



Guam Memorial Hospital Authority

Aturidåt Espetåt Mimuriåt Guåhan

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For Immediate Release

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GMHA suspends elective surgeries; hospital ICU at capacity

September 20, 2021 – Tamuning, Guam – As Guam Memorial Hospital Authority continues to battle the front lines of COVID-19, the hospital’s leadership has made the difficult decision to suspend all elective surgeries. This comes on the heels of the facility’s Intensive Care Unit (ICU) reaching absolute capacity at 14 patients.

During this COVID-surge, GMHA’s teams have worked hard to ensure the highest quality care for all patients, despite bed and staffing shortages. Initially in August, the hospital suspended outpatient services to accommodate the influx of patients. While the hope was to continue elective surgeries during this virus-wave, unfortunately, the COVID census and demands on the hospital have reached a critical point. Thus, the decision is to now maintain and staff one Operating Room (OR) for emergency cases, while redirecting all remaining staff and resources to support the continued influx of COVID patients, particularly those who need ICU and Telemetry level of care.

All elective surgeries at GMHA will be suspended starting tomorrow, Tuesday September 21, and until further notice.

GMHA is also working on other ways to expand its bed capacity and staff resources. This includes moving additional stable, non-acute, non-COVID patients to the SNF, rerouting all administrative nurses to the hospital floors for clinical support and continuing to work with federal partners to request emergency FEMA clinical staff.

“We will continue to analyze the situation and make decisions as we see fit. This is a constantly fluctuating and changing dynamic; after 1.5 years of this pandemic, we are nothing if not flexible, adaptable and agile to the needs of our community. I want to thank every single GMHA employee, who continue to show up, work hard and go above and beyond their regularly scheduled hours to support the sickest in our community. You truly are frontline heroes,” said Lillian Perez-Posadas, GMHA CEO.

An ICU overflow called “Care 2” will be mobilized with the shifted staff from the OR and various departments to support additional critical care patients. The Care 2 bed capacity is 4.

This is a developing situation. GMHA will continue to update the public as things change and we appreciate the public’s patience and support during these trying times.

View the latest video with Dr. Joleen Aguon, Pulmonary & Critical Care Physician, COVID Medical Director and GMHA Associate Administrator of Clinical Services here: <https://youtu.be/vi0awQWICNI>

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