

PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

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NEWS RELEASE

5th Port employee positive for COVID-19 but *Port Strong Spirit* keeps seaport operational

Piti, Guam, August 28, 2020: The Port Authority of Guam has identified a fifth employee positive with COVID-19 which has led to another 77 employees potentially exposed to the virus.

“Late yesterday afternoon we were notified that an employee tested positive for COVID-19,” said Port Authority of Guam General Manager Rory J. Respicio. “Our Port Contact Tracing Team immediately began working on this latest case and as a result of their work they have identified 77 Port employees who were in immediate close contact with the latest positive case. Our Contact Tracing Team has already notified the potentially affected employees of the situation and they will all be tested tomorrow by the Department of Public Health and Social Services.”

In total, the Port Contact Tracing Team has been able to identify 283 cases of close contact exposure with the five port employees and has coordinated testing for all exposures. The General Manager credits the work of the Port Contact Tracing Team with helping to mitigate and slow the spread of COVID-19 throughout the agency. This has been a crucial part of the efforts to help the Port remain 100 percent operational during the pandemic.

The General Manager said he is pleased that the employees are conducting their own contact tracing, coordinating testing for everyone exposed and still continuing to make sure that the goods that our island needs – that your family needs – continues to flow into Guam.

“This amazing and fierce Port Strong spirit and the determination you see on the faces of these employees to not let the people of Guam down during this pandemic is so powerful that it’s almost impossible to explain,” Respicio said. “Even in the midst of their own fear and uncertainty they continue to keep our port fully operational. Every single day I am proud and inspired by their dedication and love for our community.”

Respicio also credits Governor Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio with helping the Port to remain 100 percent operational since the beginning of the pandemic. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor authorized the Port to stand up a Port Clinic staffed with nurses to assist the employees who continue to report to work each and every day to ensure the supplies of goods and materials into our island remains uninterrupted. The Port also has been working hand-in-hand with DPHSS Acting Director Arthur U. San Agustin and Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Suzanne Kaneshiro in our efforts to contact trace for our own employees exposed at the commercial seaport. – END –

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