Dengue 3 Outbreak, Palau, December 2018 – November 2019
Epi Week 44: October 28 – November 3, 2019

Outbreak Overview
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 October 28 – November 3, 2019, there were 12 new cases reported. This brings the total for the month of October 2019 to 44 and from December 1, 2018 – November 3, 2019 to 677 cases.

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

Demographics
The majority of cases during this outbreak have been Palauan.

Symptom Profile of Cases
A total of 44 cases of dengue were reported in October, representing a 32% decrease from the previous month. Twelve cases were reported during the past week, with half of cases residing in Ngerchebasang hamlet, four from lyebukel, Madalaii, Ngerbeched and Ngemirid and two tourists.

The Palau Ministry of Health Dengue Response Team continues to promote efforts to increase community involvement in mosquito source reduction activities through partnership with state governments and other community organizations. Outreach activities aim to promote the dengue prevention message in schools and the general community in advance of the upcoming holidays.

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 45 will be released on Tuesday, November 12, 2019.