



Joint Information Center – JIC Release No. 8
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Three Schools to Close on Monday

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), in consultation with the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) and Harvest Christian Academy, announces that classes will be canceled at Ordot Chalan Pago Elementary School (OCPES), Agueda Johnston Middle School (AIJMS), and Harvest Christian Academy on Monday, September 23, 2019. The decision was made after one case of locally-acquired dengue virus was identified at AIJMS on September 11, and at both OCPES and Harvest Christian Academy on September 21.

“We are working closely with the schools to ensure that every precautionary measure is taken to ensure the health and safety of students and staff,” DPHSS Acting Director Laurent Duenas said. “We are confident that providing further time for DPHSS and the Guam Environmental Protection Agency to further assess these schools will strengthen safeguards for all students, faculty and staff,” she added.

Over the next 24 hours, the DPHSS Environmental Team will continue to conduct mosquito surveillance at AIJMS and OCPES to assess the presence of mosquitoes at the schools. Additionally, the team will be gathering mosquito traps to test for the presence of the dengue virus. The team will also be assessing the effectiveness of spraying that took place last week.

Meanwhile, insecticide application will also begin at Harvest Christian Academy on Monday. Information will also be disseminated to all students and parents.

“We urge our students and families to educate themselves on the dengue virus and the importance of mosquito control efforts,” GDOE Superintendent Jon Fernandez said.

GDOE will be hosting an informational briefing for all interested parents and employees, including interested parents and employees from Harvest Christian Academy, on Monday, September 23, 2019 at 6 p.m. at the GDOE Headquarters in Tiyan, Building B, first floor conference room.

For more information, visit <https://ghs.guam.gov/>, or contact the Joint Information Center Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (671) 478-0208/09/10. If there is an emergency, dial 911.

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