



The Marianas

| Saipan | Tinian | Rota |



The Marianas Update



CNMI COVID-19 /VACCINE UPDATE



COVID-19 Update



Eight (8) additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19.

- The individuals were identified by travel screening and confirmed diagnosis through **testing upon arrival**.
- The individuals have been safely in quarantine and were moved to the designated isolation area for close monitoring.
- The CHCC has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the new confirmed cases, including passengers on the same flight.

As of February 20, 2021

143 TOTAL confirmed Covid-19 cases since March 28, 2020

15 Persons in isolation

135 Persons released from isolation per CHCC medical and CDC guidelines

2 Deaths

COVID-19 Diagnosis Source

Travel		117
U.S. Mainland		73
U.S. Territory		32
Foreign Country		12
Community Screening		26
Community Based Testing or at CHCC		10
Contact tracing		16
186 days since last community transmission		

Call the Governor's COVID-19 Info Line
(670) 287-0046
Monday - Friday | 7:30AM to 4:30PM
Saturday | 8AM to 8PM

CNMI COVID-19 Dashboard
(Updates next business day)
<https://arcg.is/1LX4mv1>
www.chcc.gov.mp

Call the Tele-Triage Hotline for COVID-19 Symptoms
670-233-2067
Monday - Sunday | 24 hours

CNMI COVID-19 Dashboard

People able to get Vaccinated

14,825

(Based on 2 Dose Series)

Weekly Capacity:

Dose 1	Dose 2
1,202	1,598

Doses by Manufacturer



Note: Data on vaccination last updated on 02/25/2021

Vaccination Phases

Saipan, Tinian, and Rota: **Phase 1A and Phase 1B**

People Vaccinated with Dose 1

10,375

People Vaccinated with Dose 2

7,441

Vaccination Progress



Number of vaccine doses initiated out of number of vaccine series available

Press release

- Title: **Koreans in the Marianas who clean the underwater memorial monuments, Their good deed amid the COVID-19 crisis warms the hearts**
- Released on December 7th, 2020

[illegible]

- Hardly any sector has been hit as hard by the coronavirus crisis as travel industry that travel industry workers around the world are going through more difficult times than ever. However, even in such crisis situation, the good deeds of Korean who continue to carry out voluntary activities such as beach clean-up, underwater Korean memorial monuments in Mariana Islands is making a big impression warming the hearts.
- In particular, two Korean underwater memorial monuments are located on the seabed of Saipan in the Mariana Islands.
- The Northern Marianas Korean Diving Operators (NMKDO) regularly clean up the underwater memorial monuments that are difficult to access because they are underwater. The NMKDO consists of eight diving shops in the Marianas; Aqua Dive, Dive Saipan, Dive Y2K, Deep Blue, H2M Saipan, Sean Dive, Pro Divers Saipan, and Deep Blue Sea.

Broadcasted on MBC News



- MBC Newsdesk is the main nightly newscast of the Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation (MBC, one of the leading South Korean television and radio network companies). This program is the longest-running newscast in South Korean and airs **at 19:50 (Prime time)**
- Viewership rate : **6.4 % (3.3 M watched)**
- **PR Value (Actual AD cost) : USD 93,000**



Online News Article



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0tB7U0XCMU>

45,835 Views / 2,200 likes / 468 comments



<https://tv.naver.com/v/17104531>

7,392 views / 40 likes / 1 comment

Notable Comments on Press release & social medias

MBC is a South Korean public broadcast service. [Wikipedia](#) & [MBC](#)

*오늘의뉴스 *남태평양 *공제
[오늘의뉴스] 日 강제동원 위령비 청소하는 다이버들 (2020.12.08/뉴스데스크/MBC)

44,409 views · 8 Dec 2020

2.1K 14 SHARE SAVE ...

MBC NEWS 1.01M subscribers [SUBSCRIBE](#)

남태평양 사이판 섬에는 일제 강점기 때 2만 7천여 명이 강제 동원된 한국인 희생자를 기리는 추모 위령비와 추모비가 있습니다. 오랫동안 바닷속에서 이끼와 산호에 덮여져 훼손되기 직전 이 위령비와 추모비 청소를 위해서 단지에 거주하는 한국인 다이버들이 노력했습니다.

