GLOBAL SITUATION OVERVIEW

The Ministry of Health (MOH) is closely monitoring an ongoing pandemic of a coronavirus disease which is affecting over 170 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 March 24, 2020:

- At least **378,287* confirmed cases** of COVID-19 reported globally, including **56** cases in **Hawaii, 29** in **Guam, 23** in **French Polynesia, 8** in **New Caledonia, 3** in **Fiji,** and **1** in **Papua New Guinea.**
- **95,637**** confirmed cases within the **Western Pacific Region**.
- **16,497* deaths** reported globally – **3,473**** deaths in the **Western Pacific Region** and **1*** death reported on **Guam.**
- **100,958*** people have **recovered** from COVID-19 globally.

*Johns Hopkins CSSE COVID-19 Dashboard **WHO COVID-19 Situation Report No. 63

PALAU READINESS AND RESPONSE

As of March 24, 2020:

- **There are NO SUSPECTED 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) now prepared to receive and care for critically ill suspected cases.
- Alternative Care Site (ACS) is currently being prepared to receive and care for critically ill suspected cases.
- Health screening initiated on Jan. 23, 2020 at Palau International Airport and Malakal seaport to screen all visitors to Palau. All travelers must complete a health declaration form and are subject to health screening. Screening data:
  - Past 24 hours**:**   **0** flights screened, **0** travelers; **0** vessels screened, **0** travelers; **0*** secondary screening.
  - Since Jan. 23: **166** flights screened, **15,062** travelers; **32** vessels screened, **1,243** travelers; **222** secondary screening.
- **MOH 24-hour Hotline** activated for public inquiries: **+680-488-0555.** Risk communication efforts sustained by MOH to relay credible and timely information to stakeholders and relevant information to the public and will continue to provide updates as they become available.
- Health Alert for travellers re-issued by MOH on Feb. 24, 2020 recommends avoidance of non-essential travel to mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Japan and South Korea.
- Executive Order 436 signed on Feb. 13, 2020 extends existing travel restrictions until Mar. 31 ,2020 - temporary ban of direct flights and cruise ships originating from or transiting through mainland China, Hong Kong, or Macau into Palau, as well as temporary ban of entry of foreign travelers from these areas in the past 14 days.
- **Executive Order 437 signed on Mar. 17, 2020 urging the collaboration of all government agencies in the COVID-19 response and extends existing travel restrictions until April 30, 2020.**
- **MOH issued a** *Certification of an Unavoidable Public Health Emergency* **for COVID-19 on Mar. 17, 2020, which mandates the scaling-up of clinical and public health response measures, and calls for a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach to the COVID-19 pandemic threat.**
- **Schools remain closed until Apr. 3, 2020 to allow preparations for potential COVID-19 cases.**
- The public is urged not to panic and to continue practicing public health measures to prevent respiratory infections: **Respiratory etiquettes: Cover cough and sneeze with clean tissue or shirt sleeve. Hand hygiene: Frequent handwashing with soap and warm water or hand rub with 70% alcohol-based sanitizer.**

*Referred to secondary screening for self-quarantine advisory.