



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report

Palau Ministry of Health - External Situation Report

16 April 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 April 16, 2020:

- At least **2,056,055*** confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, including **135** in **Guam**, **13** in the **Northern Mariana Is. (CNMI)**, **524** cases in **Hawaii**, **55** in **French Polynesia**, **18** in **New Caledonia**, **16** in **Fiji**, and **2** in **Papua New Guinea**.
- **124,204**** confirmed cases within the **Western Pacific Region**.
- **134,178*** deaths reported globally – **4,201**** deaths in the **Western Pacific Region**, **5** deaths on **Guam**, **9** in **Hawaii**, **2** in **CNMI**.
- **511,019*** people have **recovered** from COVID-19 globally.

JHU CSSE COVID-19 Dashboard/WHO COVID-19 Situation Report No. 86*

PALAU READINESS AND RESPONSE

As of April 16, 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, **11** available on-hand, **5** currently on order, **18** total expected capacity.
- **On-island PCR testing for COVID-19 commenced this week for targeted priority groups including frontline workers (providers and first-responders).**
- 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; **1** vessels screened, **24** travelers; **0** secondary screening.
 - **Since Jan. 23:** **167** flights screened, **15,169** travelers; **38** vessels screened, **1,354** travelers; **327** 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. 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.
- MOH has conducted COVID-19 briefings with non-profit organizations including the Rotary Club of Palau.
- **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.
 - **Social Distancing:** Avoid close contact with others (at least 6 feet) and stay home if you are sick.

**Non-respiratory cases*

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