



# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report

## Palau Ministry of Health - External Situation Report

17 May 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 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 17, 2020:

- At least **4,629,575\*** confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, including **154\*\*\*** in **Guam**, **21** in the **Northern Mariana Is. (CNMI)**, **639** cases in **Hawaii**, **60** in **French Polynesia**, **18** in **New Caledonia**, **18** in **Fiji**, and **8** in **Papua New Guinea**.
- **166,721\*\*** confirmed cases within the **Western Pacific Region**.
- **311,425\*** deaths reported globally – **6,697\*\*** deaths in the **Western Pacific Region**, **5\*\*\*** deaths on **Guam**, **17** in **Hawaii**, **2** in **CNMI**.
- **1,691,613\*** people have **recovered** from COVID-19 globally.

*\*JHU CSSE COVID-19 Dashboard/\*\*WHO COVID-19 Situation Report No. 117\*\*\*Guam Homeland Security*

### PALAU READINESS AND RESPONSE

#### As of May 17, 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:** **1\*** in use, **13** 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):** **640** tests conducted, **0** total positive, **640** total negative, **0** pending results.
- Alternative Care Site (ACS) is currently being prepared to receive and care for critically ill suspected cases.
- **MOH 24-hour COVID-19 Hotline** activated for public inquiries: **+680-488-0555**.
- 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; **45** vessels screened, **1,494** 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.
- MOH issued a *Certification of an Unavoidable Public Health Emergency* for COVID-19 on Mar. 17, 2020.
- **MOH issued Directive No. 114-20 effective on May 15, 2020 authorizing resuming of clinics & services at Belau National Hospital and provision of adjusted Public Health Measures in Response to COVID-19.**
- 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.
  - **Avoid close contact with sick people and stay home if you are sick.**

*\*Non-respiratory cases*