



# Ministry of Health & Human Services

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **UPDATES ON COVID-19 TESTING, QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION IN PALAU: EIGHT (8) ADDITIONAL TRAVEL-RELATED CASES<sup>1</sup> OF COVID-19 IDENTIFIED – MHHS ISSUES DIRECTIVE 04-22**

The Ministry of Health and Human Services (MHHS) informs the public of the following updates on COVID-19 testing, quarantine and isolation in Palau:

- Contact tracing and investigation has revealed nine (9) close contacts for Case #19, who was identified positive on January 9, 2021. They have been placed in quarantine for 10 days and will undergo monitoring and further testing. Case #19 and close contacts are related to Case #14 (identified positive on January 3, 2022 during day 4 testing on ROM).
- One individual tested positive of COVID-19 today, January 10, 2022. This individual (now referred to as Case #21) has been placed in isolation for 10 days and will undergo further testing. Five (5) close contacts have been identified and placed under quarantine. Case #21 and close contacts are related to Case #14.
- Two symptomatic individuals (referred to as Case #22 and Case #23) tested positive of COVID-19 today, January 10, 2022. Initial contact tracing and investigation revealed four (4) close contacts – two (2) tested positive (referred to as Case #24 and Case #25) and two (2) tested negative. They have been placed in isolation and quarantine, respectively, and will undergo further testing and monitoring. Contact tracing and investigation is ongoing. These cases and contacts are related to Case #15 (identified positive on January 3, 2022 during day 4 testing on ROM).
- Fifty-three (53) travelers who arrived on January 7, 2022 received their day 4 tests today, January 10, 2022. Three (3) of these travelers (Case #26, Case #27, Case #28) tested positive of COVID-19. They have been placed in isolation and will undergo further testing and monitoring. Initial contact tracing and investigation has been initiated and ongoing.

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<sup>1</sup> All positive cases of COVID-19 in Palau remain travel-related.

MHHS will continue to monitor these situations and update the public as appropriate. You may be contacted if 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.

In light of these recent cases, MHHS has issued *Directive No. 04-22 - Belau National Hospital and Public Health Measures*. We urge everyone to take precautionary measures to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19 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 the public for its 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.