

ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Lieutenant Governor

## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## **MEMORANDUM**

GOV21-219

**DATE:** October 29, 2021

**TO:** CNMI State Board of Education

CNMI Public School System Northern Marianas College

Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools

**FROM:** Governor

**SUBJECT:** Closure of All Schools and Colleges in the Commonwealth

Protecting the health and safety of our people has been the main priority during this COVID-19 pandemic, and I will continue to do everything I can to keep our community safe against this virus. In consultation with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation and the COVID-19 Task Force, I am hereby shutting down all public and private schools and colleges in the Commonwealth for the next 10 days to mitigate against community spread as contact tracing continues.

I want to personally assure the educational community, staff, parents, families, and students that we will do everything as a government to protect the Commonwealth as we have successfully done throughout the course of the pandemic. We have the tools in place to contain this.

We remind residents to continue practicing the 3 W's: wear a mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance. All individuals are encouraged to take advantage of community-based testing, which resumes later today at Kanoa Resort from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. to ensure the safety of all residents. We also encourage eligible residents who are unvaccinated to get vaccinated to protect against serious illness.

This is an evolving situation, and we will continue to provide updates moving forward.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued partnership.

Sincerely,

RALPHIDLG. TORRES

Governor