



Republic of Palau

Ministry of Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MOH CONFIRMS FIRST IMPORTED, HISTORICAL CASE OF COVID-19 IN PALAU – PUBLIC ADVISED TO STAY CALM AND PRACTICE PREVENTIVE MEASURES

May 31, 2021

The Ministry of Health (MOH) is informing the public that test results from a traveler who arrived on Palau earlier in May came back positive for COVID-19. Traveler had tested negative 72 hours prior to departure, and again on days 7 and 14 while in mandatory quarantine in Palau. After a week of self-monitoring, traveler tested positive on day 21. Further tests revealed that this is a historical (past infection) case of COVID-19, and it is not infectious.

Per protocol and out of abundance of caution, the Bureau of Public Health has isolated the traveler, quarantined known close contacts, and initiated further contact tracing and monitoring of other potential close contacts.

We understand that many people are concerned they might have been in contact with the traveler, and have contracted the virus. Public health workers will be contacting you if investigation reveals that you were in close contact with said traveler. However, if you were not in close contact with the individual, your risk of infection is very low. Close contact means you were within 6 feet from the person for about 30 minutes without protection (i.e., mask).

It is very important for all of us to continue to practice preventive measures including getting vaccinated, proper and frequent hand-washing, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing and wearing masks when appropriate, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces, staying away from others and calling the Hospital for advice if you are sick.

MOH continues to thank the community for its support and understanding as we all work together to protect one another through kindness and solidarity.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact MOH Incident Commander, Ms. Ritter Udui (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.