



GOVERNMENT OF GUAM
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT



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 DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Mr. Charles Tobin
 Regional Program Director
 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
 Western Region
 90 Seventh St. #10-100
 San Francisco, CA 94108

MAR 20 2020

Dear Mr. Tobin:

Guam's Department of Public Health & Social Services (DPHSS) is requesting for the extension of the certification periods for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients, thus waiving temporarily the provisions of Code of Federal Regulations Section 273.10 (f). This section provides for a maximum of twelve (12) months certification periods, except for households in which all adult members are elderly and disabled, in which case they are provided with a maximum of 24 months certification periods. We are requesting that the certification periods of SNAP recipients who are due for March 2020 renewal be extended to May 2020 and those for April 2020 renewal be extended up to June 2020.

The confirmation of twelve positive results for the Coronavirus-19 (COVID-19) on Thursday, March 19, 2020 is the primary reason for this request. We are enclosing a copy of the Executive Order No. 2020-03 declaring Guam a State of Emergency to respond to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and our Joint Information Center Release No. 15 for your reference.

Extending the certification periods, would enable client benefits to continue without interruption and allow our SNAP clients as well as DPHSS staff to remain at home in isolation as recommended by our health and government officials. Further, many government agencies and businesses have temporarily closed and this could be an issue for our clients who don't have certain required documents on hand.

Should you have any questions, please email me at linda.denorcey@dphss.guam.gov or Ms. Theresa L. Arcangel, Chief Administrator of the Division of Public Welfare at theresa.arcangel@dphss.guam.gov.

Sincerely,

LINDA UNPINGCO DENORCEY, MPH

Enclosure

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number:**
2. **Type of Request:** New
3. **Regulatory Citations:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)
4. **Secondary Regulation Citation, if any:** N/A
5. **State:** Territory of Guam
6. **Region:** Western
7. **Regulatory Requirement:** Federal regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f) provides a maximum of twelve (12) months of SNAP certification except those households in which all the members are elderly or disabled with no income, in which case, they are provided with twenty-four (24) months SNAP certification.
8. **Description of alternative procedures:** Guam Department of Public Health & Social Services (GDPHSS) will continue to conduct interviews for household who appear during their original schedule for interviews.
9. **Action and reason for request:** Guam is seeking to waive 7 CFR 273.10(f) requirement and is requesting to extend the certification periods for additional 2 months for effective program management due to the COVID-19, as follows:
 - For those clients who are due for renewals in March, extend to May 2020.
 - For those clients who are due for renewals in April, extend to June 2020.
10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on 7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(ii), which allows FNS to approve waivers that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
11. **Conditions and reasons:** GDPHSS' Eligibility Specialists will inform the SNAP clients who are due for renewals for March and April 2020 that their certification periods were extended for two months, as follows: March 2020 renewals, are extended up to May 2020 and those for April up to June 2020. The reason is to provide GDPHSS more opportunity to identify issues and gather more resources, as a result of the Coronavirus-19.
12. **Information required for request:** When this request is approved, Guam DPHSS will submit information needed by FNS justifying this request for extension.

13. **Expiration date:** June 2020
14. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like request:** Approval of this request is limited to the Guam DPHSS.
15. **Quality control procedures:** No Special QC procedures are required for cases subject to the provision of this extension. Cases should be reviewed using the standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.
16. **Date of State agency's request:** March 19, 2020
17. **Date of regional office's transmittal of request to national office:**
18. **Date of national office action:**
19. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):**
20. **State agency contact (name/email/telephone):**
Theresa L. Arcangel
theresa.arcangel@dphss.guam.gov
(671) 735-7471
21. **FNS regional contact (name/email/telephone):**
Jodi Gonzalez
Jodi.gonzales@usda.gov
(415) 705-1358



**ISLAND OF GUAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96932
U.S.A.**

Executive Order No. 2020-03

**RELATIVE TO DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY TO
RESPOND TO NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) has identified COVID-19, a respiratory disease that is a new strain of coronavirus not previously identified in humans, as posing a significant public health risk;

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared a Global Health Emergency with regard to the COVID-19 outbreak;

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 COVID-19;

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

WHEREAS, while no cases of COVID-19 have been identified on Guam, an emergency situation exists such that in order to safeguard the community and general welfare of the island, it is critical that timely precautions be taken and that resources be immediately identified, mobilized and prepositioned; and

WHEREAS, *I Maga’hågan Guåhan*, pursuant to Section 1421g of the Organic Act of Guam, is obligated to provide for the public health of Guam including protecting against the spread of COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO, Governor of Guam, by the authority vested in me by the Organic Act and laws of Guam, and for the purpose of marshalling all of the island’s resources and appropriate preparedness, response, and recovery measures, hereby order the following:

1. **Declaration of State of Emergency.** A state of emergency pursuant to Section 19401 of Article 4, Chapter 19, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated is hereby declared for Guam as a result of the effects of **COVID-19** on the island.
2. **Primary Public Health Authority.** The Department of Public Health and Social Services, through its Director and with the approval of *I Maga’hågan Guåhan*, shall be authorized to exercise all powers enumerated in Chapter 19 of Title 10, Guam Code Annotated.
3. **Geographic Areas Applicable to the Declaration.** All geographic areas with confirmed cases of COVID-19 shall be applicable to this declaration. The authority of this Executive Order shall pertain to all of Guam.



