



*Republic of Palau*

# Ministry of Health

## EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

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## HEALTH ALERT: TO ALL TRAVELERS

### CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Issued: 24 February 2020

#### KEY POINTS:

- **Ministry of Health (MOH) recommends all travelers to avoid non-essential travel to mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Japan and South Korea.**
- There is an ongoing outbreak of the 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) that can be spread from person to person in mainland China and sustained person-to-person transmission in other countries including Japan and South Korea.
- **All flights and passenger vessels from mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macau to Palau are temporarily suspended. Foreign travelers from these areas are also temporarily banned from entry into Palau until March 31, 2020.**
- MOH continues to conduct health screening at airport and seaport for all incoming travelers.

The Ministry of Health is issuing this health alert for all travelers to avoid non-essential travel to mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Japan and South Korea, due to an ongoing outbreak of 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) that was first identified in Wuhan, China.

This alert expands on the initial MOH Health Alert for travelers, issued on January 30, 2020 to include Japan and South Korea. This comes after confirmation of sustained person-to-person transmission of the COVID-19 in both countries by the World Health Organization (WHO) and US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

MOH and border control agencies have been conducting health screening at Palau International Airport and Malakal seaport for all incoming travelers. All travelers are required to complete a health declaration form and undergo health screening upon arrival.

The COVID-19 is spread between people through the air by droplets, when coughing and sneezing, skin to skin contact, and physical contact with infected surfaces. Common symptoms include fever, runny nose, sore throat, coughing, and shortness of breath. Everyone is encouraged to practice proper hand-washing and coughing and sneezing etiquettes to avoid infection.

Anyone in Palau with travel history to mainland China, Hong Kong, or Macau within the past 14 days and develops COVID-19 symptoms is urged to contact the **Belau National Hospital (BNH) Emergency Room at 488-2558** to seek guidance for medical care.