

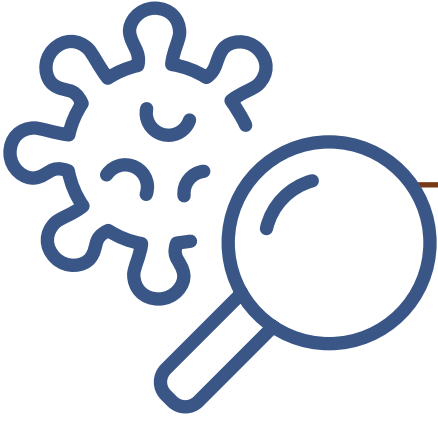
# COVID-19 IN GUAM

Community Impacts by the Numbers



October 2020





The COVID-19 virus has presented unprecedented challenges for our island home, dramatically effecting our economy and our community's ability to take care of our families, neighbors and friends.

We see the daily news coverage of the new counts of positive cases and mourn the tragic loss of our loved ones and neighbors to this devastating virus. What we have not been able to measure is the breadth and depth of the impact of the virus on our community's emotional and financial wellbeing.

Bank of Guam and its partners ASC Trust and GTA, recently partnered with a local research firm, Anthology Research, to conduct a scientific survey of Guam residents, in order to quantify the impact of this pandemic on our community.

This information can be used as a baseline to identify needs, prioritize support and, eventually, track our community's progress in recovering from this pandemic.

This study and the release of this information is just one small way of giving back to the community that has long supported us, as we work together to get through this difficult time.



## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

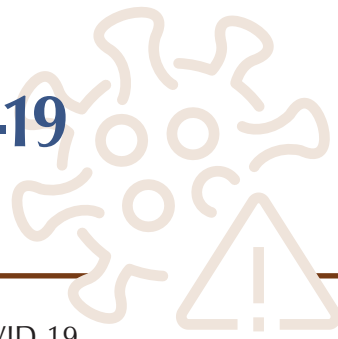
An island-wide online and telephone survey of fulltime adult Guam residents was conducted September 16-23, 2020 by Anthology Research. A total of 507 completed surveys were collected using a true random sampling approach, resulting in a margin of error of +/- 4.44% at the 95% level of confidence.

To help ensure that a balanced and representative sample of Guam residents were included in the survey, respondents were contacted through one of three modes: telephone (landline and mobile) using live interviewers, SMS text and email. This mixed-mode approach is considered industry best practice, as it allows respondents to complete the survey through the channel with which they are most comfortable.

The random sample was generated using a combination of Random Digit Dialing software that reaches listed, unlisted and mobile phone numbers; Anthology's pre-recruited panel of Guam residents; and publicly available voter contact records.

The final demographic profile of residents who took part in the survey closely mirrors the overall profile of fulltime Guam residents.

# Perception of COVID-19 in our Community



While the majority of Guam residents perceive COVID-19 to be a health threat and have various concerns about the disease, there are still a significant number of residents who are not concerned about the potential effects of catching the virus.

Those who do worry about the disease have profound concerns that are affecting everyday life. This is most pronounced among parents of school-aged children, who worry about putting others in their household at risk by sending their kids to in-classroom instruction, but also struggle to provide the oversight and equipment in order to support home learning.

## 20%

of residents DO NOT think COVID-19 poses a threat to themselves or others living in their household.

*Younger residents tend to be more worried about the coronavirus. For example, 91% of young adults between the ages of 18 and 35 feel that COVID-19 poses a direct threat to themselves and their household, compared to just 54% of seniors 65 and older.*

## CONCERNS ABOUT COVID-19



### 81%

worry about getting the disease

### 57%

worry about themselves or others dying from the disease

### 52%

worry about passing the disease on to others

### 50%

worry about the disease worsening existing health conditions for themselves or others



## EDUCATION DURING THE PANDEMIC



### 84%

 of parents are worried they will put their household at greater risk by sending their child back to school for in-classroom learning

