

# GDOE employee tests positive; COVID-19 vaccine not required

By Jolene Toves

jolene@postguam.com

Roughly 70% of Guam Department of Education employees are vaccinated against COVID-19 but that doesn't mean positive cases won't be seen at GDOE schools.

On Tuesday, the Joint Information Center reported one employee at D.L. Perez Elementary school tested positive for COVID-19. That raised the total number of COVID-19-positive GDOE employees since the start of the pandemic to 135.

The recent case marks the third GDOE employee who tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19 during the Summer School program which began in June. GDOE officials reported two positive cases in the first week of summer school.

There are 5,800 students enrolled in summer school, attending face-to-face instruction, four days a week. Previously students attended school once a week limiting the risk of exposure to COVID-19 on campus.

With an increase in instructional days, there is more opportunity for transmission, a scenario GDOE has planned for as students will soon be in school five days a week.

Part of that plan included contact tracing, quarantine and online learning in cases when closure is necessary on a larger scale.

The positive cases seen this summer



**SKIN TEST:** Guam Department of Education school nurse Manny Dela Pena, left, administers a tuberculosis skin test to a student during an immunization outreach clinic at the Tiyan High School campus on Feb. 16. GDOE schools will continue to require masks but not COVID-19 vaccination. Post file photo

have given GDOE the opportunity to test parts of its approach.

"Yes, we've been able to test out our approach. However, we haven't had to shut down any schools or switch them to online learning because what we've seen and what's reassuring is that our existing protocols continue to indicate no spread of the virus within the school setting even as we identify cases," Fernandez said.

The success is something the department can celebrate.

"Because of the low positivity and the low number of cases in the community and because even as we've gone into summer school we have seen a continued safe environment for

students and employees I think that gives us confidence that reopening can happen safely," Fernandez said.

Last week, Fernandez addressed talk about requiring employees and students to vaccinate, indicating that Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and the Department of Public Health and Social Services were researching the possibility.

He said they had until today to make a decision in time for it to be implemented prior to the start of the school year on Aug. 12.

While federal law permits employee vaccination mandates in workplaces, Krystal Paco-San Agustin, the governor's communications director

said, there were no federal or local mandates requiring student vaccination prior to the school year.

**Mask-wearing will continue, vaccination not mandatory**

Paco-San Agustin said, if the governor would mandate it, families would be given ample notice.

However, it appears that may not be any time in the near future.

"It appears that in their research that they are not recommending a mandate, especially while the vaccines are only under emergency use authorization and so I think that conversation puts an end to that conversation for now," said Fernandez.

The conversation may be revisited after the vaccines have received full authorization and FDA approval.

"That means we are going to continue to rely on voluntary vaccination and promoting vaccination as a strategy amongst our employees and kids but that mandatory vaccination that we discussed isn't something that will happen in the near term," Fernandez said.

GDOE is working with Public Health and private clinics on the island to offer vaccination and immunization outreach opportunities to students prior to the coming school year. The dates and times will be released when confirmed.

But as the department pushes for vaccination, Fernandez stressed that the masks will remain a requirement.

"We worked with the governor and we anticipate the face mask mandate to continue. Even she lifts it for the island, at this particular point and time, we expect to continue the face masks mandate within our schools," Fernandez said.

## Wendy's Barrigada reopens drive-thru after employees test COVID-19-positive

The dining room was still closed Wednesday afternoon, but Wendy's Barrigada reopened the drive-thru following some of its workers

having confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus.

"The health, safety and well-being of our employees and community are our priorities. We were informed that three employees at our Barrigada location tested positive for COVID-19 through contact tracing," the company said in a released statement.

The local Wendy's franchise is "supporting" the three infected

employees, who are currently in quarantine and receiving care and treatment. The Department of Public Health and Social Services has been consulted, and other workers identified as close contacts have been asked to produce a negative test result for COVID-19 before returning to work.

"Our store temporarily closed yesterday for additional deep clean-

ing and sanitizing of the work areas and common spaces. This morning, we voluntarily closed for breakfast to allow staff to get tested," the company stated Wednesday.

