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RE: ALLOW THE PEOPLE OF GUAM TO GO TO THEIR HOMES

Honorable  
Governor Lou Leon Guerrero  
Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio  
State Surgeon Dr. Michael Cruz  
Acting Public Health Director Arthur San Agustin  
And To All Persons of Concern

Hafa Adai!

Hope this letter finds you all doing well in your homes.

I am a Board Certified Physician, and practiced medicine on island for over 24 years. Today, I am writing to plea with you to not lock up our Guam residents in Government Hotels or Facilities when they return to our island where they have their own homes to go to.

There is no recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that states to place and imprison returning residents or even arriving passengers inside a Gov. Guam hotel will prevent spread of COVID-19. In fact, there is also no recommendation to test arriving passengers for COVID-19. I am sure you all know this already.

The CDC states that “all returning travelers should social distance, wear a cloth face covering, wash their hands often and watch for symptoms. Notably, those are all basic measures the CDC has highlighted to Americans to follow since the beginning of the pandemic, regardless of whether traveling is involved.”

Per CDC After You Travel (Ref. 1)

Regardless of where you traveled or what you did during your trip, take these actions to protect others from getting sick after you return:

- When around others, [stay at least 6 feet](#) (about 2 arms’ length) from other people who are not from your household. It is important to do this everywhere, both indoors and outdoors.
- Wear a [mask](#) to keep your nose and mouth covered when you are outside of your home.

- [Wash your hands](#) often or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol).
- Watch your health and look for [symptoms of COVID-19](#). Take your temperature if you feel sick.

Although CDC says that there could be local recommendations or requirements after travel, there is absolutely NO recommendation for quarantine post travel arrival and there is NO requirement that arriving passengers be quarantined inside a Government Hotel or Facility. There is no scientific proof on Guam that locking up residents inside a hotel room vs being in their own homes will prevent spread of COVID-19. For many individuals the negative emotional and physical effects can be long lasting and the impact on their lives is unimaginable.

In fact, the CDC has recommended a symptoms monitoring protocol and no longer a testing monitoring protocol. Per CDC: (Ref: 2). The TEST BASED STRATEGY is NO longer recommended. CDC further states: If you do not have COVID-19 symptoms and have not been in close contact with someone known to have a COVID-19 infection: **You do not need a test.**

Finally, we have done the lockdown, majority of the people of Guam have complied. Now even if there is a minority of individuals who are non-compliant, it does not give a justification to punish innocent people who have returned to our island to be with their families in their own homes. STAY HOME is a term you've said over and over, but locking them up in a HOTEL is inconsistent with your own words of being "HOME."

Please allow our arriving passengers to go to their respective homes, that is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,



Thomas Shieh, MD, FACOG  
Board Certified Fellow

References:

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/testing-overview.html>