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 13, 2020:
- At least 1,844,410* confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, including 133 in Guam, 11 in the Northern Mariana Is. (CNMI), 499 cases in Hawaii, 53 in French Polynesia, 18 in New Caledonia, 16 in Fiji, and 2 in Papua New Guinea.
- 120,116** confirmed cases within the Western Pacific Region.
- 113,948* deaths reported globally – 4,058** deaths in the Western Pacific Region, 5 deaths on Guam, 9 in Hawaii, 2 in CNMI.
- 421,497* people have recovered from COVID-19 globally.

PALAU READINESS AND RESPONSE

As of April 13, 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, 8 available on-hand, 10 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 1-2 weeks after equipment installation, calibration, and MOH personnel training is completed. Biosafety cabinet for laboratory testing and additional ventilators arrived on Apr. 9 via ship.
- 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.
- All 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.
- MOH has conducted COVID-19 briefings with non-profit organizations including Palau Chamber of Commerce.
- 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.

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