



GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIPATTAMTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR, MAGA'HAGA'

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR, SIGUNDO MAGA'LÁHI

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LINDA UNPINGCO DENORCEY, MPH
DIRECTOR

LAURENT SF DUENAS, MPH, BSN, RN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff,

The Department of Public Health and Social Services, Office of the Governor and Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense are working closely with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other local and federal partners to minimize the spread of the dengue virus and to coordinate a community-wide effort to limit its scope. There are seven confirmed cases of locally-acquired dengue infection that were discovered earlier this month. The dengue virus is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito and cannot spread directly from person-to-person.

Importance of Vector Control

All Guam residents, including school faculty and staff, are encouraged to eliminate mosquito breeding sites, which are primarily artificial containers that hold water where mosquitoes lay eggs. Any items that hold stagnant water around homes and classrooms should be emptied to reduce mosquito breeding sites. Wearing light colored long sleeved clothing and using mosquito repellent can reduce your chances of being bitten by mosquitoes. Our community can stop the spread of dengue virus by avoiding mosquito bites. Reduce the number of mosquitoes by eliminating mosquito breeding sites, which are primarily artificial containers that hold water where mosquitoes lay eggs.


Anyone With Dengue Symptoms Should Visit Their Healthcare Provider

Be on the lookout for dengue fever! Symptoms of dengue include fever, nausea/vomiting, rash, and aches and pains, such as headaches or muscle aches. Also know that some patients can develop severe dengue, which can occur after the fever resolves. The warning signs of severe dengue include severe abdominal pains, persistent vomiting, bleeding, severe fatigue or restlessness. If you or your family members develop warning signs, get them to the emergency room for evaluation and management.

The risk of developing severe dengue can be reduced by encouraging ill patients to drink lots of fluids (water, sports drinks, coconut, etc.) and avoiding the use of aspirin, Motrin, or ibuprofen. Only take acetaminophen and sponge-baths to reduce fever. Please see your healthcare provider if you or your family have signs of dengue infection.

Joint Information Center

For more information, the public may call the Joint Information Center from Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (671) 478-0208/09/10. The latest press releases are posted on the Guam Homeland Security website here: <https://ghs.guam.gov>.


LAURENT DUENAS, MPH, BSN, RN
ACTING DIRECTOR