SHOW MORE

468 Comments SORT BY

468 Comments on [YouTube](#) !

김은후의 8 hours ago
감사합니다. 주절 주절 긴말 쓰며 감사 드리고 싶지만 감사할인 한계까지 한계 감사할인 드리고 싶습니다. 감사할인합니다.

Thank you ! I don't think word can't express how much I am thankful for this great work

박은빛 8 hours ago
👍👍👍👍👍

You guys are true patriots !

백인오종셋트 8 hours ago
훌륭한 애국자들 이십니다

I would like to sponsor them.

아무이름 8 hours ago
후원이랄도 하면좋겠네요

신민규 11 hours ago
존경합니다 감사합니다

I respect you and thank you

진윤 11 hours ago
멋있다 존경합니다~

This is fantastic. I respect them ~

과담읽어주는남자 11 hours ago
아이고 ㅠㅠ 감사합니다 ㅠㅠ
진짜 애국자들 이십니다!
다시 한번 감사합니다!

Wow. I so much thank you for doing this.
You guys are real patriots!
Once again, thank you so much .

성미름 1 day ago
천만 분유히 잊을 하시고 계셨네요. 부끄럼지나

You are doing a great job. Thanks to you, I learned the existence of the underwater memorial monument. Thank you.

zee woo 12 hours ago
맛있습니다. 사이판 가서 다이빙할때 맛있는거라도 사들고 가겠습니다.

That's cool. When I go diving to Saipan, I want to serve delicious meals !

브로 1 day ago
오... 가슴이 벅차옵니다... 우편 그림 다이버들이 시설 정비 하면서 남산들에 있어 세계에서 한국의 위

I am impressed that divers there volunteer at their expense. With this news, I got to know there are monuments underwater. You guys help Korean gain ever more stature. I respect them and thank you so much.

MVA JOINS 2020 “Drive Thru” Christmas Village on the Hill



The Marianas Visitors Authority partnered up with the Veterans Affairs Office on the 2020 Christmas Village Event on Capitol Hill. The Village included participants from about 50 partnerships between government agencies, businesses, and non-profit organizations with special holiday themes came together for a special socially-distant Christmas village. The display covers the 1200 and 1300 blocks. The MVA and Veterans Affairs Office’s display includes a panel display of holiday scenes, a walk-through illuminated Christmas ornament, an illuminated Skymark Airlines cutout, and other features.

SAIPAN IN NY TIMES “52 PLACE TO LOVE IN 2021”



In lieu of their usual New York Times 52 Places to Go list, the publication asked readers to tell them about the “spots that have delighted, inspired and comforted them in a dark year.” The “52 Places to Love in 2021” list includes the island of Saipan, “An island of hidden caves, covered in untamed jungle.”

[52 Places to Love in 2021 - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/04/travel/52-places-to-love-2021-saipan.html)

YOUTUBE CHANNEL NAMES ROTA #1 BEST WEDDING DESTINATION



YOUTUBE.COM

TOP 5 Best Wedding Destinations that will BLOW YOUR MIND! (Secret Island Revealed)

YouTube channel For Your Eyes Only has named Rota as #1 in its list of Top 5 Best Places to Get Married in the World! Posted on Dec. 25, 2020, the video has gained 2,139 views and 52 likes. The channel has over 5,800 subscribers.

[TOP 5 Best Wedding Destinations that will BLOW YOUR MIND! \(Secret Island Revealed\) - YouTube](#)



CDC REPORTS CNMI HAS HIGHEST % OF VACCINATIONS: NY TIMES

Name	Pct. of people given a shot ▼	Doses distributed	Shots given	Doses used
Northern Mariana Islands	5.6%	6,250	3,027	48%
South Dakota	3.0%	43,325	26,913	62%
West Virginia	2.9%	124,325	52,518	42%
North Dakota	2.9%	37,900	22,240	59%
Alaska	2.6%	74,925	18,937	25%
Vermont	2.6%	33,925	15,955	47%
Maine	2.4%	66,250	31,663	48%
Guam	2.3%	19,300	3,791	20%
Tennessee	2.2%	300,250	152,516	51%
Washington, D.C.	2.2%	35,475	15,583	44%

The New York Times' ongoing story on COVID-19 vaccinations cites the U.S. Centers for Disease Control as reporting that The Marianas has the highest percentage of people in the country vaccinated against COVID-19 to date, 5.8% of the population reported on Jan. 11, 2020.

