

GDOL asks employers to ensure newly arriving H-2B workers are virus-free

By Pacific News Center - February 27, 2020



Guam Department of Labor Director David Dell'Isola has sent letter to all H-2B employers asking them to take extra precautions to ensure that newly arrived H-2B workers are free of the coronavirus.

Although not required by regulations, Dell'Isola in his letter suggests pre-departure screenings, writing: "We understand that some airports are doing cursory checks for symptomatic individuals, but screenings by actual trained health officials may be more beneficial to protecting your Guam workforce

with whom your newly arrived workers will reside with.”

Dell’Isola also suggests that employers consider post-arrival monitoring for 2-3 weeks saying “It is important that someone in your organization monitors newly arrived workers for any symptoms associated with the Novel Coronavirus for several weeks after arrival.”

Coordinating with the Guam Department of Public Health “is critical” states the letter, if any suspected cases are found.

Coronavirus questions can be addressed to Dr. Janna Manglona at 988-5963.

Coronavirus referrals of suspected patients should be reported to Territorial Epidemiologist Ann Pobutsky at 888-9276

Guam DOL also wants to keep track of suspected cases and employers are asked to notify the Alien Labor Processing and Certification Division so ALPCD can assist in whatever way possible.

However, the letter states “for the duration of this coronavirus event, if workers who are scheduled for ID picture taking are sick, please do not bring them into the ALPCD office.”

Employers are asked to notify ALPCD of any sick workers and special arrangements will be made “either through the issuance of Temporary IDs or through picture-taking at special time to limit exposure to staff and patrons of the GCIC Building and the Department.”

“It is vital that you take all necessary steps to protect your workers,” concludes Dell’Isola. “Because of the international nature of the construction workforce from the Philippines and since most of the arriving workers will be living in group quarters, this population may be more vulnerable.”

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