Wendy's Guam said it will try to minimize disruption in hours of operations for its Barrigada location, and thanked its customers for their patience and understanding.

**(Daily Post Staff)**



## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM

Suite 300 Guam Judicial Center  
120 West O'Brien Drive  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910-5174  
Tel: (671) 475-3413 Fax: (671) 475-3140  
[www.guamcourts.org](http://www.guamcourts.org)

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Judicial Council of Guam will conduct its monthly meeting on **Thursday, July 15, 2021, at 12 Noon** in the **Guam Judicial Center, 120 West O'Brien Drive, Hagåtña, by videoconference**. A monitor will be set up for any members of the public who would like to observe and offer comments. The meeting will also be streamed live on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFnFCWwlp939fAeh9zi4Q4g/featured>. The agenda will be made available prior to the meeting.

In addition, a request for Executive Session of the Judicial Council of Guam will be made pursuant to 5 G.C.A. §8111(c)(4) following the discussion of regular meeting agenda items. The agenda for the Executive Session will be to discuss ongoing litigation.

Any person(s) needing special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Administrator of the Courts at 475-3544, or Petrina M. Ula at 475-3413.

/s/ CHIEF JUSTICE F. PHILIP CARBULLIDO  
Chairman



GUAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
590 S. MARINE CORPS, DR. SUITE 511 ITC BLD TAMUNING, GUAM 96913  
TEL (671) 647-4332 FAX (671) 649-4146 [www.investguam.com](http://www.investguam.com)

## NOTICE OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA), a public corporation, will be holding its Regular Board of Directors meeting on

**Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 1:30PM**

via Zoom and in the GEDA conference room located in Suite 511, 5th Floor, International Trade Center (ITC) Building, 590 South Marine Corps Drive, Tamuning, Guam.

For the link request or for persons requiring special accommodations, please contact GEDA's coordinator, Jennifer Calvo-Guzman, at 647-4332 or at [jennifer.calvo@investguam.com](mailto:jennifer.calvo@investguam.com) by July 14, 2021.

Pursuant to PL 26-12, funding for this ad was paid by GEDA General Fund.

/s/ MELANIE MENDIOLA,  
GUAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY CEO/ADMINISTRATOR

# Study: A handful of cities driving urban greenhouse gas emissions

By Emma Rumney  
and Isla Binnie  
Reuters

LONDON/MADRID — Just 25 big cities — almost all of them in China — accounted for more than half of the climate-warming gases pumped out by a sample of 167 urban hubs around the world, an analysis of emissions trends showed on Monday.

In per capita terms, however, emissions from cities in the richest parts of the world are still generally higher than those from urban centers in developing countries, researchers found in the study published in the *Frontiers* journal.

The study compared greenhouse gas emissions reported by 167 cities in 53 countries, and found that 23 Chinese cities — among them Shanghai, Beijing and Handan — along with Moscow and Tokyo accounted for 52% of the total.

It included more cities from China, India, the United States and the European Union because of their larger contribution to global emissions and significance to the climate debate.



**CHINA:**  
A woman wearing a mask walks past buildings on a polluted day in Handan, Hebei province, China, on Jan. 12, 2019. Reuters file photo

The findings highlighted the significant role cities must play in reducing emissions, said study co-author Shaoqing Chen, an environmental scientist at Sun Yat-sen University in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou.

"It is simple, logical," he said. "If you don't act, eventually you will suffer from (climate change)," he said.

Average global temperatures have already risen by more than 1 degree Celsius compared to the pre-industrial baseline and are still on track to exceed

the 1.5-2 degree limit set by the Paris Agreement.

Chen and other scientists cautioned, however, that some of the data available for use in their study was patchy, with some cities reporting numbers from as far back as 2005.

A lack of consistency in how cities report emissions also makes comparisons tricky, they added.

## Emissions reduction targets

Research published in 2018 in the *Environmental Research Letters* journal

analyzed a much larger sample of 13,000 cities, big and small, finding 100 cities containing 11% of the world's population drove 18% of its carbon footprint.

Still, the new analysis "contributes to the growing literature and our understanding of urban emissions," said Yale University Geography and Urban Science professor Karen Seto, who co-authored the 2018 paper.

