

## **PORT OF GUAM**

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## Port E-Advisory No. 7

Today, Port management received the following inquiry by the media:

Questions posed by the media: The Port Authority of Guam had been deemed one of the essential agencies by the Governor. But in these efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and with these implementations to minimize contact, is it necessary to have 100% of Port employees on a full schedule. There have been requests for accommodations for those who can work from home to have that access and only come in when needed to ensure that the most important functions are done so that the contact and exposure can be limited, but the response to these requests have been that every single employee is essential and required to work.

So, the question being asked is: "Why are all Port employees essential and why can't some work from home, or not have to work at all during this pandemic?"

We provided them with the following response:

The Port Authority of Guam receives ninety percent (90%) of all goods coming into our island. The Port is also critical to ensuring the continuity of the supply chain throughout our region. For this reason, the Governor has deemed the Port essential. Management, together with the Board of Directors, have been working diligently to provide for extraordinary precautionary measures in order to remain 100% operational. Since we are 100% operational, we have determined that everyone working at the Port is essential to keeping the supply chain flowing.

We have instituted these extraordinary precautionary measures since February 18, 2020, and are following the Governor's directives and Public Health's notices on the CDC guidelines. The requirement to remain 100% operational is also the reason we asked the Governor and Director of Public Health to open a Port Clinic on the premises. As of April 8, 2020, the clinic has seen 3,047 individuals (employees, vessel crew members, and tenants), and the results have been zero fevers and no COVID-19 symptoms.

Early on in this pandemic, we looked at running a skeleton crew, staggered hours, or having employees work from home. We are just not set up that way at the Port.

Rory J. Respicio, General Manager