



Republic of Palau

Ministry of Health

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MOH ACTIVATES INVESTIGATION AFTER OUTBOUND TRAVELER TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 UPON ARRIVAL AT DESTINATION

September 18, 2020

On September 17, 2020 the Ministry of Health (MOH) activated investigation, contact tracing, and testing protocols after receiving communication from a local contractor that an employee traveling out of Palau earlier this week had tested positive of COVID-19 upon arrival at destination.

This individual had been residing and working in Palau since December 2019 and has no known contact with any confirmed COVID-19 case and has no recent travel history out of the country. After preliminary investigation, MOH tested known and potential contacts of the individual on September 17, 2020 and all results were negative. Furthermore, the Bureau of Public Health is communicating with the WHO International Health Regulations (IHR) Office to further investigate and identify details to inform additional measures that need to be taken. The Government has also requested that the individual be tested again to rule out the possibility of a false positive result.

MOH understands the public's concerns and would like to inform everyone that it is taking all actions to mitigate the situation and shall provide more information to the public as it becomes available.

While we have yet to identify a confirmed COVID-19 case in Palau, MOH continues to urge the public to practice preventive measures including proper and frequent handwashing, respiratory etiquette, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, isolating from others when sick and calling the Hospital for advice. These measures not only prevent COVID-19 but also other infectious diseases.

If you have any questions or need further information on quarantine or testing for COVID-19, please contact the MOH EOC Deputy Incident Commander/Liaison Officer, Mr. Gaafar Uherbelau at 775-1310.