On December 7, 2018, the Palau Ministry of Health alerted the public to the first laboratory confirmation of two imported cases of dengue infection in Palau. The team has been tasked with raising community awareness of dengue prevention measures and ensuring adequate resources are available to combat the outbreak.

Between September 9 – 15, 2019, there were 18 new cases reported. This includes 2 imported cases with travel history to Thailand. This brings the total from December 1, 2018 - September 15, 2019 to 604 cases. There have been 2 deaths attributed to dengue infection during this outbreak.

The incidence of dengue cases seems to be declining in the month of September. The majority of cases in September remain to be residents of Koror state, however the remainder of cases are from outlying states including Airai, Ngeremlengui, Ngardmau, Ng Wales and Ngau. There have been cases reported in 13 of the 16 states. During the last few weeks, two tourists with travel history to Bangkok, Thailand were diagnosed with dengue at a private clinic. The Ministry of Health took swift action to prevent further transmission and requested assistance from the Guam Public Health Laboratory for serotyping.

The Ministry of Health Dengue Response Team is continuing its efforts on increasing community participation in clean-up activities through partnership with state governments and other community organizations. Various activities during September, Palau’s National Preparedness Month, will promote dengue awareness and prevention including the preparedness parade and fair, roadside campaign, school outreach and state visits. The Team continues to provide updates on the dengue outbreak to the community through a weekly radio spot at the national radio station, dissemination of print material about dengue prevention to the community.

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 next report for epi week 38 will be released on Tuesday, September 24, 2019.