### 63%

 of parents are worried they will struggle to provide tutoring and supervision required for their child's at-home learning

### 56%

 of parents are worried they will not have the proper equipment or internet access to support their child's at-home learning

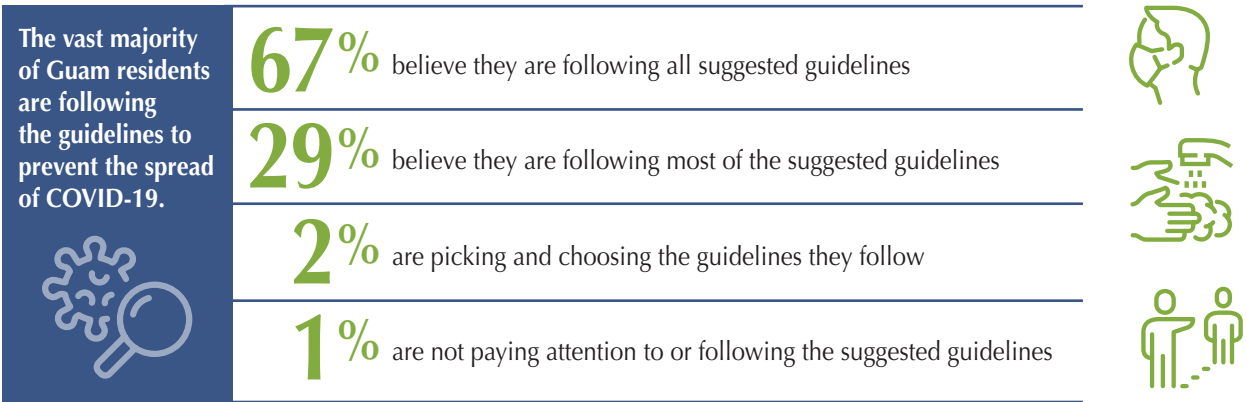
# Preventing the Spread of COVID-19



Nearly all Guam residents polled indicated adherence to the guidelines from public health professionals to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

Community testing programs have been successful in reaching many residents, but there is still more work to do. Potential exposure from workplaces and schools remains a significant risk.

The majority of residents believe the Guam government is either taking appropriate action or should do more to prevent the spread of COVID-19. While restrictions such as stay-at-home orders have been criticized, residents overwhelmingly support these limits when necessary to protect public health.



## TESTING AND HOSPITALIZATIONS

**34%**

Personally got tested for COVID-19

**52%**

Someone in household got tested for COVID-19

**4%**

Someone in household tested POSITIVE for COVID-19

**26%**

POSITIVE test at workplace or child's school

**27%**

Know someone hospitalized with COVID-19

### GOVERNMENT ACTION

**34%**

Government is taking appropriate action to combat the disease

**28%**

Government is doing enough but did not respond quickly enough

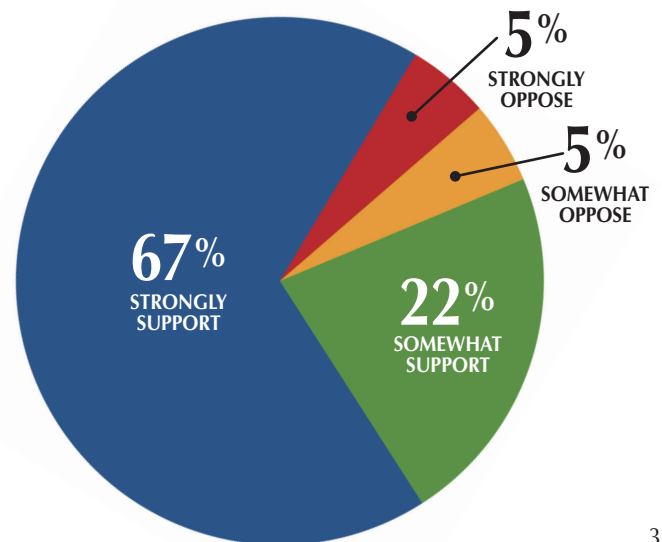
**25%**

Government is not doing enough to combat the disease

**9%**

Government is overreacting

### LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19



# Economic Impacts of COVID-19



Guam residents are facing a dual economic threat from the COVID-19 pandemic – decline in household income from employment changes and a simultaneous increase in household expenses. This has resulted in most households experiencing financial stress and many struggling to afford basic necessities.



