

Dengue 3 Outbreak, Palau, December 2018 – January 2019

Report Date: January 29, 2019



Outbreak Overview

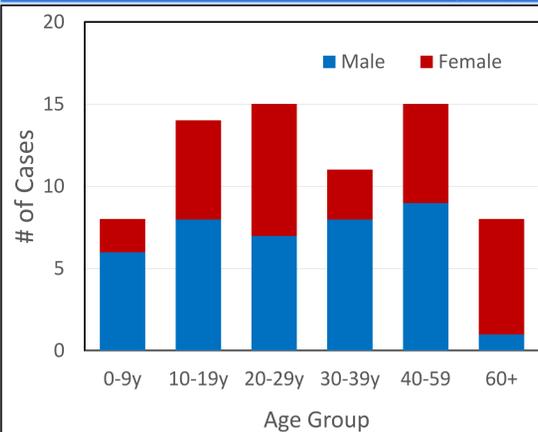
On Friday, December 7, 2018, the Palau Ministry of Health alerted the public of an outbreak of dengue fever following the first ever laboratory confirmation of two cases with dengue serotype-3. This poses a significant concern for public health as the whole population is potentially vulnerable to infection. 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 21 – January 27, 2019, there were 9 new cases identified. This brings the total from December 1, 2018 to January 27, 2019 to 71 cases.

There have been no deaths attributed to dengue infection during this outbreak.

Demographics

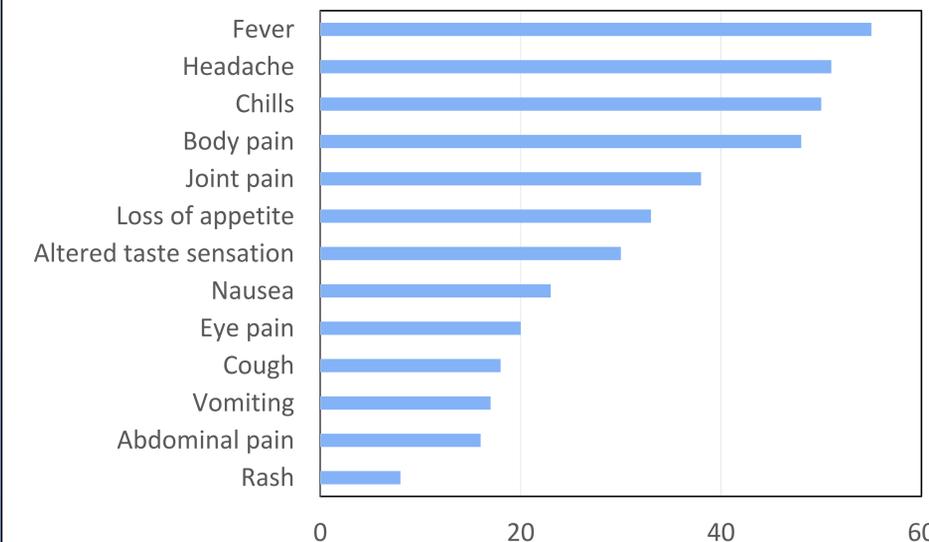


Age Range = 3 – 88 years
 Mean age = 32 years
 Median age = 28 years
 Male:Female ratio= 122
 The majority of cases during this outbreak have been Palauan.

Ethnicity	Count	Percent
Palauan	54	76.1%
Bangladeshi	8	11.3%
Chinese	4	5.6%
Filipino	2	2.8%
Other Asian	3	4.2%
TOTAL	71	

