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 April 9, 2020:
● At least 1,511,104* confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, including 121 in Guam, 11 in the Northern Mariana Is. (CNMI), 410 cases in Hawaii, 51 in French Polynesia, 18 in New Caledonia, 15 in Fiji, and 2 in Papua New Guinea.
● 114,667** confirmed cases within the Western Pacific Region.
● 88,338* deaths reported globally – 3,922** deaths in the Western Pacific Region, 4 deaths on Guam, 5 in Hawaii, 2 in CNMI.
● 328,661* people have recovered from COVID-19 globally.

PALAU READINESS AND RESPONSE
As of April 9, 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) has reduced non-essential services and clinics and is prepared to receive and care for critically ill suspected cases.
● BNH ventilators: 0 in use, 5 available on-hand, 13 currently being procured, 18 total expected capacity.
● Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing equipment and COVID-19 test kits arrived on Apr. 1. On-island testing will be available within 2 weeks after equipment installation, calibration, and MOH personnel training is completed.
● Alternative Care Site (ACS) is currently being prepared to receive and care for critically ill suspected cases.
● Health screening continues at Palau International Airport for 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.
● All commercial air travel to Palau is temporarily 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.
● 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 water or hand rub with 70% alcohol-based sanitizer.
  - Respiratory Etiquettes: Cover cough and sneeze with clean tissue or shirt sleeve.
  - Social Distancing: Avoid close contact with others (at least 6 feet) and stay home if you are sick.

*JHU CSSE COVID-19 Dashboard/**WHO COVID-19 Situation Report No. 79

More information can be obtained by calling MOH EOC Liaison - Gaafar Uherbelau +680 775-1310.