[See How the Vaccine Rollout Is Going in Your State - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/11/us/covid-19-vaccine-rollout.html)

17th ANNUAL TINIAN HOT PEPPER FESTIVAL ON FEB. 13-14, 2021

A full weekend of games and competitions are set for the 17th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 13-14, 2021, in The Marianas.

The festival, affectionately known as “Pika Fest” among locals (“pika” means spicy), pays homage to Tinian’s small but famous “donne sali” hot pepper. Activities will include food sales, live entertainment, competitions, arts and crafts sales, and more.

“The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) and the Tinian Mayor’s Office, in consultation with the CNMI COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., is pleased to announce that this year’s Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will again be held on Presidents Day weekend, with consideration of COVID-19 prevention protocols, such as social distancing, wearing of masks, and hand washing. The Marianas hasn’t had any community spread in five months, and we will have several safety measures in place to help maintain that trend,” said MVA Managing Director Priscilla M. Iakopo. “The festival will provide a good opportunity to support the Tinian businesses and provide a positive boost to the community.”

The festival will be held from the afternoon into the evening on both days, with exact times to be announced. Competitions will include hot pepper eating, “kadun pika” (spicy stew) cooking, cha-cha, tug-of-war, “umang” (hermit crab) race, and a home-made canoe race. The 18th Tinian Municipal Council will co-sponsor prizes for the male and female categories of the hot pepper eating contest.

The Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will be held at the Fiesta Grounds in San Jose, Tinian, adjacent to the Fiesta Grounds in San Jose, Tinian, adjacent to Jones Beach.

Ferry service between Saipan and Tinian is still under consideration due to budget constraints. Limited hotel accommodations are available at Tinian Ocean View, Lorilynn’s Hotel, Tinian Street Motel, Fleming Hotel, Green Lion House Hotel, and the Marpo Valley Inn. Free camping is available at Kammer Beach, Taga Beach (toilets, barbecue pits, and outdoor showers available) and at the adjacent Tachogna Beach (toilets, barbecue pits, and indoor showers available).

For more information, contact Tinian Field Operations Supervisor Vida Borja at 1.670.433.9365 or e-mail at vborja@mymarianas.com or MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas at 1.670.664.3200 or email mduenas@mymarianas.com.



PACIFIC MINI GAMES IN JUNE 2022 IN THE MARIANAS



The quadrennial Pacific Mini Games will be held in June 2022 in the Northern Marianas with 24 countries and territories throughout the Pacific invited to participate.

The Pacific Mini Games 2022 is a multi-sport event governed by the Pacific Games Council as a scaled-down version of the Pacific Games, held every alternating four years. At this time, an estimated 400-600 athletes are anticipated to participate in six events at the games: athletics, badminton, baseball, golf, beach volleyball, and triathlon. The games are expected to cost an estimated \$3.2 million to host with the six confirmed events. The Pacific Games Council has provided an initial \$20,000 in seed money, and fundraising for cash and in-kind support will also be conducted.

The organizing committee also unveiled the winning logo of the Pacific Mini Games 2022 designed by Kadi Marshal Yamada Camacho. The logo incorporates a latte stone monolith and “mwaar” (floral head lei) representing the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people of the Northern Marianas. Eleven flowers symbolize the 11th Pacific Mini Games, and three multi-colored individuals form a smiling face and represent the diversity and unity of the event. One individual reaching upward “for excellence” is outlined with an outrigger canoe shape, a call to voyaging and the Pacific maritime heritage. Fourteen white spaces symbolize the 14 islands of the Northern Marianas, while a purple wave sits at the base of the logo.

Also represented on the organizing committee are the CNMI Office of the Governor, Saipan Mayor’s Office, Dept. of Public Works, Dept. of Public Safety, Public School System, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Dept. of Community and Cultural Affairs, Dept. of Finance, Dept. of Fire & Emergency Medical Services, Commonwealth Health Care Corp. and COVID-19 Task Force, Marianas Visitors Authority, and representatives for Sports and Corporate Sponsorship.

Additional events may be added to the games by the Pacific Games Council. For more information, contact the 2022 Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee at marianassports@gmail.com.