"It's really difficult to compare apples to apples on city greenhouse gas emissions but you have to try, and the paper makes a pretty good effort," added Dan Hoornweg, a professor at Ontario Tech University and former adviser to the World Bank on sustainable cities and climate change.

Chen said the new analysis was the first to look at megacity emissions reduction targets and progress in cutting back.

Sixty-eight of the cities — mostly in developed nations — had set absolute emissions reduction targets.

But only 30 of the 42 cities where progress was tracked in the study had shown a reduction. Most of them were in the United States and Europe.

The analysis confirms scientists' expectations that whereas in China, cities with high per capita emissions are generally major manufacturing hubs, those in developed nations with the highest per capita rates tend to have strong levels of consumption.

## NKorea dismisses US aid as 'sinister political scheme'

SEOUL (Reuters) — U.S. humanitarian aid is a "sinister political scheme" to put pressure on other countries, a North Korean researcher said, after suggestions from U.S. allies such as South Korea that coronavirus vaccines or other help could promote cooperation.

North Korea's foreign ministry published the criticism of U.S. aid on an official website on Sunday, a clear indication that it reflects government thinking.

Kang Hyon Chol, identified as a senior researcher at the ministry-affiliated Association for the Promotion of International Economic and Technological Exchange, listed a series of examples from around the world that he said highlight a U.S. practice of linking aid to its foreign policy goals or pressure on human rights issues.



**FLAGS:** U.S. and North Korean national flags are seen at the Capella Hotel on Sentosa island in Singapore, on June 12, 2018. Jonathan Ernst/Reuters

"This vividly reveals that the American ulterior intention of linking 'humanitarian assistance' with 'human rights issue' is to legitimize their pressure on the sovereign states and achieve their sinister political scheme," Kang wrote.

Among the examples he listed was declining American assistance to the government in Afghanistan, where the United States is due to withdraw the last of its troops in coming weeks.

"In actual practice, many countries have undergone bitter tastes as a result of pinning much hope on the American 'aid' and 'humanitarian assistance,'" Kang said.

American officials have said they are supportive of humanitarian aid to North Korea but that no efforts are

underway to provide direct assistance.

South Korea has vowed it would provide coronavirus vaccines if requested, and some analysts have argued that such foreign aid could provide an opening to resume diplomatic talks with the North, which has rebuffed most overtures from Seoul and Washington since 2019.

South Korea's unification ministry, which handles relations with the North, noted the article was not an official statement and said it would continue to seek ways to cooperate with Pyongyang to ensure health and safety in both Koreas.

North Korea has shown no public signs of interest in aid from South Korea or the United States, though it has accepted at least limited assistance from China and Russia.



## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM

Suite 300 Guam Judicial Center  
120 West O'Brien Drive  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910-5174  
Tel: (671) 475-3413 Fax: (671) 475-3140  
[www.guamcourts.org](http://www.guamcourts.org)

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The **Judicial Council of Guam** will conduct its monthly meeting on **Thursday, July 15, 2021, at 12 Noon in the Guam Judicial Center, 120 West O'Brien Drive, Hagåtña, by videoconference.** A monitor will be set up for any members of the public who would like to observe and offer comments. The meeting will also be streamed live on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFnFCWwllp99fAeh9zi4Q4g/featured>. The agenda will be made available prior to the meeting.

Any person(s) needing special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Administrator of the Courts at 475-3544, or Petrina M. Ula at 475-3413.

/s/ CHIEF JUSTICE F. PHILIP CARBULLIDO  
Chairman



**FAMILY FINANCE CO.**  
Serving the People of Guam Since 1959

## PERSONAL LOAN

# \$1,000 - \$3,900

<b>HAGATNA</b> T 475.4545   472.3208 F 477.5662	<b>UPPER TUMON</b> T 647.5626 F 646.6040	<b>DEDEDO</b> T 633.4473 F 633.4474
---	--	---

**PO Box 1306 Hagatna, Guam 96932**  
[ffc\\_agana@yahoo.com](mailto:ffc_agana@yahoo.com)