On Friday, December 7, 2018, the Palau Ministry of Health alerted the public of a dengue outbreak. The team has been tasked with raising community awareness of the outbreak and implementing prevention measures, conducting disease surveillance and reporting, strengthening environmental control measures, and ensuring adequate resources are available to combat the outbreak. Between June 24 – June 30, 2019, there were 24 new cases reported. This brings the total from December 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 to 296 cases.

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The areas that are most affected include the most populated state of Koror and nearby states (Airai and Ngerulmud), however, there have been cases reported from 10 out of 16 states in Palau. Increased community efforts for vector control are needed to curb the spread of the virus, especially since summer vacation has begun for young residents (>19 years old) who represent the greatest proportion (41%) of dengue cases during this outbreak.

The dengue outbreak response team continues its efforts to increase community awareness on the dengue outbreak and the importance of community prevention measures through weekly radio talk shows at the national radio station, dissemination of print material about dengue prevention to the community and production of dengue prevention videos aimed at young adults.

Efforts are underway to increase community participation in vector control activities through partnership with state governments and other community organizations.

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

The Palau Ministry of Health’s community dengue prevention 3S message:

- 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 next report will be released on Tuesday, July 9, 2019.