

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO  
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO  
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HĀGAN GUĀHAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

Via Hand Delivery  
and E-mail: [speaker@guamlegislature.org](mailto:speaker@guamlegislature.org)

December 5, 2022

**HONORABLE THERESE M. TERLAJE**

*Speaker*

*I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

*36<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature*

Guam Congress Building

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

**RE: EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2022-26**

*Hafa Adai* Madame Speaker:

Pursuant to Public Law 34-16, transmitted herewith is the following Executive Order:

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2022-26: RELATIVE TO EXTENDING THE COVID-19  
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

Thank you.

*Senseremente,*

Handwritten signature of Jeffrey A. Moots in black ink.

**JEFFREY A. MOOTS**

*Legal Counsel*

Enclosure: Executive Order No. 2022-26

cc via email: *Maga'hågan Guåhan*  
*Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*  
Hon. F. Philip Carbullido, Chief Justice of Guam  
Compiler of Law  
Central Files  
Cabinet Members



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**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2022-26**

**RELATIVE TO EXTENDING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH  
EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, United States Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the United States, to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to the 2019 novel coronavirus ("COVID-19"); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency over the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 14, 2020, before any cases of COVID-19 were identified on Guam, I, Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*, Governor of Guam, acting pursuant to the power provided by the Organic Act of Guam and the laws of Guam, declared a public health emergency on the island of Guam, for the purpose of identifying and mobilizing our island's response and recovery measures in response to the significant public health risk posed by COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, consistent with Guam law, the declaration and renewal of the public health emergency has enabled us to activate critical resources that have helped guide our island through this crisis and which buoy our recovery, some of which are still in use as of the time of this writing; and

**WHEREAS**, while community restrictions were previously implemented to slow the spread of the virus and reduce the impact on our healthcare delivery system, as of the time of this writing, no such restrictions remain apart from those imposed by private businesses at their choosing, and the mask-wearing requirements imposed in medical facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 5, 2022, in Executive Order No. 2022-24, I announced a target date for the end of our public health emergency on January 11, 2023, at which time the current extension of the national public health emergency was scheduled to expire; and

**WHEREAS**, at present time, though an extension to the national public health emergency has not been announced, the federal government previously committed to providing 60-day notice to the states and territories prior to ending the emergency. Because no such notice has been provided, it is anticipated that the national public health emergency may be extended further; and

**WHEREAS**, notwithstanding the possible renewal of the national public health emergency and barring any serious disruption to our response and recovery efforts, it remains appropriate at this time to retain the anticipated end of our local public health emergency on January 11, 2023, in light of our specific circumstances and resource allocation priorities; and

**WHEREAS**, in several executive orders, and most recently in Executive Order No. 2022-24, I have outlined pending measures that remain activated for the safety of our community,



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which will terminate by operation of law upon the termination of our local public health emergency. Among these measures is the activation of the Guam National Guard, the waiver of licensing requirements, permits, or fees for health care providers, and the provision of emergency allotments to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (“SNAP”) households made available under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (“FFCRA”); and

**WHEREAS**, in prior executive orders and through direct correspondence, I have called upon the Guam Legislature to provide further allowances for temporary licensing to healthcare professionals outside of the public health emergency context. As of the time of this writing, no such legislation has been proposed; and

**WHEREAS**, my administration is working to find solutions to resolve or mitigate the impact that ending these measures will have on our community. We are transitioning remaining Guam National Guard duties, primarily at vaccination and booster clinics, to the Department of Public Health and Social Services (“DPHSS”). Additionally, we are working with the relevant licensing boards to draft and propose legislation in the coming year that would enable them to issue temporary licenses under specific conditions. Finally, while the FFCRA emergency SNAP allotment authorization is expressly contingent upon the existence of a state-level disaster or emergency declaration due to COVID-19, we have reached out to federal partners to explore alternatives that may allow the allotments to continue on a temporary basis. These discussions are ongoing. In the interim, DPHSS has begun the difficult work of notifying affected families regarding the impending change in benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, as we unwind our public health emergency, our affected agencies will continue to prepare and notify affected stakeholders, and ensure an orderly transition to non-emergency conditions.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO, *I Maga’hågan Guåhan***, Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam as amended, do hereby order:

1. **EXTENSION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.** The public health emergency first declared in Executive Order No. 2020-03, and most recently extended in Executive Order No. 2022-24, shall be extended for an additional thirty (30) day period, effective December 7, 2022. The public health emergency is now scheduled to expire on January 6, 2023.

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2. **SEVERABILITY.** If any provision of this Executive Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Order that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of this order are severable.
3. **PRIOR ORDERS REMAIN IN EFFECT.** All prior Executive Orders remain in full force and effect except to the extent they conflict with this Order.

**SIGNED AND PROMULGATED** at Hagåtña, Guam, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of **December 2022**.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero".

**LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO**  
*Maga'hågan Guåhan*  
Governor of Guam

**Attested by:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshua F. Tenorio".

**JOSHUA F. TENORIO**  
*Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*  
Lt. Governor of Guam