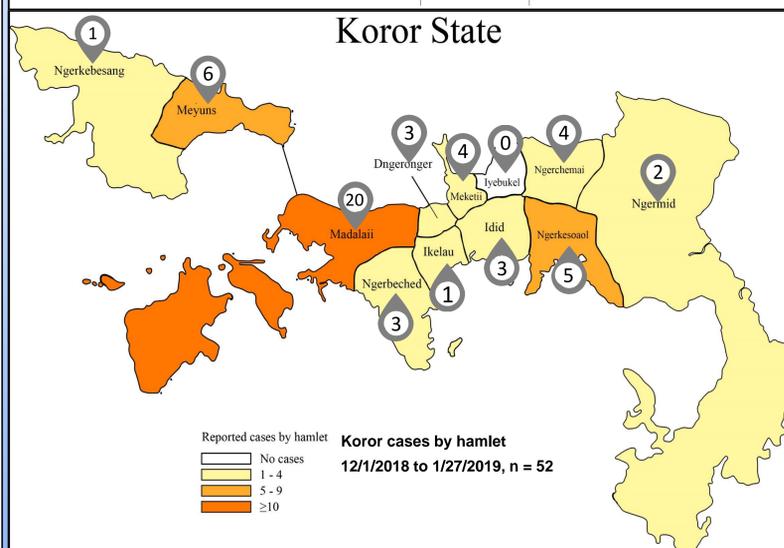
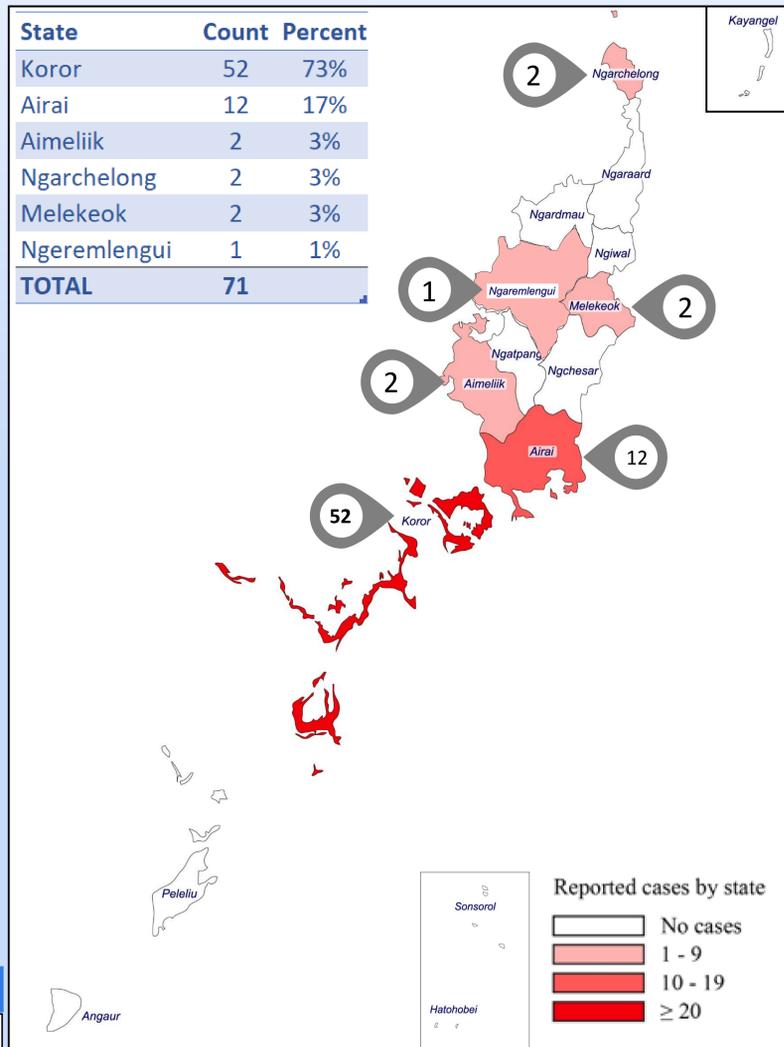
Symptom Profile of Cases

of Cases with Each Symptom (Cases with available data = 66)

