



Ministry of Health & Human Services

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MHHS IDENTIFIES TWO PROBABLE COVID-19 CASES IN PALAU – PUBLIC ADVISED TO STAY CALM AND PRACTICE PREVENTIVE MEASURES

August 20, 2021

The Ministry of Health and Human Services (MHHS) is informing the public that two travelers who arrived on Palau on August 15, 2021 have been identified as probable cases of COVID-19. Both travelers had tested negative three (3) days prior to departure and are fully vaccinated. The travelers tested positive on their day 5 antigen tests and are undergoing confirmatory testing.

Per current COVID-19 isolation and quarantine protocols, the Bureau of Public Health has isolated the positive cases and has quarantined known close contacts, and initiated further contact tracing and monitoring of other potential close contacts.

We understand that many people are concerned they might have been in contact with the travelers, and may have contracted the virus. Public health workers will be contacting you if investigation reveals that you were in close contact with said travelers. However, if you were not in close contact with the individuals, your risk of infection is very low. Close contact means you were within 6 feet from the person for about 30 minutes without protection (i.e., mask), and especially indoors or crowded areas.

It is very important for all of us to continue to practice preventive measures including getting vaccinated, proper and frequent hand-washing, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing and wearing masks when appropriate, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces, staying away from others and calling the hospital for advice if you are sick.

MHHS will monitor the situation closely and update the public as new information becomes available. We continue to thank the community for its support and understanding as we all work together to protect one another through kindness and solidarity.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the MHHS Incident Commander, Ms. Ritter Udui (775-0084) or the Deputy Incident Commander, Mr. Gaafar Uherbelau (775-1310). For general information about COVID-19, contact the MHHS Hotline at 488-0555 during regularly scheduled hours.