On Friday, December 7, 2018, the Palau Ministry of Health alerted the public of an outbreak of dengue fever following the first ever laboratory confirmation of two cases with dengue serotype-3. In response to the outbreak, the Ministry of Health activated its emergency response team on December 7, 2018. The team has been tasked with raising community awareness of the outbreak and dengue prevention measures, conducting disease surveillance and reporting, strengthening environmental control measures, and ensuring adequate resources are available to combat the outbreak.

Between November 4 - 10, 2019, there were seven (7) new cases reported, including four (4) residents of Koror state residing in Ngerkebesang (2) and Ngerchemai (2). Of the eleven (11) cases of dengue reported so far in November six (6) were residents of Koror state, with a majority residing in Ngerkebesang (3) and Ngerchemai (2) hamlets.

The Communicable Disease Unit and the DEH Vector Control Program continue to investigate all reported cases of dengue fever and implement vector control measures.

The Palau Ministry of Health promotes the dengue 3S messages:

- Search and eliminate mosquito breeding sites.
- Self-protect by wearing insect repellent and ensuring a mosquito-free environment.
- Seek early consultation if you show severe signs or symptoms of dengue.

The majority of cases during this outbreak are Palauans followed by Bangladeshi, Filipino and Chinese nationals. The age group that is most affected is persons between 10 and 19 years old.

Dengue cases in Koror from November 4 - 10, 2019, n=4

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The next report for epi week 46 will be released on Tuesday, November 19, 2019.