



Republic of Palau

Ministry of Health

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

phone: (680) 488-2552 or 2553 fax: (680) 488-1211

email: administration@palauhealth.org website: www.palauhealth.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

June 11, 2021

The Ministry of Health (MOH) is informing the public that test results from a traveler who arrived on Palau end of May came back positive for COVID-19. Traveler had submitted negative test results and proof of vaccination prior to arrival, and placed on restriction of movement (ROM) for 7 days upon arrival. Test results (GeneXpert RT-PCR) on day 7 came back positive for COVID-19. Per testing guidelines, supplementary tests (COBAS RT-PCR and Binax Ag) were conducted, which yielded negative results. This case is being treated as an imported, historical (past infection) case with very low to no risk of infection.

We understand that many people are concerned. Out of abundance of caution, every step is being taken to minimize any risk to our community, including the following, per protocol:

- Traveler has been isolated, and known close contacts tested and quarantined
- Further contact tracing and monitoring ongoing
- Public health workers will contact you if you were a close contact¹

The public is asked not to panic but take the following steps:

- Get vaccinated
- Apply proper and frequent hand-washing and respiratory etiquette
- Physically distance (3-6 feet) and wear masks when appropriate
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Stay away from others when sick, and call Hospital for advice

MOH continues to thank the community for its support and understanding.

If you need more information, please contact MOH Incident Commander, Ms. Ritter Udoi (775-0084) or the Deputy Incident Commander, Mr. Gaafar Uherbelau (775-1310). For general information about COVID-19, contact the MOH Hotline at 488-0555.

¹ Close contact means that you were within 6 feet from the person for about 30 minutes without protection (i.e., mask).