



Republic of Palau

Ministry of Health and Human Services **EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER**

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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MHHS UPDATES – TROPICAL STORM RAI RECOVERY

December 15, 2021 - 11:00AM

The Ministry of Health and Human Services (MHHS) is informing the public of the following updates following the Tropical Storm Condition 4 announcement by NEC:

- The BNH Emergency Room remains open for emergencies.
- All routine clinics and services at the Belau National Hospital including Out-Patient Department (OPD), dental clinic, elective surgeries, and visiting hours will resume normal operations tomorrow, Thursday, December 16, 2021.
- All travel related COVID-19 testing including outbound testing for the December 16 United flight and Day 5 testing for travelers who arrived on United on December 12 will proceed as scheduled.
- COVID-19 vaccination at the National Gym POD shall proceed as scheduled starting tomorrow, Thursday December 16.

MHHS also encourages the public to take the following steps to prevent illness and injury during storm recovery efforts:

1. **Wash your hands with soap and water.** Practice proper hand washing to prevent spread of bacteria and infections. Use soap and running water or hand sanitizer.
2. **Have coolers with ice on hand** to keep refrigerated food cold while the power is out.
3. **Do not eat foods that are bulging, damaged, expired or spoiled.** Throw away food including canned, frozen, or thawed food that has an unusual odor, color, or texture.
4. **Consume safe water.** If bottled drinking water is unavailable, make sure to boil water for at least one (1) minute before consumption.
5. **Avoid drinking alcohol.** Drinking alcohol during typhoon recovery will decrease reaction time and ability to make important decisions and may result with unintended injuries.

6. **Prevent spread of diseases.** Empty out plant containers, remove old tires, and turn over anything that could collect water to stop the breeding of mosquitoes. Use insect repellent and discard trash and food scraps properly to minimize rodent infestation. Keep kitchen and bathroom areas clean and disinfected to prevent the risk of diarrhea.
7. **Beware of electrical and fire hazards.** NEVER touch a fallen power line. Report fallen power lines if possible. Avoid contact with overhead power lines during cleanup and other activities. If electrical circuits and equipment are wet or are in or near water, turn off the power at the main breaker or fuse on the service panel. Do not turn the power back on until electrical equipment has been inspected by PPUC. Do not burn candles near flammable items or leave the candle unattended. If possible, use flashlights or other battery-operated lights instead of candles.
8. **Stay informed.** Tune in to the radio to stay informed of the latest information regarding health and safety during the typhoon recovery.

For more information about disease and injury prevention during storm recovery, contact the Division of Environmental Health (DEH) at 488-6073/6045.