



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO  
MAGA'HAGAN GUAHAN  
GOVERNOR OF GUAM

JOSHUA F. TENORIO  
SEGUNDO MAGA'LAHEN GUAHAN  
LT. GOVERNOR OF GUAM

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

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



THERESA C. ARRIOLA, MBA  
DIRECTOR

PETERJOHN D. CAMACHO, MPH  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TERRY G. AGUON  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTING

As required by Title 10 GCA Chapter 3 §3301-3304, healthcare facilities, laboratories, and all persons licensed or registered to practice any healing art defined under Title 10 GCA Chapter 12, are reminded to:

*Report knowledge or suspicion of the presence of communicable disease or any disease dangerous to the public health to the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) within 48 hours after diagnosis, unless a different time is prescribed by regulation.*

The report shall indicate full name, sex, date of birth, ethnicity, contact information; laboratory test ordered and/or result, if applicable; and condition classification (i.e., acute or chronic) for viral hepatitis B or C, if applicable.

**Patient Confidentiality**

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) permits the disclosure of patient health information without patient authorization to public health authorities such as the Guam DPHSS.

The authority for state, territory, and local health departments to collect and receive this information is defined in the HIPAA Privacy Rule 45 CFR 164.501. Pursuant to 45 CFR 164.512(b) of the Privacy Rule, covered entities may disclose patient health information to public health authorities for the purpose of **preventing or controlling disease**, injury, or disability, including, but not limited to, the **reporting of disease**, injury, vital events such as birth or death, and the **conduct of public health surveillance, public health investigations, and public health interventions**.

Enclosed are the Official Guam Reportable Disease List and the list of DPHSS personnel authorized under 10 GCA §3308 to examine any and all records or reports deemed necessary to fully investigate the disease, and a fillable Morbidity Report. For additional information, please contact Patrick P. Sotto, Territorial Epidemiologist, at [patrick.sotto@dphss.guam.gov](mailto:patrick.sotto@dphss.guam.gov).

  
THERESA C. ARRIOLA, MBA  
Director

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