



Republic of Palau

Ministry of Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Health Alert: Dengue Type 3 Outbreak

KEY POINTS:

1. **Dengue serotype 3 has been identified for the first time in Palau.**
2. **Follow the 3S of dengue prevention: 1. Search and Eliminate, 2. Self-protection measures, 3. Seek early consultation.**
3. **Seek medical attention if you experience symptoms of dengue fever:**
 - **Sudden high fever**
 - **Severe headache and backache**
 - **Chills**
 - **Body ache**
 - **Joint and muscle pain**
 - **Pain when moving your eyes**
 - **Loss of appetite**
 - **Vomiting**

The Ministry of Health is urging the public to practice the recommended 3S of dengue prevention due to an increase in cases of dengue in the country. Two cases are confirmed to have been infected with dengue virus serotype 3. These are the first documented cases of dengue type 3 in Palau's history.

Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne disease that is transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected female *Aedes* mosquito. These mosquitoes mostly bite during dawn and dusk and thrive in standing water. Symptoms range from mild flu-like illness to severe dengue fever, which is characterized by severe abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, and bleeding. People who have previously been infected with dengue may be at risk for severe dengue fever after infection with a different type of dengue.

Dengue prevention and control depends on effective vector control measures. Practice the 3S of dengue prevention to prevent the spread of dengue fever.

1. **Search and eliminate** mosquito breeding sites in and around your home. *Aedes* mosquitoes prefer to breed within or near places where humans live. Remove or empty containers of standing water to eliminate potential breeding sites for these mosquitoes. Common breeding sources include old tires, pet dish pans, flower pots and empty bottles.
2. **Self-protection measures** such as wearing clothing that covers your skin and using insect repellent on exposed skin can reduce your risk of infection. Ensure screens on doors and windows are intact.
3. **Seek early consultation** if you or a family member experience two or more of the above symptoms and think you may have dengue fever.

For more information on dengue fever, please contact:
Communicable Disease Unit at 488-2450.

For more information on the prevention of mosquito-borne diseases, please contact
Division of Environmental Health on 488-6073 or 488-6345.