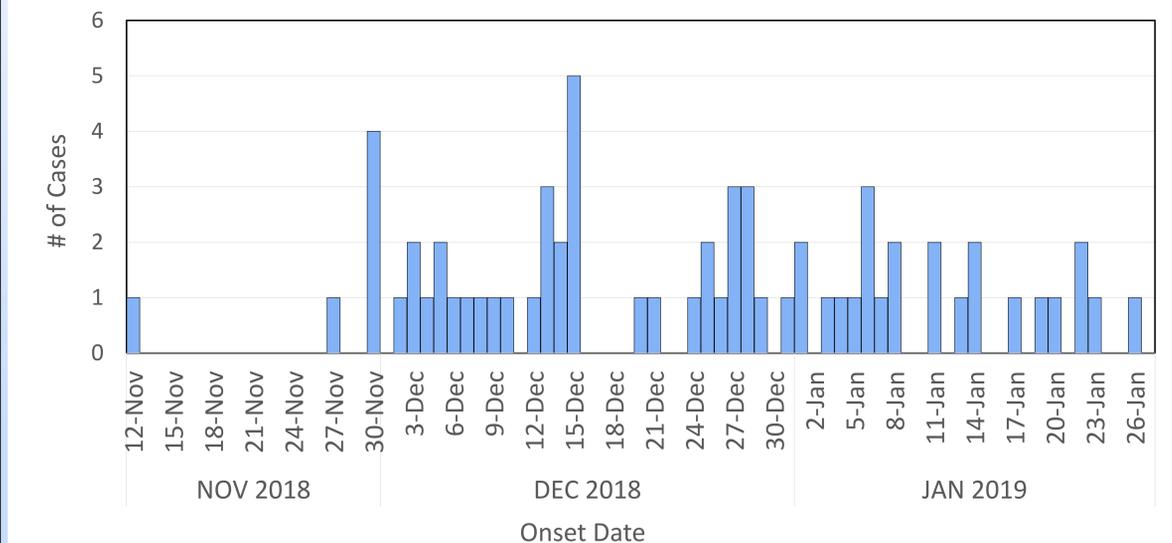


Cases by State and Koror Hamlets

State	Count	Percent
Koror	52	73%
Airai	12	17%
Aimeliik	2	3%
Ngarchelong	2	3%
Melekeok	2	3%
Ngeremlengui	1	1%
TOTAL	71	



Cases by Date of Onset of Symptoms



Lab Testing

- The Belau National Hospital (BNH) Laboratory and 3 private clinics on-island continue to screen symptomatic patients for dengue with a rapid diagnostic test kit.
- The BNH Lab continues to send serum specimens to Hawaii State Laboratory (HSL) for confirmation and serotyping.
- 8 specimens were sent to HSL on January 24, 2019.
- The last recorded cases of DENV-2 were in November of 2018. Since the beginning of the outbreak, there have been 33 confirmed cases of DENV-3.

Response Measures

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

- Weekly radio talk shows at the national radio station
- Dissemination of print material about dengue prevention to the community
- Development of dengue prevention videos for public consumption that target young adults
- Utilizing public forums to spread the prevention message: Ministry of Health representatives joined the Palau Red Cross Society and partners for a community outreach activity to Kayangel state on January 24, 2019 and attended a special meeting with Koror State Government leadership and traditional leaders to address the dengue outbreak.

Dr. Thane Hancock, Career Field Epidemiology Officer with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention gave two presentations on clinical case management of dengue fever to over 50 healthcare providers from the Belau National Hospital and private clinics and provided guidance to Palau's dengue outbreak response team. Dr. Hancock also distributed dengue case management pocket guides to healthcare providers. These pocket guides were donated by the U.S. CDC's dengue branch in Puerto Rico.

The Communicable Disease Unit and the DEH Vector Control Program continue to investigate reported cases of dengue fever and implement vector control measures.

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 severe signs or symptoms of dengue.

The next report will be released on Tuesday, February 5, 2019.

Hamlet	Count	Percent
Madal'aii	20	38.5%
Meyuns	6	11.5%
Ngerkesoool	5	9.6%
Ngerchemai	4	7.7%
Meketii	4	7.7%
Idid	3	5.8%
Dngeronger	3	5.8%
Ngermid	2	3.8%
Ngerbeched	3	5.8%
Ikelau	1	1.9%
Ngerkebesang	1	1.9%
TOTAL	52	