



**JON J. P. FERNANDEZ**  
Superintendent of Education

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Buenas yan Hafa Adai, GDOE Employees, Parents & Students:

The Guam Department of Education (GDOE) has been working with the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) and following all 2019 novel coronavirus management and reporting guidelines. All GDOE school nurses and school administrators also participated in a novel coronavirus informational briefing with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Epidemiologist Dr. Thane Hancock on Friday.

Earlier this month, President Donald Trump issued a proclamation which became effective February 2, 2020. The proclamation declared that all U.S. citizens, permanent residents and family members of U.S. citizens returning from China to the United States or its territories will be allowed entry into the United States, but will require a 14 day quarantine period.

In the best interest and safety of our GDOE students and employees, and in line with the growing concern over the spread of the novel coronavirus, GDOE will implement a required 14 day excused absence for all students and staff who recently returned from China, as well as those who are exhibiting respiratory symptoms (such as coughing, shortness of breath, or fever) and who have had direct contact with any individual that has recently returned from China. These precautionary measures aim to prevent the potential spread of the novel coronavirus within the school community.

Students who are absent will be provided with all necessary school assignments and will have all absences excused to avoid truancy referrals. Staff will be placed on leave. Staff with travel history and symptoms will also complete a nurse assessment in collaboration with DPHSS.

Thank you for your cooperation in our efforts to keep our children and employees safe. For more information, please contact your respective school nurse or the GDOE Community Health and Nursing Services Administrator Julietta Quinene at [jcquinene@gdoe.net](mailto:jcquinene@gdoe.net).

Senseramente,

**JON J.P. FERNANDEZ**  
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