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. The first two confirmed cases of dengue-3 were encountered at the Belau National Hospital on October 28 and November 11.

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 mosquito control measures, and ensuring adequate resources are available to combat the outbreak.

Between January 7 – January 13, 2019, there were 9 new cases identified. This brings the total from December 1, 2018 to January 13, 2019 to 57 cases.

The dengue outbreak response team is continuing efforts to increase community awareness of the dengue outbreak and prevention measures through:

- Radio talk shows
- Dissemination of print material about dengue prevention
- Partnership with schools, state governments, and community organizations to organize community clean-up efforts
- Development of dengue prevention videos for public consumption

The Communicable Disease Unit and the DEH Vector Control Program continue to respond to reported cases of dengue fever.

The Ministry of Health's community dengue prevention 3S message is to:

- Search and eliminate mosquito breeding sites.
- Self-protect by wearing insect repellent and ensuring a mosquito-free environment.
- Seek early consultation if you show signs or symptoms of dengue.

The next report will be released on Tuesday, January 22, 2019.

Contact:
Tmong Udui, Epidemiologist
epidemiologist@palauhealth.org