JAPAN MARKET UPDATE



In preparation for the resumption of tourism from the source market of Japan tentatively in July or August 2021, the MVA representative office in Tokyo was reopened on Feb. 1. The office had been closed for 90 days.

Our office will work on public relations marketing activities including: 1) updating the Japanese language MVA website with COVID-19 related information on The Marianas, creating new listings for social media (Facebook Twitter, Instagram), coordinating coverage with consumer mail magazine, reaching out to media partners, issuing press releases, and conducting a Zoom seminar for consumers. In addition, travel trade marketing activities will also be conducted to include: 1) reestablishing relationships with trade partners due to organizational and personnel changes over the last several months, issue newsletters, posting information on free travel/consumer travel sites, and developing a The Marianas-Japan travel bubble based on various condition scenarios related to quarantine in The Marianas, quarantine upon return to Japan, and Japan's Travel Advice and Warning Level.

The background image shows a festive scene from the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival. In the foreground, a woman is seen from the waist up, wearing a white lace-trimmed blouse and a vibrant, multi-colored patterned skirt. She has a green leafy headband and is smiling while holding a small object in her right hand. Behind her, another person is partially visible, also in traditional dress. In the background, a banner with the text "TINIAN HOT PEPPER" and "NIEINATTUN-MIYU" is visible, along with some greenery and a building structure.

HEALTH MEASURES SET FOR TINIAN HOT PEPPER FESTIVAL

COVID-19 safety protocols and other mitigation measures have been set for the 17th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 13-14, 2021, in The Marianas. Despite five months of no community transmission of COVID-19 in The Marianas, the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) will implement a series of measures recommended by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and COVID-19 Task Force at the festival. The Dept. of Public Safety will manage the entry of and take the temperature of all attendees at the festival site. Handwashing stations will be installed around the event area, and attendees are required to wear face masks. Clear shields will be installed at all booths to prevent direct contact between vendors and customers.

This year's event will also include the Pika 50K Bike Race, funded by the Tinian Mayor's Office, with cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in several categories. Bikers may contact Dawn Sarmiento at 1.670287.3667 to register.

The event is jointly organized by the MVA and the Tinian Mayor's Office. Activities will include food sales, live entertainment, competitions, arts and crafts sales, and more. The festival will be held from 4-10 p.m. on Feb. 13 and from 4-10 p.m. on Feb. 14. The 18th Tinian Municipal Council will co-sponsor prizes for the male and female categories of the crowd-favorite hot pepper eating contest. Ferry service between Saipan and Tinian is still under consideration due to budget constraints. For more information, contact Tinian Field Operations Supervisor Vida Borja at 1.670.433.9365 or e-mail at vborja@mymarianas.com or MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas at 1.670.664.3200 or email mduenas@mymarianas.com.

SAIPAN MARATHON 2021 POSTPONED



Saipan Marathon 2021, originally scheduled for March, has been postponed until further notice due to the continuing worldwide coronavirus pandemic.

The Marianas Visitors Authority announced the postponement on Feb. 29 in consideration of coronavirus concerns and anticipated low demand.

In March 2020, 540 athletes took part in the event, which included a marathon, half-marathon, 10K, and 5K.

For more information, visit the Marianas Visitors Authority website at www.mymarianas.com.



17th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival

FEBRUARY 13-14, 2021; 4-11 p.m.

Festival Grounds, San Jose, Tinian, The Marianas

COMPETITIONS

Hot Pepper Eating Contest (Male & Female)

Estufao pika (spicy stew) cooking

JC Café Burger Eating

Cha-cha

Tug-of-war

Umang (hermit crab) race

Home-made canoe race

Sack Race

50K PIKA BIKE RACE

February 13 at 6:30 a.m.

Kammer Beach

To register, contact dawnsarmiento@yahoo.com
or 1.670.287.3667

FERRY SERVICE

Feb. 13 & 14, 2021

10 a.m. to Tinian, 8 p.m. to Saipan both days
\$40 R/T or \$20 one way for ages 3 and older;
free for ages 0-2

Cash payment only at MVA Office, Saipan
Limited seating; first-come, first served

For more information:

MVA Saipan 1.670.664.3200 MVA Tinian 1.670.433.9365 Tinian Mayor's Office 1.670.433.1802 info@mymarianas.com

FB @MyMarianas Instagram/YouTube @TheMarianas www.mymarianas.com



EXTRA FLIGHTS, FERRY FOR TINIAN HOT PEPPER FEST

Star Marianas Air, in cooperation with the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) and Tinian Mayor's Office, will extend its normal hours of operation during the 17th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 13-14, 2021. In addition, limited ferry service will also be available.

