



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report

Palau Ministry of Health - External Situation Report

31 July 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 July 31, 2020:

- At least **17,219,767*** confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, including **354***** in **Guam**, **42** in the **Northern Mariana Is. (CNMI)**, **1,989** cases in **Hawaii**, **62** in **French Polynesia**, **22** in **New Caledonia**, **27** in **Fiji**, and **63** in **Papua New Guinea**.
- **299,460**** confirmed cases within the **Western Pacific Region**.
- **671,009*** deaths reported globally – **8,291**** deaths in the **Western Pacific Region**, **5***** deaths on **Guam**, **26** in **Hawaii**, **2** in **CNMI**, **2** in **Papua New Guinea**.
- **10,078,853*** people have **recovered** from COVID-19 globally.

JHU CSSE COVID-19 Dashboard/WHO COVID-19 Situation Report No. 192***Guam Homeland Security*

PALAU READINESS AND RESPONSE

As of July 31, 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.
- **BNH ventilators**: **30** total capacity, **5** portable vent, **2** pediatric vent, **18** adult vents (**0** in use), **5** in calibration.
- **COVID-19 Isolation & Quarantine**: **203** in quarantine facility, **0** in self-quarantine, **0** in BNH isolation, **0** in alternative care and isolation site.
- **COVID-19 Testing (since Apr. 14)**: **1,210** tests conducted, **0** total positive, **1,210** total negative, **0** pending results.
- **COVID-19 testing ongoing based on priority groups including persons meeting COVID-19 case definition, symptomatic patients, first responders and front-line workers, and quarantined inbound travelers.**
- Alternative Care Site (ACS) is currently being prepared to receive and care for positive 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**: **1** flight screened, **81** travelers; **0** vessel screened, **0** travelers; **81** secondary screening.
 - **Since Jan. 23**: **174** flights screened, **15,347** travelers; **61** vessels screened, **1,934** travelers; **546** 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.**
- MOH issued a *Certification of an Unavoidable Public Health Emergency* for COVID-19 on Mar. 17, 2020.
- **MOH issued Directive No. 170-20 on July 7, 2020 re-authorizing isolation and quarantine measures for 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 away from others if you are sick. Call your doctor or hospital for advise.**
 - **Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces/objects.**