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PRESS RELEASE PR24-24

January 16, 2024

DPHSS CONFIRMS SIX CASES OF JN.1. COVID-19 VARIANT

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) confirmed six (6) cases of the JN.1 COVID-19 variant on Guam as of Thursday, January 6, 2023. The DPHSS is also reporting, as of Tuesday, January 9, 2024, there were eight (8) hospitalized due to COVID-19. “Following the holiday season the island is seeing an influx of COVID-19 cases, mirroring what is happening in the mainland United States which also saw an increase in COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses following the holidays,” said DPHSS Chief Medical Officer Dr. Robert Leon Guerrero.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the continued growth of JN.1 suggests it to either be more transmissible or better at evading immune systems. The CDC states, “at this time, there is no evidence that JN.1 presents an increased risk to public health relative to other currently circulating variants.” As DPHSS continues to monitor the situation, the community is encouraged to practice COVID-19 prevention measures e.g., wash your hands, wear a face mask in large social settings, and to social distance when possible.

Those experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, such as shortness of breath, fatigue, body aches, headaches, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, nausea and/or diarrhea, should stay home, except to seek medical care. If you are experiencing COVID-19, seek testing and self-quarantine at home while awaiting results.

Individuals are encouraged to contact their primary healthcare provider to see if they have at home COVID-19 test kits available. DPHSS reminds those who test positive for COVID-19 with an at home test kit to report their test result to dphss.surveillance@dphss.guam.gov with the following information:

- Name
- Date of Birth
- Date of Test
- Result
- Contact Information
- Picture of the resulted test

DPHSS also reminds those who test positive for COVID-19 to isolate for five (5) days, regardless of vaccination status. Day one (1) of isolation begins after the symptom onset date or the day the test was administered (if asymptomatic).

COVID-19 vaccinations are available at the following Department of Public Health & Social Services locations:

Northern Region Community Health Center (NRCHC) and Southern Region Community Health Center (SRCHC) for the following:

- Children ages 6 months through 18 years old who are uninsured, underinsured, or under Medicaid or the Medically Indigent Program (MIP).
- Adults 19 years old and older who are uninsured or underinsured. Underinsured means your health insurance carrier *does not* cover COVID-19 vaccinations.


To schedule an appointment to receive the vaccine individuals can call the NRCHC by calling: 671-635-7412/7456/4435 or the SRCHC by calling 671-828-7517/7518.

Bureau of Family Health and Nursing Services (BFHNS), located in the NRCHC for the following:

- Children ages 6 months through 18 years old, who are uninsured, underinsured, or under Medicaid or MIP.
- Adults 55 years old and older, who are uninsured or underinsured.

BFHNS clinics are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and on Friday from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Individuals can call BFHNS at 671-634-7408 for more information.

COVID-19 vaccines are now part of the routine vaccination schedule and covered by most insurance companies. DPHSS encourages the public to contact their primary healthcare provider and their insurance carrier to see if the COVID-19 vaccine is available.


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