



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 Website: www.palahealth.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 8, 2021

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

THREE (3) TRAVELERS TEST POSITIVE OF COVID-19

Of the sixty-four (64) inbound travelers¹ who arrived on October 3, 2021, three (3) tested positive of COVID-19 on day 5 of testing. Additional tests including PCR GeneXpert and Abbot ID confirmed results. Per protocol, travelers were immediately placed in isolation and contact tracing and investigation of close contacts has already been initiated by the Bureau of Public Health personnel. You will be contacted if investigation reveals that you have been in close contact with said travelers. Close contact means you were within 6 feet from a person for at least a total of 15 minutes.

We understand the public's concerns, and we ask for understanding and cooperation as the Bureau of Public Health continues its work. MHHS will provide updates as more information becomes available.

The following actions should be taken to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in the community:

- Get vaccinated²
 - If you have not received your COVID-19 vaccine
 - Get your second dose if you missed it
 - Ask your doctor if you qualify for a third dose because you have a weakened immune system
- 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, throw away used tissues properly
- Stay home and away from others if you are sick and call the Hospital for advice

Once again, we thank the community for its support to 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 or the MHHS EOC Deputy Incident Commander, Mr. Gaafar Uherbelau at 775-1310. For other COVID-19 related information, call the MHHS COVID-19 Hotline at 488-0555 during regular working hours.

¹ All 64 travelers had tested negative on day 1.

² COVID-19 vaccination is open on all the Fridays in October (8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th), 2pm – 6pm at the National Gym.