



GUAM HOTEL & RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION

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PRESS RELEASE

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GHRA to Feature DPHSS at Virtual Membership Meeting

TUMON, GUAM - The Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association (GHRA) will hold a virtual General Membership Meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 17, 2020 via Zoom Video Communications, Inc. Presentations will be made by the Department of Public Health & Social Services (DPHSS) focusing on three main topics including Reopening Guidelines and Inspection Checklists, Guam Covid Alert Application, and Keys to Implementing Contact Tracing at Establishments by a panel of experts from DPHSS.

"Earlier this year in February, GHRA held pandemic workshops and meetings with DPHSS and GVB for the tourism industry in preparation of Covid 19. We need to expand our efforts and work together to cast a wider net by implementing key elements of the pandemic plan to prevent the spread of Covid 19," stated GHRA President Mary P. Rhodes. "The goal of this meeting is to continue sharing information and resources that will help provide the framework, mechanism and training for establishing reopening guidelines, preparing for inspections and implementing contact tracing for the private sector businesses to protect our industry employees, community and guests."

Speakers

The Reopening Guidelines and Inspection Checklists will be presented by Marilou O. Scroggs, Environmental Public Health Officer, Administrator for the Division of Environmental Health, DPHSS. Ms. Scroggs will discuss the process of submitting reopening guidelines, critical areas of concern when conducting inspections, top violations of businesses, mitigation process, review of a sample inspection checklist, and other areas that are subject to Guam law and regulations.

The Guam Covid Alert Application will be presented by a team of people who will provide a brief background on the development of the mobile application, explain the purpose of the data and goals of early adoption, and the voluntary use and commitment to privacy. With this new technology, Guam can help reduce the risk of infection in the community.

Chima D. Mbakwem, Containment and Infection Control Lead, Covid-19, Tuberculosis/Hansen Disease Control Program Manager at DPHSS will discuss the importance of contact tracing for the community and within the workplace. Mr. Mbakwem will present key takeaways for successful implementation including creating a team, identifying administrative controls, conducting training and education, and developing a system for reporting requirements and documentation.

The primary purposes of GHRA are to promote the highest standards of service and quality in the hotels and restaurants on Guam, advocate just legislation and governmental regulations governing the conduct of business, improve business-community relations through positive interactions with Guam's citizenry, and publicize the value and benefits of the island's visitor industry to the territory's economy. GHRA is a private, non-profit trade association, which began in 1972, and has 320-member organizations with nearly 9,000 guest rooms and over 15,000 employees. For more information, please contact GHRA at 649-1447, email at info@ghra.org or online at www.ghra.org.

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