Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report

Palau Ministry of Health - External Situation Report

23 September 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 September 23, 2020:

- At least **31,453,048* confirmed cases** of COVID-19 globally, including **2,190***** in **Guam, 69** in the **Northern Mariana Is. (CNMI), 11,522** cases in **Hawaii, 1,394** in **French Polynesia, 26** in **New Caledonia, 32** in **Fiji,** and **517** in **Papua New Guinea.**
- **585,899**** confirmed cases within the **Western Pacific Region**.
- **967,347* deaths** reported globally – **12,758**** deaths in the **Western Pacific Region**, **37***** deaths on **Guam, 120** in **Hawaii, 2** in **CNMI, 2** in **French Polynesia, 2** in **Fiji, 7** in **Papua New Guinea.**
- **21,583,667*** people have **recovered** from COVID-19 globally.

JHU CSSE COVID-19 Dashboard/WHO COVID-19 Situation Report No. 229***Guam Homeland Security*

PALAU READINESS AND RESPONSE

As of September 23, 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> **53** 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>**:** **2,138** tests conducted, **0** total positive, **2,138** 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 48 hours:</u> **1** flight screened, **7** travelers; **2** vessel screened, **43** travelers; **7** secondary screening.
  - <u>Since Jan. 23:</u> **183** flights screened, **15,407** travelers; **74** vessels screened, **2,198** travelers; **644** secondary screening.
- **Executive Order No. 442 signed on July 31, 2020 re-establishing essential air services to and from Palau, beginning no later than September 1, 2020. Regular commercial air travel remain temporary suspended until further notice. Air mail and cargo service continues on a weekly basis through chartered services.**
- **School year 2020-2021 commenced on Aug. 3 with opening of public schools, private schools to follow.**
- 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.**

More information can be obtained by calling MOH EOC Liaison - Verna Kyota +680 775-4665.