



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report

Palau Ministry of Health - External Situation Report

4 April 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 170 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 April 4, 2020:

- At least **1,097,909*** confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, including **84** in **Guam**, **8** in the **Northern Mariana Is. (CNMI)**, **319** cases in **Hawaii**, **39** in **French Polynesia**, **18** in **New Caledonia**, **7** in **Fiji**, and **1** in **Papua New Guinea**.
- **108,930**** confirmed cases within the **Western Pacific Region**.
- **59,131*** deaths reported globally – **3,760**** deaths in the **Western Pacific Region**, **4** deaths on **Guam**, **3** in **Hawaii**, **1** in **CNMI**.
- **225,942*** people have **recovered** from COVID-19 globally.

JHU CSSE COVID-19 Dashboard/WHO COVID-19 Situation Report No. 74*

PALAU READINESS AND RESPONSE

As of April 4, 2020:

- There are **NO SUSPECTED** or **CONFIRMED CASES** 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.
- Belau National Hospital (BNH) to reduce non-essential services and clinics and is prepared to receive and care for critically ill suspected cases.
- Alternative Care Site (ACS) is currently being prepared to receive and care for critically ill suspected cases.
- **MOH 24-hour Hotline** activated for public inquiries **+680-488-0555**. MOH continues to relay credible and timely information to stakeholders and relevant information to the public.
- **Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing equipment and COVID-19 test kits arrived on Apr. 1. On-island testing will be available within 2-3 weeks after equipment installation, calibration, and MOH personnel training is completed.**
- Health screening continues at Palau International Airport for Caroline Is. Air*, chartered and private aircrafts; health screening at Malakal seaport continues for incoming vessels. Screening data:
 - **Past 24 hours:** 0 flights screened, 0 travelers; 0 vessels screened, 0 travelers; 0 secondary screening.
 - **Since Jan. 23:** 167 flights screened, 15,169 travelers; 35 vessels screened, 1,291 travelers; 327 secondary screening.
- **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.**
- Executive Order No. 437 signed on Mar. 17, 2020 urging the collaboration of all government agencies in the COVID-19 response and extends existing travel restrictions until April 30, 2020.
- MOH issued a *Certification of an Unavoidable Public Health Emergency* for COVID-19 on Mar. 17, 2020, which mandates the scaling-up of clinical and public health response measures, and calls for a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach to the COVID-19 pandemic threat.
- **Ministry of Education issued directive on Mar. 31 to extend school closures until Apr. 17, 2020 to allow for further preparations for potential COVID-19 cases.**
- 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 warm water or hand rub with 70% alcohol-based sanitizer.
Respiratory etiquettes: Cover cough and sneeze with clean tissue or shirt sleeve.

**Caroline Island Airlines weekly service remains (Yap-Palau)*

More information about the MOH COVID-19 response can be obtained by calling MOH EOC Liaison
Gaafar Uherbelau +680 775-1310.