



*Republic of Palau*

# Ministry of Health

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## MINISTRY OF HEALTH

### DIRECTIVE NO. 90-20

#### **AUTHORIZING ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE MEASURES TO CONTROL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)**

**WHEREAS**, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that was first identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019, and that occurs through human-to-human respiratory transmission and presents symptoms that are similar with influenza; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 presents a major threat to public health in the Republic, and is particularly dangerous to the elderly or those with respiratory or other underlying medical conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, as of April 3, 2020, there are over 1,000,000 confirmed cases globally, including confirmed cases in every jurisdiction with direct air or sea transportation to the Republic; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) reports widespread transmission of COVID-19 in Guam, Japan, the Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of the Philippines, the State of Hawaii, and the United States of America generally, indicating that each of these regions is an area of high incidence of COVID-19. The CDC currently advises against non-essential travel to any of these regions, and recommends 14-day quarantine for any person travelling from any of these regions; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on February 11, 2020, and further characterized it as a Pandemic on March 12, 2020. The WHO and CDC recommend that all countries and territories implement aggressive measures to prevent and control the transmission of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minister of Health has certified the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as an unavoidable emergency in the Republic, channeling all efforts toward establishing adequate testing protocols, and appropriate facilities for isolation and quarantine of effected persons;

**NOW THEREFORE**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Minister of Health of the Republic of Palau and after consultation with the National Emergency Committee (NEC), I hereby authorize Isolation and Quarantine pursuant to 34 PNC § 102(m) and 34 PNC § 701 and the Ministry of Health Rules & Regulations for Isolation and Quarantine of Contagious Diseases to control the spread of COVID-19, as follows:

**Section 1. Isolation.** The isolation persons infected by COVID-19 is hereby authorized as follows:

- Any person proven or strongly suspected to be infected by COVID-19 shall be isolated for a period of at least 14 days; and
- Infection may be proven or strongly suspected based on a presumptive test result, a confirmatory test result, or the exhibition of known COVID-19 symptoms.

**Section 2. Quarantine.** The quarantine of persons exposed to COVID-19 is hereby authorized as follows:

- Any person who has been exposed to COVID-19 shall be quarantined for a period of at least 14 days;
- Any person arriving into the Republic from any international jurisdiction including Guam, Japan, the Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of the Philippines, the State of Hawaii, or the United States of America generally, shall be considered to have been exposed to COVID-19 and quarantined for a period of at least 14 days;
- Any person who has had direct contact with a person infected by COVID-19 shall be considered to have been exposed to COVID-19 and quarantined for a period of at least 14 days;
- Any person who has had indirect contact with COVID-19, such as contact with potentially contaminated surfaces, may be considered to have been exposed to COVID-19 and quarantined for an appropriate period; and
- Any person who has had indirect contact with a person who has been exposed to COVID-19 may be considered to have been exposed to COVID-19 and quarantined for an appropriate period.

**Section 3. Isolation Facilities.**

- The Alternate Care Site (ACS) at Kalau Gym in Meyuns, Koror shall be the primary Isolation and care Facility for non-critical infected persons; and
- The isolation rooms of Belau National Hospital shall be reserved for infected persons in need of critical care.

**Section 4. Quarantine Facilities.**

- The Ministry of Health (MOH) or the NEC shall identify appropriate and adequate facilities, either public or private property, to be designated as Quarantine Facilities for exposed persons; and
- If any quarantined person is found to be infected, that person shall be promptly relocated to an appropriate isolation facility.

**Section 5. Delegation of Authority.**

- Pursuant to 34 PNC § 101 and Section 4.8 of the MOH Rules & Regulations for Isolation and Quarantine of Contagious Diseases, Authority to order the isolation or quarantine of persons found to be infected or exposed within the Republic of Palau or upon arrival into the Republic either by sea or at the Palau International Airport, is hereby delegated to the Director of the Bureau of Public Health Services.

**Section 6. Exemptions.**

- No exemptions to the isolation or quarantine requirements of this directive may be made, except by the Minister and in writing. The Minister may issue exemptions on an individual, case-by-case basis, only based on an articulable medical justification.

**Section 7. Term.**

- Unless cancelled, revoked or re-issued, this directive shall remain in effect for 90 days from the date of issuance.

Issued this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April 2020 at the Ministry of Health in Koror, Republic of Palau.



Emais Roberts, MD, FACS  
Minister of Health