GLOBAL SITUATION OVERVIEW
The Ministry of Health (MOH) is closely monitoring an ongoing pandemic of a coronavirus disease which is affecting over 170 countries globally. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on January 30, 2020, designated its official name as Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on February 11, 2020, and characterized it as a pandemic on March 12, 2020.

As of April 4, 2020:
- At least 1,097,909* confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, including 84 in Guam, 8 in the Northern Mariana Is. (CNMI), 319 cases in Hawaii, 39 in French Polynesia, 18 in New Caledonia, 7 in Fiji, and 1 in Papua New Guinea.
- 108,930** confirmed cases within the Western Pacific Region.
- 59,131* deaths reported globally – 3,760** deaths in the Western Pacific Region, 4 deaths on Guam, 3 in Hawaii, 1 in CNMI.
- 225,942* people have recovered from COVID-19 globally.

*JHU CSSE COVID-19 Dashboard/**WHO COVID-19 Situation Report No. 74

PALAU READINESS AND RESPONSE

As of April 4, 2020:
- There are NO SUSPECTED or CONFIRMED CASES of COVID-19 in Palau.
- MOH Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activated on Jan. 22, 2020 to implement preparedness and response measures to minimize the risk of importation and potential local transmission of COVID-19 to Palau.
- Belau National Hospital (BNH) to reduce non-essential services and clinics and is prepared to receive and care for critically ill suspected cases.
- Alternative Care Site (ACS) is currently being prepared to receive and care for critically ill suspected cases.
- MOH 24-hour Hotline activated for public inquiries +680-488-0555. MOH continues to relay credible and timely information to stakeholders and relevant information to the public.
- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing equipment and COVID-19 test kits arrived on Apr. 1. On-island testing will be available within 2-3 weeks after equipment installation, calibration, and MOH personnel training is completed.
- Health screening continues at Palau International Airport for Caroline Is. Air*, chartered and private aircrafts; health screening at Malakal seaport continues for incoming vessels. Screening data:
  - Past 24 hours: 0 flights screened, 0 travelers; 0 vessels screened, 0 travelers; 0 secondary screening.
  - Since Jan. 23: 167 flights screened, 15,169 travelers; 35 vessels screened, 1,291 travelers; 327 secondary screening.
- Commercial air travel to Palau is temporary suspended as of Mar. 26 until further notice as airlines temporarily halt services.* Air mail and cargo service continues on a weekly basis through chartered services.
- Ministry of Education issued directive on Mar. 31 to extend school closures until Apr. 17, 2020 to allow for further preparations for potential COVID-19 cases.
- The public is urged not to panic and to continue practicing public health measures to prevent respiratory infections:
  - Hand hygiene: Frequent handwashing with soap and warm water or hand rub with 70% alcohol-based sanitizer.
  - Respiratory etiquettes: Cover cough and sneeze with clean tissue or shirt sleeve.

*Caroline Island Airlines weekly service remains (Yap-Palau)

More information about the MOH COVID-19 response can be obtained by calling MOH EOC Liaison
Gaafar Uherbelau +680 775-1310.