

PRESS RELEASE



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road, Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DFEMS to host antigen testing

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC), in partnership with the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS), will be conducting free COVID-19 antigen drive-thru testing for community members on Saipan starting Monday, Dec. 13, 2021. Testing will be conducted via drive-thru only, and walk-ups will not be accepted. Testing timeframe is subject to the availability of testing supplies.

The DFEMS community-based testing initiative is strictly for surveillance purposes. No registration is needed. All ages can be tested.

For DFEMS antigen drive-thru testing, bring a physical identification documentation (ID) with the participant's full name and date of birth. A phone number may be requested for contact tracing purposes.

Below are the COVID-19 antigen drive-thru testing dates on Saipan:

Location	Days	Hours
Kagman Fire Station	Monday Wednesday Friday	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Garapan Fire Station	Monday Wednesday Friday	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Susupe Fire Station	Monday Wednesday Friday	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

COVID-19 antigen test results will be available within 15-30 minutes, and **results from the DFEMS community-based testing does not come with official test result documentation**, as this community-based testing is focused on COVID-19 surveillance purposes. Thus, the surveillance testing is not recommended for travel (for travel testing information, visit <https://chcc.gov.mp/covid19testing.php>).

However, if an individual tests positive for COVID-19, they will be contacted by the CHCC's Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection Team for next steps to begin isolation and what to do afterward.

It is recommended that individuals who were exposed to a person who tested positive for COVID-19, or if an individual is considered having a high-risk exposure, wait 5 to 7 days before taking the antigen test. The antigen tests perform best in people experiencing symptoms within a certain number of days since symptom onset.

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC remind the public that getting tested for COVID-19 does not improve response to the illness, nor does it reduce the risk of contracting or transmitting the disease. People who are tested and have a negative result are still vulnerable to the virus. The community is encouraged to continue practicing the 3 W's after getting tested: wear your mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance.

If an individual is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms like coughing, fever, shortness of breath, or new loss of taste or smell, it is recommended they get checked by a health care provider right away, or call the CHCC Tele-Triage line (670) 233-2067 if they do not have a provider.

If an individual is not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and it has been 5 to 7 days since their exposure to a person who may have COVID-19, avail of the free DFEMS antigen testing or the free community-based testing (Register at <https://covidtesting.chcc.health>. More dates will be announced.).

While you wait to get tested or get your test results, wear a mask, wash your hands, watch your distance, stay at home as much as possible, limit your contact with others, clean or disinfect surfaces frequently, monitor your symptoms, and cover coughs/sneezes.

In addition, the CHCC highly encourages unvaccinated individuals to get vaccinated or get a booster shot against COVID-19 to help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death. Data from small clinical trials show that vaccine effectiveness against COVID-19 infection is waning after the primary series, but protection remains high against severe disease and hospitalization. Register for an initial series or booster shot at www.vaccinatecni.com.

For more information about CHCC programs, follow @cnmichcc on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter; visit www.chcc.gov.mp; or call (670) 234-8950.

This press release may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html>.