



Ministry of Health & Human Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TWO TRAVELERS TEST POSITIVE OF COVID-19

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

- Seventy-eight (78) in-bound travelers who arrived on December 24, 2021 received their day 4 tests on December 27, 2021. Seventy-six (76) of these seventy-eight (78) travelers tested negative of COVID-19 and have been cleared of all ROM and testing requirements.
- Two (2) of these travelers tested positive of COVID-19. Per protocol, identified positive cases are placed in isolation for a duration of 10 days, and will be tested again on days 5 and 10.
- Contact tracing and investigation of close contacts have 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 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 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. For other COVID-19 related information, call the MHHS COVID-19 Hotline at 488-0555 during regular working hours.