



GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

ATURIDÁT ESPETÁT MIMURIÁT GUĀHĀN

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For Immediate Release

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GMHA Relaunches Mandatory Mask Use in Patient Care areas

Temporary Mask Use due to increase in COVID cases

(Wednesday, January 10, 2024; Tamuning, Guam) Due to the increasing number of COVID positive cases, the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) has **reinstated temporary mandatory mask use in clinical patient care areas, effective January 9, 2024**. The Monitoring and Tracking Data continues to show a significant uptick in COVID cases. The mask mandate will be in place until January 23, 2024 but will be extended if required. The mandate applies to everyone entering patient care areas, regardless of vaccination status.

This includes the Emergency Room, ICU, Med-Surg and Med-Tele wards, Surgical unit and PACU, **and all Outpatient clinics including Rehabilitation**. Mandatory mask use will also be required in the Pediatrics/PICU unit and the Maternal Child Health department, including the Neonatal/NICU, Obstetrics, and Labor & Delivery.

Masks must be medical-grade, well-fitted KN/N95-type mask. **Security will provide instructions and KN95 masks for all visitors and watchers who will enter patient care areas**. Everyone entering the hospital will be required to answer a series of questions to determine if they have recently had COVID or been exposed. Anyone with COVID-related symptoms will not be allowed to enter the hospital.

Mask use in non-patient care areas is highly encouraged, especially if you have a high risk of exposure or infection.

GMHA understands that mask use is inconvenient, but the mask mandate will stay in place to protect everyone's health and safety. Social distancing and frequent hand washing are also strongly encouraged.

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