Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report

Palau Ministry of Health - External Situation Report

18 July 2020 - 09:00 PWT

GLOBAL SITUATION OVERVIEW

The Ministry of Health (MOH) is closely monitoring an ongoing pandemic of a coronavirus disease which is affecting over 180 countries globally. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on January 30, 2020, designated its official name as Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on February 11, 2020, and characterized it as a *pandemic* on March 12, 2020.

As of July 18, 2020:

- At least **14,037,021* confirmed cases** of COVID-19 globally, including **314***** in **Guam, 37** in the **Northern Mariana Is. (CNMI), 1,337** cases in **Hawaii, 62** in **French Polynesia, 22** in **New Caledonia, 26** in **Fiji,** and **15** in **Papua New Guinea.**
- **253,495**** confirmed cases within the **Western Pacific Region**.
- **600,665* deaths** reported globally – **7,866**** deaths in the **Western Pacific Region**, **5***** deaths on **Guam, 23** in **Hawaii, 2** in **CNMI.**
- **7,818,409*** people have **recovered** from COVID-19 globally.

JHU CSSE COVID-19 Dashboard/WHO COVID-19 Situation Report No. 179***Guam Homeland Security*

PALAU READINESS AND RESPONSE

As of July 18, 2020:

- **There are <u>NO SUSPECTED</u> or <u>CONFIRMED CASES</u> of COVID-19 in Palau.**
- MOH Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activated on Jan. 22, 2020 to implement preparedness and response measures to minimize the risk of importation and potential local transmission of COVID-19 to Palau.
- <u>BNH ventilators:</u> **30** total capacity, **5** portable vent, **2** pediatric vent, **18** adult vents (**0** in use), **5** in calibration.
- <u>COVID-19 Isolation & Quarantine:</u> **27** in quarantine facility, **0** in self-quarantine, **0** in BNH isolation, **0** in alternative care and isolation site.
- <u>COVID-19 Testing (since Apr. 14)</u>**:** **906** tests conducted, **0** total positive, **906** total negative, **0** pending results.
- **COVID-19 testing ongoing based on priority groups including persons meeting COVID-19 case definition, symptomatic patients, first responders and front-line workers, and quarantined inbound travelers.**
- Alternative Care Site (ACS) is currently being prepared to receive and care for positive cases.
- **MOH 24-hour COVID-19 Hotline** activated for public inquiries: **+680-488-0555.**
- Health screening continues at Palau International Airport for chartered and private aircrafts; health screening at Malakal seaport continues for incoming vessels. Screening data:
  - <u>Past 24 hours:</u> **0** flight screened, **0** travelers; **0** vessel screened, **0** travelers; **0** secondary screening.
  - <u>Since Jan. 23:</u> **173** flights screened, **15,266** travelers; **57** vessels screened, **1,750** travelers; **424** secondary screening.
- **All commercial air travel to Palau is temporary suspended as of Mar. 26 until further notice as airlines temporarily halt services. Air mail and cargo service continues on a weekly basis through chartered services.**
- MOH issued a *Certification of an Unavoidable Public Health Emergency* for COVID-19 on Mar. 17, 2020.
- **MOH issued Directive No. 170-20 on July 7, 2020 re-authorizing isolation and quarantine measures for COVID-19.**
- The public is urged not to panic and to continue practicing public health measures to prevent respiratory infections:
  - **Hand Hygiene: Frequent handwashing with soap and water or hand rub with 70% alcohol-based sanitizer.**
  - **Respiratory Etiquettes: Cover cough and sneeze with clean tissue or shirt sleeve.**
  - **Avoid close contact with sick people and stay away from others if you are sick. Call your doctor or hospital for advise.**
  - **Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces/objects.**