March 20, 2020
MCCA 20-03-20

MEMORANDUM

TO: OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
   OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF CHIEFS
   OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
   ALL MINISTRIES
   SENATE, 10TH OLBIIIL ERA KELULAU
   HOUSE OF DELEGATES, 10TH OLBIIIL ERA KELULAU
   ALL GOVERNORS
   JUDICIARY OFFICE
   SEMI GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
   BANGO
   MEDIA

FROM: MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

RE: MCCA RESPONSE - COVID-19

Please find attached, the Ministry of Community & Cultural Affairs Response to COVID-19. This is per the direction of the National Emergency Committee and the Ministry of Health Directive No. 60-20: Certification of Unavoidable Public Health Emergency.

Thank you and if you need more information, please contact our Director Melson Miko of the Bureau of Youth, Applied Arts and Career at 488-2626 or 488-2530.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Baklai Temengil
Minister

Attachment: MCCA Directive 01-20

Vision Statement
The Ministry of Community & Cultural Affairs is widely recognized for preserving, protecting, maintaining, and promoting Palau’s Traditional and Cultural Heritage.
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
EFFECTIVE MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020
MCCA CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESPONSE
MCCA DIRECTIVE NO. 01-20

At the direction of the National Emergency Committee and the Ministry of Health Directive No. 60-20: Certification of Unavoidable Public Health Emergency, all public services through the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs shall apply the following preventive measures and contingency plans as we work together in our response to the threat of COVID-19.

Aging Services & Senior Citizens Center Closure (March 23, 2020)

1. The Senior Citizens Center in Koror will be closed for Senior Citizens daily activities beginning Monday, March 23, 2020 until further notice to the public via radio and media. This preventive measure is to limit the risk of infection of the elderly.
2. All Elderly/Senior Citizens are encouraged to stay home and avoid attending any large gatherings of fifty (50) people or more (e.g., parties, meetings, social gatherings, cultural and sporting events, and other type of assemblies).
3. Avoid contacts with anyone sick and apply the following PREVENTIVE MEASURES AT HOME AND AT ANY PUBLIC PLACE
4. The same preventive measures applies to anyone who has a serious underlying medical condition (diabetic, asthma, heart decease, cancer, etc)

   • Wash your hands often.
   • Avoid close contact (6 feet, which is about two arm lengths) with people who are sick.
   • Put distance between yourself and other people if COVID-19 is spreading in your community.
   • Clean and disinfect frequently touched services.
   • Avoid all cruise travel and non-essential air travel.
   • Call your healthcare professional if you have concerns about COVID-19 and your underlying condition or if you are sick. Emergency Number is 488-0555
   • Maintain healthy habits, like eating well, getting enough sleep and managing your stress levels, in order to keep your immune system as strong as it can be.
   • If you develop COVID-19 symptoms such as fever, cough and shortness of breath, call Emergency 911.

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Aging Office (488-2575) & Services During Closure from March 23, 2020

To support and to limit the risk of infection of the elderly, the Aging Office will provide the following support services, during the closure of Senior Citizens Center:

1. Food delivery for homebound elderly will continue
2. Transportation services for emergency only - not more than 2 people
3. Aging services will facilitate medication refill for elderly clients
4. Immediate medical attention can be facilitated through the assistance of Aging services
5. Contact numbers are 488-2575 and 488-2165

Palau Severely Disabled Assistance Fund Services and Program

In order to limit risk of the infection to our clients with disability receiving assistance through the Palau Severely Disability Assistance Fund Services and their care takers, the following preventive measures will take place starting, March 23, 2020.

1. Checks for clients will be distributed the last Thursday and Friday of each Month from 9am to 4pm.
2. Checks will be distributed one client at a time to authorized person only
3. Distribution venue will implement appropriate preventive measures for clients & care takers
4. Person authorized to pick up checks, are asked to apply preventive measures as follows to reduce risk of infection to you, the client, and family members.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Regularly, clean all surfaces that are touched often, like counters, tabletops, & doorknobs
- Avoid having any unnecessary visitors. Avoid large gatherings.
- Call your healthcare professional if you have concerns about COVID-19 and your underlying condition or if you are sick. Emergency Number is 488-0555
- Maintain healthy habits, like eating well, getting enough sleep and managing your stress levels, in order to keep your immune system as strong as it can be.
- If you develop COVID-19 symptoms such as fever, cough and shortness of breath, call Emergency 911.

