI COVID-19 community cases investigation continues

Six (6) additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19. This brings the CNMI total to 318 cases since March 28, 2020.

The individuals were identified and confirmed through surveillance testing Oct. 30, 31, and Nov. 1, 2021. The individuals have been isolated and are actively monitored.

Since Oct. 28, 2021, there have been 27 new cases, of which 19 were identified via contact tracing, 7 were identified via community testing, and 1 was identified via travel testing. Of the newly identified cases, 24/27 (89%) reported experiencing symptoms. A total of 2,505 COVID-19 tests have been conducted, which comprises travel testing and surveillance testing.

The CHCC Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the newly confirmed cases, and this effort will continue until all probable cases are identified and tested.

Our contact tracers will reach out to contacts who are deemed high risk. The associated risk of infection depends on the level of exposure, which will, in turn, determine the type of monitoring. Establishing the level of exposure can be difficult and requires investigation.

A high-risk contact is defined as:

1. Any individual living in the same household as a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case during their contagious period;
2. An individual who has had direct physical contact with a COVID-19 case (e.g., shaking hands);
3. An individual who has had unprotected direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on, touching used paper tissues with bare hand);
4. An individual who has had face-to-face contact with a COVID-19 for a duration of 15 minutes or longer, and at a distance of six feet or less;
5. An individual whom has been in a closed environment (e.g., classroom, meeting room, hospital waiting room, etc.) with a COVID-19 case for a duration of 15 minutes or longer, and at a distance of six feet or less; or
6. Any individual who is a traveling companion of a COVID-19 case.

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, new loss of taste or smell, etc.) see your provider or get tested.

A COVID-19 vaccine initial series is the best protection available. Booster/additional doses are available at the Multi-Purpose Center, Monday to Saturday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Currently, 2,841 additional/booster doses have been administered.

Residents are highly encouraged to register for initial COVID-19 vaccinations or booster shots at www.vaccinatecnmi.com, by calling the CHCC call center at (670) 682-SHOT (7468), or registering in person. Free rides to and from COVID-19 vaccine appointments are available.

COVID-19 vaccinations for 5-11-year-olds will be announced as soon as possible.

To register for community-based testing, visit <https://covidtesting.chcc.health>. If no testing locations are available, it means all spots have been filled. No code is required to register for community-based testing.

The CNMI is reminded to watch out for misinformation and to follow updates directly from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the CHCC. The spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself.

View the new CHCC COVID-19 dashboard at <https://chcc.datadriven.health/covid19> (Updates next business day).

For more information about CHCC programs, follow @cnmichcc on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter; visit www.chcc.gov.mp; or call (670) 234-8950.

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

Active Cluster and Case Update

As of 1 PM, 11/1/2021 - Total Active Cases: 28

Cluster 1 (n=12)

Summary

- On Thursday, October 28, the first case in the cluster was identified through routine school-based screening as a student at a middle school. Contact tracing led to the identification of multiple instances of household transmission to family members and close acquaintances in multiple households. Earliest onset of cases linked to this cluster is 10/7/2021.

Cases

- To date, there are a total of 12 cases
 - o 12 are household contacts to another case in the cluster
 - o 12 are in isolation at Kanoa

Contacts

- Close contacts were identified at the school, workplaces, households, etc.
- Close contacts and guardians are in quarantine at Kanoa Resort, first day of 5-day test out is 11/2/2021

Cluster 2 (n=9)

Summary

- On Thursday, October 28, the first case in the cluster was identified through routine school-based screening as a staff member at a middle school. Contact tracing led to the identification of household transmission to family members in two different households and workplace transmission. Earliest onset of cases linked to this cluster is 10/20/2021.

