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. This poses a significant concern for public health as the whole population is potentially vulnerable to infection. 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 September 30 – October 6, 2019, there were 5 new cases reported. The brings the total from December 1, 2018 - October 6, 2019 to 634 cases. There have been 5 cases in October so far.

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### Outbreak Overview

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### Response Measures

The Ministry of Health Dengue Response Team focused efforts on increasing community participation in clean-up activities through partnership with state governments and other community organizations. The Team continues to provide updates on the dengue outbreak to the community through a weekly radio spot at the national radio station and 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 35 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 41 will be released on Tuesday, October 15, 2019.