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Youth Services and Preventive Measures (Youth Office 488-2626)

To prevent and limit possible infections to youth and young people, all youth activities, such as meetings, events, workshops will be postponed until further notice. The Job Corps Services will be CLOSED TO PUBLIC until further notice.

POSTPONED - Effective March 21, 2020 - All Organized and Scheduled Sports Events and Activities at any National Sports Facilities are Postponed Until Further Notice Including all clubs/groups PROGRAM at Track and Field. Please apply all preventive measures (PNOC Office 488-6562)

- Public Announcements & Sign boards on preventive measures to be placed at sports facilities
- **SICK - IF YOU ARE SICK, PLEASE DO NOT GO TO ANY SPORTS FACILITY**
- All sports facilities Users and spectators asked to APPLY PREVENTIVE MEASURES

**To avoid exposure to the virus, it’s recommended that you**

- Be as healthy as you can be. Eat a balanced diet, get plenty of rest and exercise daily
- Avoid contact with people who are sick. Avoid travel that isn’t essential, especially on airplanes.
- Avoid gatherings and going to crowded spaces where you’ll be in close contact with others.
- If you do need to go out, avoid doing so during peak hours and keep space between you and others, if possible.
- Wash your hands often using soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you’ve been in a public place. If soap and water aren’t available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Keep your hands away from your eyes, nose and mouth, as this is how germs get into your body.
- Avoid shaking hands with people and touching high-traffic surfaces in public places, such as elevator buttons, door handles and shopping cart handles. Use a tissue or your sleeve to cover your hand if you must touch these surfaces.
- Make sure others in your household, or anyone you are regularly in close contact with, follow these same precautions. According to the CDC, infection can spread before someone develops symptoms (if they develop them at all), so someone could pass the virus on to you before they even know they are infected.
- Routinely disinfect surfaces in your workplace and home, such as doorknobs, faucet handles, countertops and cell phones.
- Maintain healthy habits, like eating well, getting enough sleep and managing your stress levels, in order to keep your immune system as strong as it can be.

If you develop COVID-19 symptoms such as fever, cough and shortness of breath, call Emergency Room.

*Note: Older adults & people of any age with certain serious underlying medical conditions like lung disease, heart disease, or diabetes are at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness and should seek care as soon as symptoms start.*

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**Historical Preservation (HPO) Services at Capitol (Tel: 6767-1126)**
All Historical Services and HPO application process hours at the Capitol Office will be from 10am to 11am, and 2pm to 3pm daily beginning Monday, March 23, 2020.

**Archive Office Research at Capitol Tel: 654-4720**
Archive office visits for research will be closed to the public until further notice beginning Monday, March 23, 2020. Requests can be done online to mcca@palaunet.com or archives@palaunet.com

Thank you everyone for your patience, your support, and your help with awareness, education and to practice all the necessary preventive measures as part of our cooperation and response to the threat of COVID-19.

Your full cooperation and partnership is greatly appreciated and a key for all of us to realize a Palau FREE of COVID-19.

For any information regarding MCCA and our partners services, please do not hesitate to contact the following Directors and their respective Offices.

Contacts: Bureau of Youth, Applied Arts and Career Director Melson Miko 488-2626/2530, Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation Director Sunny Ngirmang 767-1126/2452, Bureau of Aging, Disability and Gender Director Klouldil Singeo 488-2575/2165, Belau National Museum Director Pia Morei 488-2841, Palau NOC Office Manager Marcy Andrew 488-6562/4367 and MCCA Minister Baklai Temengil 775-6222.

Sincerely,

J. Baklai Temengil Chilton
Minister
Ministry of Community & Cultural Affairs

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