**54%**

report a decline in household income since the start of the pandemic



**51%**

of households have experienced an increase in expenses since the pandemic began

## FINANCIAL STRESS

**3 out of 4**

of residents are experiencing financial stress from COVID-19

**1 in 4**

report high financial stress

**61%**

of households are living paycheck to paycheck

**19%**

of households only have enough savings to last one month or less

## EMPLOYMENT CHALLENGES:

Half of all households have been affected by at least one of these employment challenges

**38%**

An employer has reduced hours or pay for someone in household

**35%**

Worked less due to drop in demand

**32%**

Someone in household has been furloughed/on temporary leave

**20%**

Someone in household has been laid off

**17%**

Personal business decline in revenue

**12%**

Unable to work due to childcare responsibilities



## HOUSEHOLD CHALLENGES

**32%**

Difficulty paying utilities

**31%**

Picked up food from a food drive/local charity

**30%**

Difficulty paying for car loan/repairs

**25%**

Difficulty paying rent/mortgage

**20%**

Sought support from a local charity

**18%**

Had food run out and didn't have money for more

**14%**

Difficulty paying for health crisis

# Looking Ahead



Looking ahead, residents expect life on Guam to be markedly different as a result of COVID-19. There are mixed feelings among residents about when and how visitors should be welcomed back to the island, indicating the real fears that exist about the virus in the community.

There is also little optimism for a quick economic recovery, with or without the tourism industry. The behaviors that residents have adopted to respond to COVID-19 may persist even after the virus is addressed.

## WHEN SHOULD WE WELCOME VISITORS BACK?



**43%** believe we should allow visitors to come only if they have tested negative for COVID-19



**40%** believe we should not allow any visitors until there is a vaccine or cure for COVID-19



**13%** believe we should phase in visitors only from countries with low rates of COVID-19

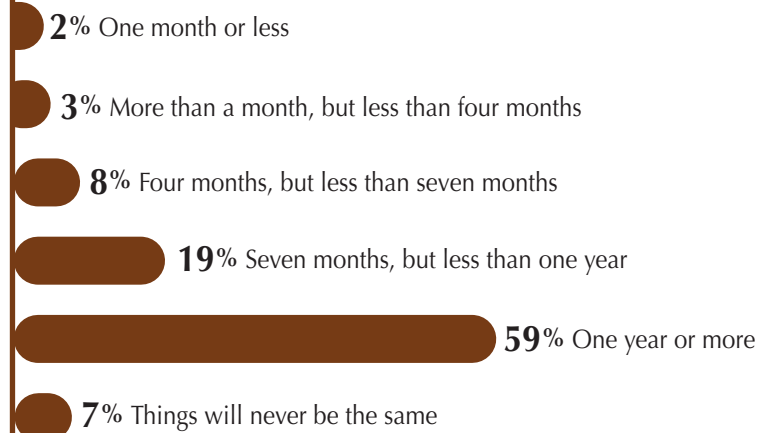


**3%** believe we should allow all visitors to come now without any quarantine



## WHEN WILL THINGS RETURN TO "NORMAL"?

The majority of residents believe it will take a year or more for life to return close to normal in Guam. Some believe it will never again be the same.



## HOW WILL THINGS BE DIFFERENT ONCE THE PANDEMIC IS OVER?

**60%**

of residents will dine in at restaurants less



**29%**

will order pick-up/ takeout from restaurants more

**42%**

of residents will shop in-person at retail stores less



**36%**

will shop online more

**59%**

of residents will go to movies or shows less



**38%**

will stream movies or music more

**30%**

of residents will reduce overall household spending



**49%**

will save more for a rainy day