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 May 8, 2020:
● At least 3,836,215* confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, including 151*** in Guam, 15 in the Northern Mariana Is. (CNMI), 629 cases in Hawaii, 60 in French Polynesia, 18 in New Caledonia, 18 in Fiji, and 8 in Papua New Guinea.
● 156,184** confirmed cases within the Western Pacific Region.
● 268,999* deaths reported globally – 6,361** deaths in the Western Pacific Region, 5*** deaths on Guam, 17 in Hawaii, 2 in CNMI.
● 1,278,449* people have recovered from COVID-19 globally.

PALAU READINESS AND RESPONSE
As of May 8, 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: 2* in use, 12 available on-hand, 5 currently on order, 19 total expected capacity.
● On-island PCR testing for COVID-19 commenced on Apr. 14 for targeted priority groups including frontline workers (providers and first-responders).
● COVID-19 testing (since Apr. 14): 487 tests conducted, 0 total positive, 487 total negative, 0 pending result.
● 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 vessel screened, 0 travelers; 0 secondary screening.
  ○ Since Jan. 23: 169 flights screened, 15,180 travelers; 43 vessels screened, 1,447 travelers; 338 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.
● Executive Order No. 440 signed on Apr. 29 2020 extending travel restrictions from Hong Kong, Macau and Mainland China to the Republic of Palau until June 30, 2020.
● Ministry of Education issued directive on Apr. 15 extending school closures until end of school year (May 15) while mandating continued remote/online learning for students.
● 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.
  - Physical 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 - Komtil Ngirmang +680 775-3100.