

Coronavirus update: Guam Department of Labor urges contractors to screen for illness

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The Guam Department of Labor urged contractors to take part in coronavirus prevention efforts by pre-screening incoming H-2B employees, according to a press release Thursday.

The respiratory illness could be introduced to our community not only through travelers and tourists, but through contracted H-2B workers that may have come into contact with the virus before arriving in Guam, the release stated.

Guam has no cases of coronavirus.

"Most temporary workers reside in close quarters so one case could be disastrous," said Guam Department of Labor Director David Dell'Isola. "One infection could wipe out an entire contractor's workforce. Asking employers who contract H-2B workers to pre-screen and monitor these individuals is a small but vital role we're already doing to prevent the spread of coronavirus."

Although not required by regulations, the agency suggested:

- pre-departure health screenings;
- post-arrival monitoring for two to three weeks to ensure that no symptoms arise; and
- refraining from sending sick workers to GCIC for their photo ID sessions, and letting the agency know that a worker is sick so that accommodations can be made.

Contractors are also encouraged to coordinate with the Department of Public Health and Social Services for any suspected cases.

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