On Feb. 12-14, Star Marianas scheduled flights will be extended by four hours, with the last flights leaving Tinian at 9:30 p.m. Flights will leave Saipan hourly at the top of the hour (starting at 8 a.m.) and leave Tinian at the bottom of the hour (starting at 8:30 a.m.).

The ferry is available on Feb. 13 and Feb. 14, departing Saipan at 10 a.m. and departing Tinian at 8 p.m. on both days. The Super Emerald ferry will depart from the Commonwealth Ports Authority dock in Lower Base, Saipan. Passengers must check in one hour before departure. Departure time is prompt but may change based on ocean conditions. Ferry round trip cost is \$40 for ages 3 and older. For one way, the cost is \$20 for ages 3 and older. The ferry is free for children ages 0-2. Advance ticket purchase is required and will be accommodated on a first come, first served basis. Ticket purchases may be made at the MVA Office in Saipan. Cash payments only will be accepted. Due to capacity restrictions, Pika 50K Bike Race participants only with proof of registration will have a reserved ferry to Tinian on Feb. 12.

The festival will be held from 4-11 p.m. on both days. The Pika 50K Bike Race at 6:30 a.m. on Feb. 13, funded by the Tinian Mayor's Office, with cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in several categories. Bikers may contact Dawn Sarmiento at dawnsarmiento@yahoo.com or 1.670.287.3667 to register.

The festival, affectionately known as "Pika Fest" among locals ("pika" means spicy), pays homage to Tinian's small but famous "donne sali" hot pepper. Activities will include food sales, live entertainment, competitions, arts and crafts sales, and more. The 18th Tinian Municipal Council will co-sponsor prizes for the male and female categories of the crowd-favorite hot pepper eating contest. Other competitions will include "estafao pika" (spicy stew) cooking, cha-cha, tug-of-war, "umang" (hermit crab) race, sack race, and a home-made canoe race.

For more information, contact Tinian Field Operations Supervisor Vida Borja at 1.670.433.9365 or e-mail at vborja@mymarianas.com or MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas at 1.670.664.3200 or email mduenas@mymarianas.com.



PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2022 SEEKS CEO



The organizing committee for the Pacific Mini Games 2022 is accepting applications for a chief executive officer to oversee the management of the games, scheduled for June 2022 in the Northern Marianas.

Twenty-four countries and territories throughout the Pacific have been invited to participate in the Pacific Mini Games, a multi-sport event governed by the Pacific Games Council as a scaled-down version of the Pacific Games, held every alternating four years.

The CEO will work closely with the chairman, sub-committee chairpersons, and other stakeholders and must be an experienced and competent individual who will lead decision-making toward the preparation and completion of the Games. Organizational awareness, problem solving, networking, project management, communication and service delivery are key competencies for this role. The salary scale is \$60,000-\$80,000, and a college degree in finance disciplines or business management is recommended.

At this time, an estimated 400-600 athletes are anticipated to participate in six events at the games: athletics, badminton, baseball, golf, beach volleyball, and triathlon. For more information, contact the 2022 Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee at marianassports@gmail.com.

TINIAN HOT PEPPER FESTIVAL FUN AND SAFE



The 17th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival was held on Feb. 13 14, 2021, highlighting the success of The Marianas in preventing the spread of the coronavirus through strong policies and community cooperation. The annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA), organized with the Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan, pushed through with a favorable turnout enjoying all the food, fun, and festivities associated with the festival within the parameters of enhancing public safety measures.

Event sponsors and donors included the CNMI Office of the Governor, 18th Tinian Municipal Council, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp, CNMI COVID-19 Task Force, Tinian Fishermen's Association, JC Café, Bikers Association of Tinian, Dept. of Public Safety and Boating Safety, Dept. of Fire Emergency & Medical Services, KKMP, and Capt. Cecilio Raiukiulipiy.



THANK YOU!
SI YU'US MA'ASE!
OLOMWAAY!
STAY SAFE
MARIANAS!



MARIANAS
VISITORS AUTHORITY

www.mymarianas.com