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4. **Suspension of Statutes, Orders, Rules and Regulations That Prevent, Hinder or Delay Necessary Action to Respond to the Emergency.** Pursuant to Section 19403(a)(1), of Chapter 19, Title 10 Guam Code Annotated, statutes, orders, rules, and regulations that prevent, hinder or delay necessary action to prepare for or respond to this public health emergency, including but not limited to, purchases and hiring, are hereby suspended.
5. **Price Gouging.** Effective immediately and throughout the duration of this Executive Order or within any time period allowed by law, whichever is longer, it shall be an unfair trade practice for any merchant or landlord to increase the price of any goods, services, or dwelling rentals on the basis of shortage anticipated or caused by this public health emergency.
6. **Personnel and Procurement.** Pursuant to Sections 19505 and 19803 of Chapter 19, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, this Executive Order shall authorize, hiring, overtime and any procurement related to this public health emergency for all government of Guam agencies responding to the emergency.
7. **GHS/OCD to be Lead Agency for Logistics.** GHS/OCD shall be the lead agency for the logistical organization and direction of resources and procurement of any goods and services relative to this Executive Order. Any procurement pursuant to this Executive Order is not being used solely for the purpose of avoidance of the provisions of the Guam Procurement Law.
8. **Authorization For Overtime.** Authorization is given for the payment of overtime for non-exempt Government of Guam employees, to work in excess of forty (40) hours a week to mitigate and respond to the effects of **COVID-19**. The Office of Civil Defense Administrator is authorized to determine the eligibility of overtime expenditures resulting from work performed by the government agencies, and approval from the Bureau of Budget Management & Research shall be obtained prior to incurring any overtime or expenses. Failure to obtain prior approval shall be grounds for denying reimbursement.
9. **Documentation of Expenses.** All departments and agencies are instructed to keep appropriate documentation on all emergency expenses authorized by this Executive Order for inspection by the Executive and Legislative Branches and by the Public Auditor of Guam, and in anticipation of federal disaster assistance approval by the President of the United States to be administered by any federal agency.
10. **Activation of Guam National Guard.** The Adjutant General is authorized to issue active duty orders for the mobilization of such National Guard personnel and equipment as she may determine to protect life and safety, to continue essential public services, and to prevent undue loss and suffering.



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11. **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.

Signed and Promulgated at *Hagåtña*, Guam, this 14th day of March, 2020.

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Maga'hāgan Guāhan
Governor of Guam

Attested by:

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
Sigundo Maga'lāhen Guāhan
Lieutenant Governor of Guam





Joint Information Center - JIC Release No. 15
March 19, 2020, 7:15 p.m. (ChST)

Four Positive Cases for COVID-19;
Practice Social Distancing to Protect Yourself, Others

The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) tested 16 individuals for COVID-19 on Thursday, March 19, 2020. Four tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 and 12 tested negative for SARS-CoV-2.

A total of 81 tests were performed from March 12, 2020 through March 19, 2020 with conclusive results. To date, a total of 12 cases tested positive and 69 cases tested negative for COVID-19. The Government of Guam (GovGuam) is aggressively implementing its planned COVID-19 response to identify and contain transmission of COVID-19 in Guam. With any change in status, anticipate timely notification.

Four New Positive Cases

The results received Thursday confirm four additional positive cases. Of the four cases, one had travel history. Additionally, the three results confirmed on Wednesday, March 18 had no travel history.

COVID-19 Response Continues

As part of the GovGuam's coordinated COVID-19 response, the DPHSS continues contact tracing for the twelve positive COVID-19 cases identified this week. The contact tracing investigation includes identifying close contacts of the individuals. Close contacts may include family members and co-workers who will be quarantined and actively monitored by DPHSS for 14 days after their last contact with the case.

Additionally, GovGuam has instituted COVID-19 Mandatory Quarantine Protocol (MQP) measures for all incoming travelers. Any and all travelers arriving without these credentials will be subject to mandatory quarantine.

Executive Order Promotes Social Distancing

Governor Lou Leon Guerrero signed Executive Order 2020-05 which further highlights prohibitions on large gatherings and mandatory social isolation, effective Friday, March 20, 2020 at noon. Directives are in order for the health and safety of the community, including the need for social distancing.

Most often, person-to-person spread is thought to happen among people in close contact (about 6 feet) with each other. Person-to-person spread is thought to occur mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are

nearly or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. If there is community spread of COVID-19, take extra measures to put distance between yourself and other people. **Stay home.** Consider ways of getting food brought to your house through family, social, or commercial networks.

Older Adults, People with Serious Chronic Medical Conditions are Most at Risk

Early information out of China, where COVID-19 first started, shows that some people are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. This includes:

- Older adults
- People who have serious chronic medical conditions like
 - Heart disease
 - Diabetes
 - Lung disease

Guidance for those at Higher Risk

If you are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19 because of your age or because you have a serious long-term health problem, it is extra important for you to take actions to reduce your risk of getting sick with the disease.

- Stock up on supplies.
- **Take everyday precautions** to keep space between yourself and others.
- When you go out in public, keep away from others who are sick, limit close contact and wash your hands often.
- **Avoid crowds** as much as possible.
- Avoid cruise travel and non-essential air travel.
- **During a COVID-19 outbreak, stay home** as much as possible to further reduce your risk of being exposed.

Stay Up to Date with Reputable Sources

It is important to note that the situation can change quickly. The community is reminded to only share official notices and visit the following links for the most up-to-date information:

- CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- DPHSS website: <http://dphss.guam.gov/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-n-cov/>
- GHS/OCD website: <https://ghs.guam.gov/coronavirus-covid-19>

For media inquiries, contact the Joint Information Center at (671) 478-0208/09/10 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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