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. A year after the declaration, the Ministry of Health continues to urge the public to practice prevention to control the spread of DENV-3. Over 700 cases of dengue have been recorded between December 3, 2018 and December 17, 2019, including 266 serotyped cases of DENV-3. No cases of other serotypes have been identified since the start of the current outbreak.

During the past week (January 13 - 19, 2020) there were ten (10) new cases reported. This brings the total number of cases for the month of January 2020 to 30 and from December 1, 2018 - January 19, 2020 to 797 cases. There have been two deaths officially attributed to dengue infection during this outbreak.

### 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: 670 (84%)
- Bangladesh: 47 (6%)
- Filipino: 26 (3%)
- Chinese: 22 (3%)
- Other: 32 (4%)

Total: 797

### Symptom Profile of Cases and Hospitalization

Most common symptoms reported among dengue fever cases are fever, chills, headache, body pain, joint pain and loss of appetite, typical of dengue infection.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Total # Cases</th>
<th>Hospitalizations (% of total cases)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2019</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>49 (35%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2019</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>38 (30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2019</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>23 (35%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2019</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>14 (32%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2019</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>18 (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2019</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>21 (36%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2020</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>12 (40%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Response

The 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 community partners. Targeted interventions are being planned for areas with high burden of disease during the current operational period. These include a dengue prevention and awareness campaign that is suited for school-age children who continue to comprise the largest proportion of dengue cases. During the past week, Bureau of Public Health staff conducted a school outreach to Meyuns Elementary School. Students learned a short contemporary Palauan song and dance that reinforces the 3S message.

The Team continues to provide updates on the dengue outbreak to the public through a weekly radio spot at the national radio station and dissemination of print material about dengue prevention to the greater 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 4 will be released on Tuesday, January 28, 2020.