Cases

- To date, there are a total of 9 cases
 - o 9 are household contacts to another case in the cluster
 - o 2 are workplace contacts to each other
 - o 9 are in isolation at Kanoa

Contacts

- Close contacts were identified at the school, workplaces, households, etc.
- Close contacts and guardians are in quarantine at Kanoa Resort, first day of 5-day test out is 11/2/2021

Unlinked cases (n=5)

Cases

- To date, there are a total of 5 unlinked community cases
 - o Two are household contacts to each other, with the first case identified on 10/29/2021 through community-based testing
 - o One case was identified on 10/31/2021 through community-based testing
 - o Two are household contacts to each other, with the first case identified on 11/1/2021 through

Active cases identified in border quarantine (n=2)

1. One case identified on 10/23/2021 in border quarantine
2. One case identified on 10/29/2021 in border quarantine

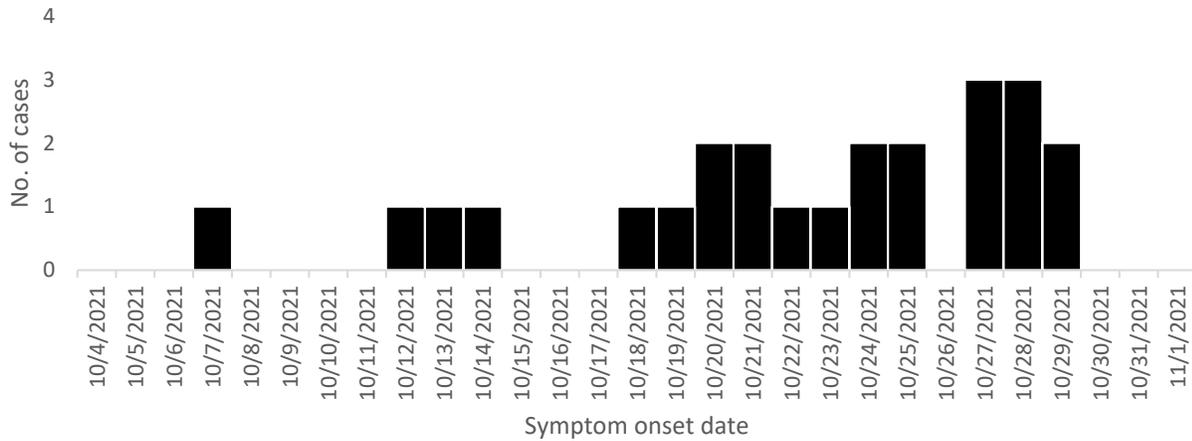
**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE INVESTIGATORS/INSPECTORS
CNMI COVID-19 RESPONSE**

Report As Of: **11/1/2021**

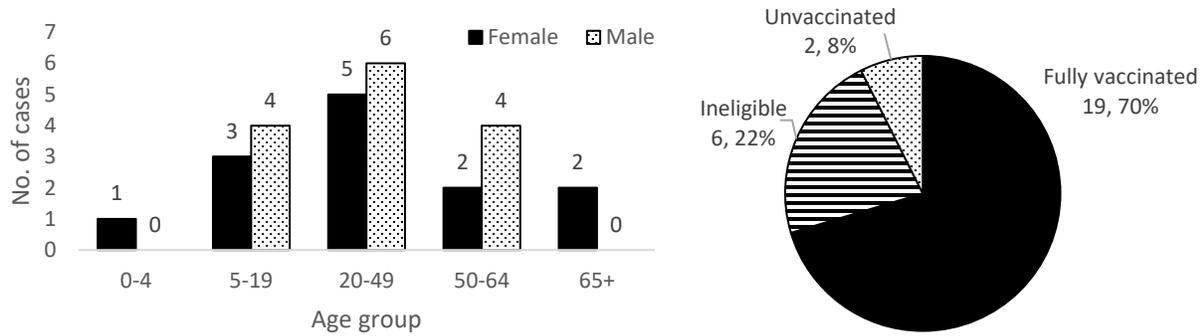
| Case Summary | COUNT |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Case Count | 318 |
| No. COVID-19-Related Deaths | 3 |
| No. Active Cases | 28 |
| No. Currently Hospitalized | 0 |

| Cases since 10/28/21 | COUNT |
|----------------------|-------|
| No. of new cases | 27 |
| Contact Tracing | 19 |
| Community Testing | 7 |
| Travel | 1 |

Epi Curve - Number of Cases Identified since 10/28/21 (n=24) By Symptom Onset Date



Age, Sex and Vaccination Status Breakdowns of Cases Identified since 10/28/21 (n=27)



Cases by Epidemiological Linkage to an Exposure for Cases Identified since 10/28/21 (n=27)

