

What should I do if my kids are at school or daycare?

Fact Sheet: Stay calm. Stay put. Stay informed.

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE JOINT INFORMATION CENTER (JIC). **PLEASE CALL YOUR SCHOOL/DAYCARE TO UPDATE YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION.**



School staff are trained to respond to emergencies

Teachers and staff have detailed plans and will carry them out before, during and after an emergency. They are trained to deal with students in different emergencies. Teachers will maintain calm and structure in the school setting.

School buildings are safe

All schools are built strong and meet regulatory building standards. Regulatory agencies routinely visit the schools to make sure they are safe. Schools often are used as emergency shelters for the community because they are so safe.

More information

Information before, during and after any emergency is available at ghs.guam.gov, through island news sources or by calling 475-9600.

Information about schools will be distributed through these methods.

Proceed with these easy first steps:

Stay calm. Use common sense.

The best action you can take is staying calm. Staying calm gives you the chance to think and use common sense to choose the best option for your family.

Listen to the news. Do not call the school.

Calling the school may slow down emergency operations and make it difficult for officials to communicate directly with school staff. Stay informed through the radio, news or online sources including Facebook and Twitter. The most current information will be provided through Guam Homeland Security.

Be patient.

Do not pick up your children. You and your children need to be off of the roads and in safe locations as soon as possible. Your children are safer in school than they are on the road. The safest course for them will be to remain at school until the all-clear is given.

Wait until you are told to pick up your child.

When the all-clear is given by the Joint Information Center, follow instructions regarding how to pick up your student from their school location. **Remember that schools have emergency cards that identify who can pick up your child.** Do not send someone to the school who is not listed on the emergency card as school staff will not release the student into their custody.

If your child has questions

Answer their questions as truthfully as possible and discuss the situation as a family so everyone has a chance to process what has happened.

Know what to do

Shelter in place

Stay informed

- Listen to island news sources, visit ghs.guam.gov or call 475-9600 for the latest. Keep a radio with you at all times.

Stay where you are

If you are at home and told to shelter in place

- Close and lock all windows and doors going outside. Shut your typhoon shutters if you have time.
- If you are told there is danger of explosion, close the window shades, blinds, or curtains.
- Turn off all fans and air conditioning systems.
- Get your family kit and a working battery-powered radio.
- Go to an interior room without windows.
- Bring your pets with you. Be sure to bring additional food and water supplies for them.
- Keep a phone with you at all times, preferably a landline.
- Use duct tape and plastic sheeting (heavier than food wrap) to seal all cracks around the door and any vents into the room.
- Keep listening to your radio or TV until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate.

If you are at work and told to shelter in place

- Close the business. Bring everyone inside. Shut and lock doors to the outside. Close and lock all the windows. If you are told there is danger of explosion, close the window shades, blinds, or curtains.
- If there are customers, clients, or visitors in the building, ask them to stay – not leave.
- Select a room, with the fewest windows or vents. The room(s) should have adequate space for everyone to sit in. Pick several rooms if necessary. Large storage closets, utility rooms, pantries, copy and conference rooms without exterior windows will work well. Avoid selecting a room with mechanical equipment like ventilation blowers or pipes, because this equipment may not be able to be sealed from the outdoors.
- Ask employees, customers, clients, and visitors to call their emergency contact to let them know where they are and that they are safe.
- If the business has voice mail, change the recording to indicate that the business is closed, and that staff and visitors will be in the building until authorities advise it is safe to leave.
- Have employees familiar with your building's mechanical systems turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning systems.

What is Shelter In Place?

- Sheltering in place is an easy way to keep people safe during an emergency situation.
- Shelter-in-place means going to a small, interior room, with no or few windows during the emergency.
- It **does not** mean sealing off your entire home or office building.

Why you may need to shelter in place?

- Shelter in place is the best way to protect people during emergency situations that might include chemical, biological, or radiological contaminants in the environment.
- Make sure all family members know where the shelter room is and what it is for.
- Keep your emergency kit and supplies in the designated room.

How to seal your windows

