



GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

ATURIDĀT ESPETĀT MIMURIĀT GUĀHAN

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For Immediate Release

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GMHA Awarded \$500,000 Federal Grant to Strengthen Special Pathogen Preparedness

(Tamuning, Guam; January 8, 2026) — The Guam Memorial Hospital Authority has been selected as a recipient of the National Special Pathogen System Level 2 Special Pathogen Treatment, Assessment, and Network Development Award, a \$500,000 federal grant administered by the National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center, to strengthen preparedness for high-consequence infectious diseases.

The award supports Guam Memorial Hospital's role as a Level 2 Special Pathogen Treatment Center, part of a national system designed to ensure hospitals are ready to safely identify, isolate, and care for patients with serious infectious diseases.

In practical terms, this funding allows the hospital to better prepare its staff, equipment, and systems for infectious disease emergencies. The grant will support additional training for healthcare workers, improved protocols for safely caring for patients, and strengthened coordination so the hospital can respond quickly and effectively while protecting both patients and staff.

"This award strengthens our ability to protect the people who come through our doors and the teams who care for them," said GMHA Interim Chief Executive Officer and Administrator Dr. Joleen M. Aguon. "It means our nurses, physicians, and support staff will have more training, better tools, and clearer systems in place to respond safely if our island ever faces another serious infectious disease threat. Preparedness is not abstract. It directly impacts lives."

Guam Memorial Hospital Authority was selected through a competitive national review process recognizing hospitals committed to advancing infectious disease readiness. Award recipients receive funding, technical support, and ongoing training to meet national preparedness standards.

Governor Lou Leon Guerrero emphasized the importance of investing in readiness before a crisis occurs. "This grant ensures Guam Memorial Hospital is better prepared to respond when it matters most," she said. "It strengthens our public health safety net and helps protect our community in the face of future public health emergencies."





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Lieutenant Governor Josh Tenorio highlighted the value of preparedness for healthcare workers and patients alike. “Preparedness means being ready before a crisis happens,” he said. “This funding supports the people on the front lines and ensures Guam Memorial Hospital can continue providing safe, reliable care even during public health emergencies.”

The National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center coordinates the National Special Pathogen System, supporting hospitals nationwide with training, assessments, and best practices to improve readiness for high-risk infectious diseases.

Guam Memorial Hospital Authority remains committed to strengthening emergency preparedness, protecting patient safety, and ensuring the hospital is ready to serve Guam in any circumstance.

For more updates on GMHA initiatives and preparedness efforts, follow Guam Memorial Hospital Authority on Facebook and Instagram at @gmha_guam.

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