



# Ministry of Health & Human Services

P.O. Box 6027 Koror, Republic of Palau 96940

Phone: (680) 488-2552/3 Fax: (680) 488-1211

E-mail: [administration@palahealth.org](mailto:administration@palahealth.org) Website: [www.palahealth.org](http://www.palahealth.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Ministry of Health and Human Services  
Public Information Officer  
Tel: +680-775-1138 Fax: +680-488-1211  
Email: [edolem.ikerdeu@palahealth.org](mailto:edolem.ikerdeu@palahealth.org)

### UPDATES ON TESTING, QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION IN PALAU

The Ministry of Health and Human Services (MHHS) informs the public of the following updates on testing, quarantine and isolation<sup>1</sup> in Palau:

- Six (6) MHHS employees participated in community testing on January 5 - 6, 2022 at the Health Resource Information Center, and all their results were negative.
- Case #9 (identified as positive of COVID-19 on December 27, 2021) and six (6) close contacts tested negative on their day 10 (January 6, 2022) in isolation/quarantine. They have been cleared and released from isolation and quarantine.
- Two travelers who were in quarantine to fulfill vaccination requirements tested negative on their day 14 (January 6, 2022). They have been cleared and released from quarantine.
- Seventy-one (71) travelers who arrived on January 3, 2022 received their day 4 tests on January 6, 2022. Two (2) of these travelers tested positive of COVID-19 (referred to as Case #17 and Case #18). These travelers have been placed in isolation and will undergo testing on days 5 and 10. Contact tracing and investigation revealed five (5) close contacts. These individuals have been placed in quarantine and will undergo testing on days 5 and 10.

MHHS will continue to monitor these situations and update the public as appropriate. You may be contacted if further investigation reveals that you have been in close contact with an infected person. Close contact means you were less than 6 feet away from an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

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<sup>1</sup> Positive cases and close contacts may have different periods of isolation and quarantine, and therefore will have different testing dates.

For reference, below is a summary of travel-related cases of COVID-19 as of December 27, 2021:

- Case #9 – Recovered
- Case #10 – Recovered, left the country
- Case #11 – Recovered, left the country
- Case #12 – Recovered, left the country
- Case #13 – In isolation
- Case #14 – In isolation
- Case #15 – In isolation
- Case #16 – In isolation
- Case #17 – In isolation
- Case #18 – In isolation

We appeal to the public, especially travelers on ROM, relatives and friends, and all establishments to take appropriate actions to minimize the potential spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases in the community.

- Get vaccinated (if you have not done so) or your booster when it is your turn
- Wash your hands frequently and properly
- Wear your mask as appropriate; dispose of masks properly
- Consider limiting large indoor gatherings and maintain physical distance (3-6 ft)
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Cover your coughs and sneezes, and throw away used tissues properly
- Stay home and away from others if you are sick and call the Hospital for advice

We thank all guests and residents for your support in all COVID-19 response activities.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the MHHS EOC Incident Commander Ms. Ritter Udui at 775-0084. For other COVID-19 related information, call the MHHS COVID-19 Hotline at 488-0555 during regular working hours.