



Ministry of Health & Human Services

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UPDATE – MHHS CONFIRMS TWO POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES IN PALAU – PUBLIC URGED TO STAY CALM AND PRACTICE PREVENTIVE MEASURES

August 21, 2021

The Ministry of Health and Human Services (MHHS) is informing the public that further testing confirms that the two travelers who arrived on Palau on August 15, 2021 are positive of COVID-19. The travelers and all known close contacts have been isolated and/or quarantined, and further contact tracing and monitoring is ongoing. All known close contacts have tested negative of COVID-19; however, per protocol, they remain in mandatory quarantine for at least ten (10) days before undergoing further testing.

We understand the public's concerns, and we ask for understanding and cooperation as the Bureau of Public Health continues its work. You will be contacted if investigation reveals that you have been in close contact with said individuals. Close contact means you were within 6 feet from a person for about 30 minutes without protection (i.e., mask) and especially indoors or crowded places.

Again, we urge everyone to remain calm and 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.

At this time, the MHHS Emergency Operations Center has been re-activated, and working with other agencies to monitor the situation closely and update the public as new information becomes available. We continue to thank the community for its support and understanding.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the MHHS Incident Commander, Ms. Ritter Udui (775-0084) or the Deputy Incident Commander/Liaison Officer, Mr. Gaafar Uherbelau at 775-1310.