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 1. 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 October 21 - 27, 2019, there were 3 new cases reported. This brings the total for the month of October 2019 to 36 and from December 1, 2018 - October 27, 2019 to 665 cases.

There have been two deaths attributed to dengue infection during this outbreak.

Outbreak Overview

- **Demographics**
  - Age range = 0 – 88 years
  - Mean age = 29 years
  - Median age = 24 years
  - The majority of cases during this outbreak have been Palauan.
  - Ethnicity: Palauan 562 (85%), Bangladeshi 57 (6%), Filipino 23 (3%), Chinese 17 (3%), Other 26 (4%)

- **Symptom Profile of Cases**
  - # of Cases with Each Symptom (Cases with available data = 340)
  - Fever
  - Chills
  - Headache
  - Body pain
  - Joint pain
  - Loss of appetite
  - Altered taste sensation
  - Nausea
  - Vomiting
  - Cough
  - Eye pain
  - Abdominal pain
  - Rash

- **Cases by State and Koror Hamlets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hamlet</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ngerchemai</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>Ngeraebereang</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>35</td>
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<td>Idil</td>
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<td>Iyebetek</td>
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<td>Ngiwal</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**: 665

- **Cases from: October 21 - 27, 2019, n=3**

- **Epi Curve**

- **Response Measures**
  - There were only three cases reported during the past week, including one tourist. The greatest burden of the outbreak remains to be on the most populous state of Koror, in particular Ngercheeva and Ngerchemai hamlets.
  - The Ministry of Health Dengue Response Team continues to promote efforts to increase community involvement in mosquito source reduction activities through partnerships with state governments and other community organizations. Outreach activities aim to promote the dengue prevention message in schools during this operational period.
  - 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 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 44 will be released on Tuesday, November 5, 2019.