



Republic of Palau
Office of the President

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President

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EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 437

Directing the urgent cooperation of all government agencies with efforts to prevent and prepare for the entry of 2019 Novel Coronavirus; extending the travel restrictions established by EO 436

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic has yet to enter the Republic of Palau, which has not identified a single case to date; and

WHEREAS, the continuing absence of COVID-19 in the Republic is due to the dedicated efforts of our Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, and National Emergency Committee; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19, which was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, People's Republic of China in December of 2019, has now spread to many of the world's largest economies and tourism source markets; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of COVID-19 patients recover, but the total number of infections continues to grow and many of the Republic's closest neighbors, including Guam and the Republic of the Philippines, have now identified multiple cases; and

WHEREAS, the success of the Republic's COVID-19 prevention and mitigation efforts have bought us time to prepare for the likely arrival of this now-global disease; and

WHEREAS, the Minister of Health has certified the global outbreak of COVID-19 as an unavoidable emergency, pursuant to 34 PNC § 332 (a)(3), permitting ready access to the Hospital Trust Fund for continuing prevention and preparation efforts; and

WHEREAS, this funding will support our continuing effort to prevent the entry of COVID-19 to the Republic, and to prepare for any such entry that may occur in the future; and

WHEREAS, these ongoing efforts to prevent and prepare for the entry of COVID-19 require the full and urgent cooperation of all government agencies;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me pursuant to the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Palau, I hereby order as follows:

1. Access to Hospital Trust Fund. The Ministry of Finance shall ensure smooth and timely access to authorized funding sources, including the Hospital Trust Fund established pursuant to 34 PNC § 332, for 2019 Novel Coronavirus prevention, preparation, screening, containment, mitigation, and treatment efforts. The Ministry of Health shall submit monthly reports to the President and to the Presiding Officers of the Olbiil Era Kelulau detailing all emergency expenditures from the Hospital Trust Fund.



2. Cooperation with Screening, Prevention, and Quarantine. All Ministries, agencies, and private sector partners are called to focus their efforts to prevent the entry of COVID-19 into the Republic. All government manpower and resources shall be prioritized to implement prevention, preparation, screening, containment, mitigation, and treatment efforts led by the Ministry of Health and National Emergency Committee. The Ministry of Health or National Emergency Committee may request the assistance of any government employee; requested employees shall be transferred or temporarily assigned, as appropriate, to provide the requested assistance.

3. Coordination of Emergency Measures. The National Emergency Committee, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, shall coordinate government prevention and preparation measures. Strategies for response and recovery shall be developed for all government agencies, with a focus on ensuring the health and safety of our communities, and especially of our vulnerable populations including first responders, the aged, and individuals with pre-existing health conditions.

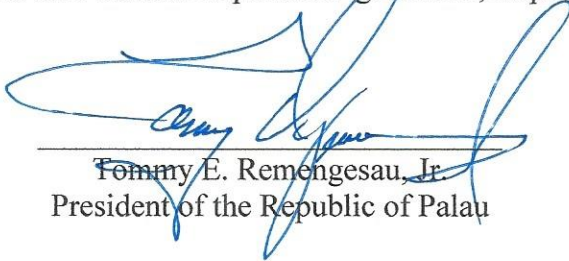
4. Preparation of Schools and Public Buildings. The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries, and Commerce shall take appropriate steps to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools, public buildings, and transportation facilities, as advised by the Ministry of Health and National Emergency Committee.

5. Extension of Travel Restrictions and Requirements of EO 436. Any person, including a crew member, a Palauan citizen, or a Palau resident, arriving into Palau at any point of entry is required to complete a health declaration form. The Minister of Public Infrastructure, Industries, and Commerce shall maintain temporary flight suspensions from Hong Kong, Macau, and mainland China to the Republic of Palau until April 30, 2020.

The Minister shall continue to prohibit the entry of all travelers with travel history originating from or transiting through mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macau within 14 days of their arrival in the Republic of Palau. Exemption may be made to this prohibition for Palauan citizens and residents, provided that such persons submit to a comprehensive health screening and agree to a 14-day self-quarantine upon arrival in Palau.

The Minister shall continue to restrict the entry of cruise ships into any Palau port until April 30, 2020. No cruise ship shall be allowed to enter unless the captain submits satisfactory proof that the vessel has not called in any COVID-19 effected area, and that none of its passengers originated from or transited through an effected area within 14 days of boarding the vessel.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 17 day of March, 2020 at the National Capitol in Ngerulmud, Republic of Palau.


Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau