

Dengue 3 Outbreak, Palau, December 2019 – February 2020

10th Operational Period

2020 Epi Week 7: February 10 - 16, 2020

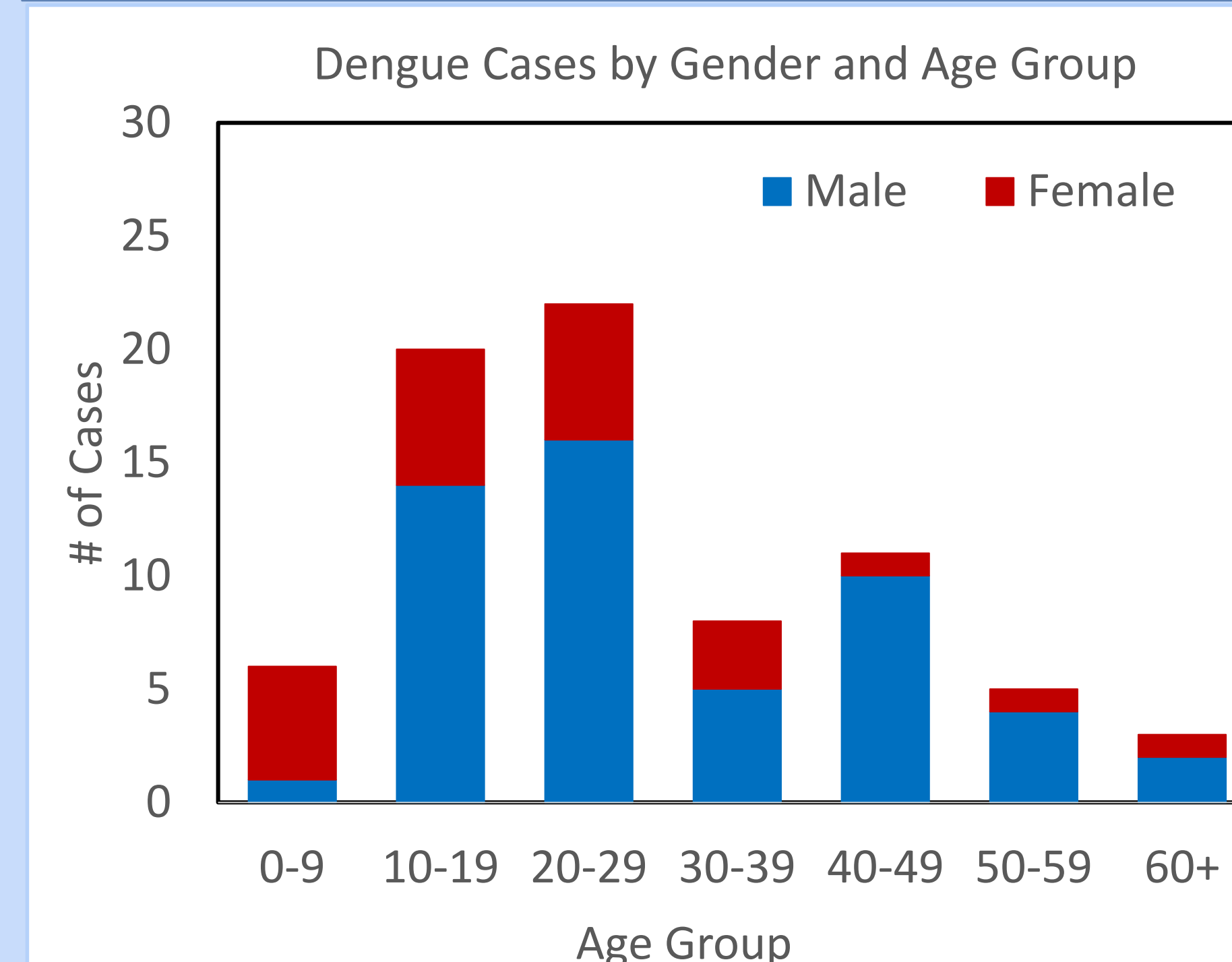


Outbreak Overview

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. 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 since December 3, 2018, including more than 286 serotyped cases of DENV-3. No cases of other serotypes have been identified since the start of the current outbreak.

The number of weekly reported cases shows a decreasing trend since the beginning of this year 2020. For the period of February 10-16, 2020, there were **four(4)** new cases reported in Koror. The cumulative number of cases since December 2018 is 812. During this period, majority of the reported cases were male across all age group except for age group 0-9.

Demographics



Age range = 1-69 years
 Mean age = 28 years
 Median age = 26 years
 Male:Female ratio= 226

Ethnicity	Count	%
Palauan	678	83%
Bangladeshi	50	6%
Filipino	28	3%
Chinese	22	3%
Other	34	4%
Total	812	

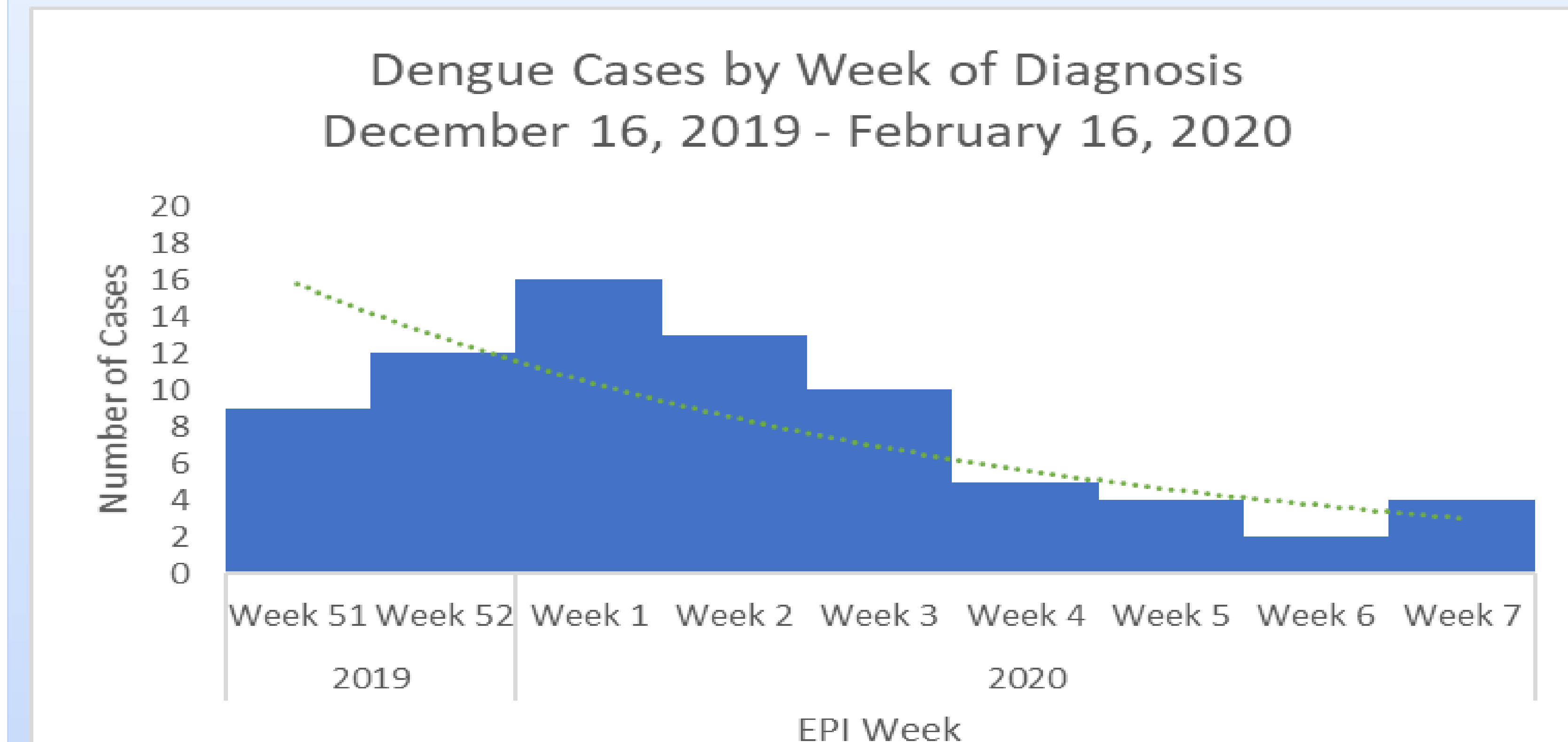
Symptom Profile of Cases & Hospitalization

Most common symptoms reported among dengue fever cases are fever, chills, headache, body pain, joint pain and loss of appetite, typical of dengue infection. Average number of hospital days is 5 (Min-2 and Max-8 days).

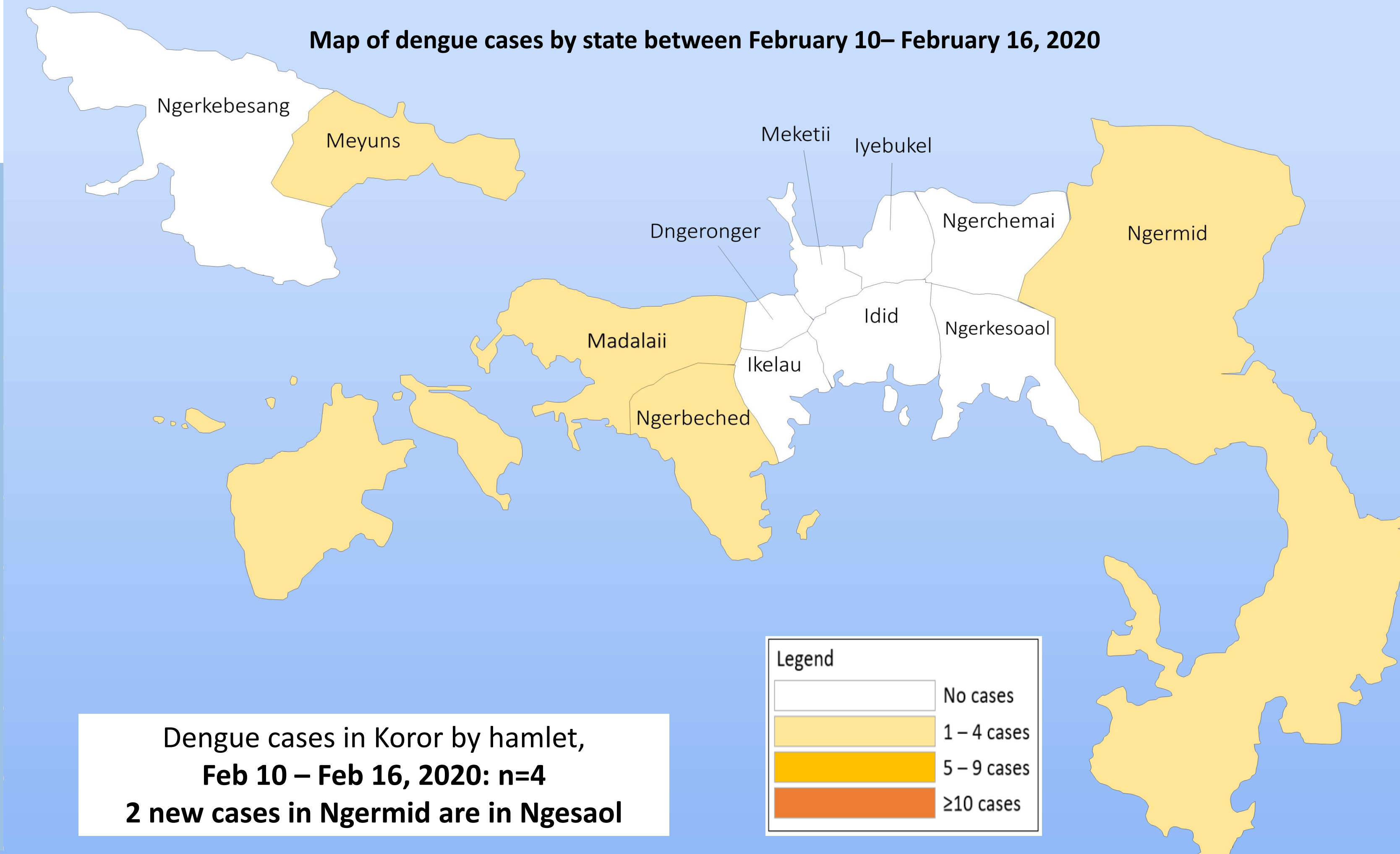
Hospitalizations

Month	Total # of Cases	(% of total cases)
Jul-19	141	49 (35%)
Aug-19	127	38 (30%)
Sep-19	65	23 (35%)
Oct-19	44	14 (32%)
Nov-19	36	18 (50%)
Dec-19	58	21 (36%)
Jan-20	39	18 (46%)
Feb-20	6	2 (33%)

Cases by State and Koror Hamlets

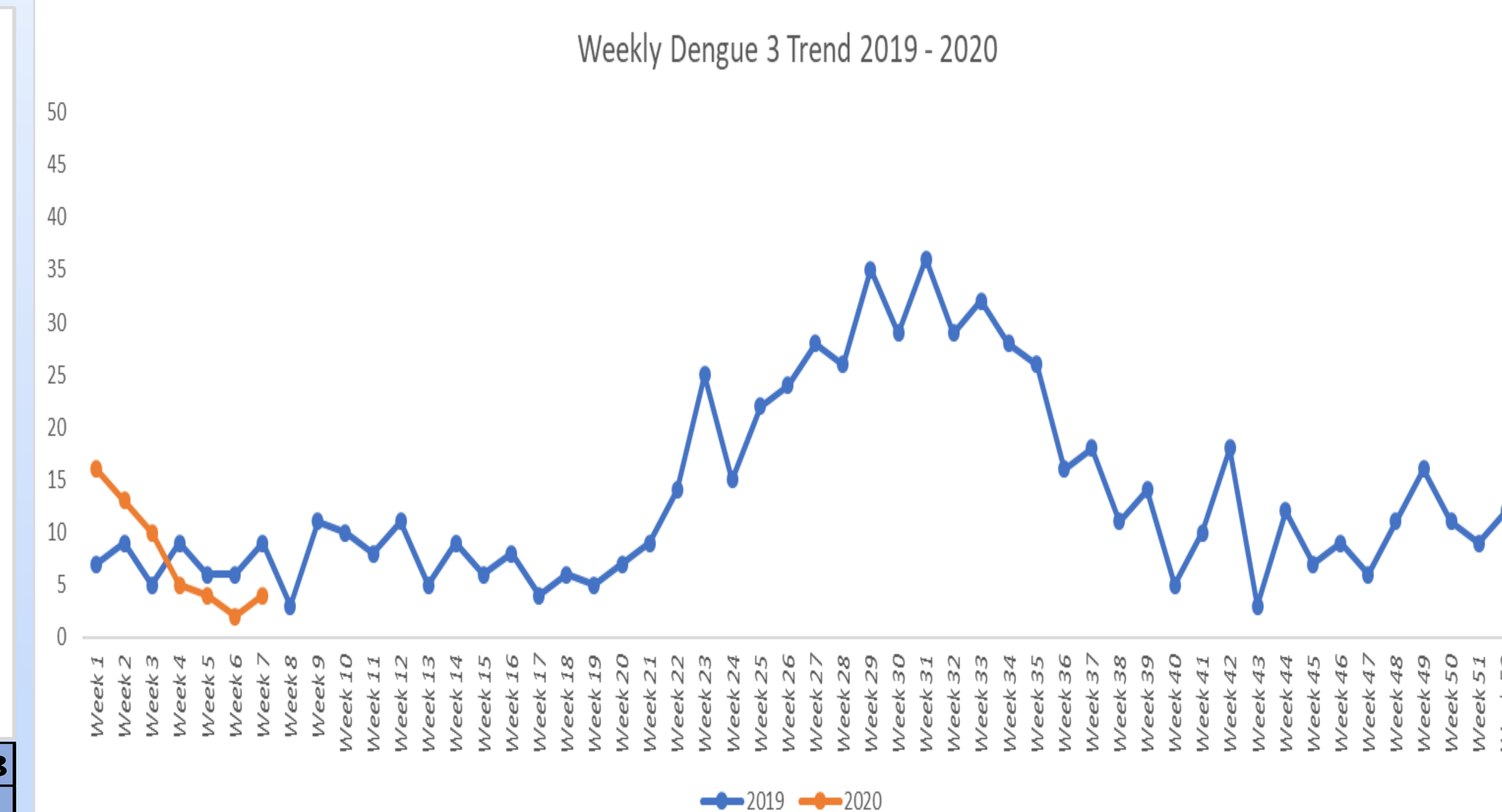


State	2020		Oct - Dec 2019			Total since Dec 2018	
	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	#	%
Koror	6	32	45	24	33	593	73%
Airai		3	3	3	5	69	8%
Aimeliik			2		1	33	4%
Melkeok						21	3%
Ngaremlengui				3		19	2%
Ngatpang			1			13	2%
Ngaraard		2	4		1	15	2%
Ngiwal		2	1	3	1	13	2%
Ngarchelong						8	1%
Peleliu			1			6	1%
Ngchesar						2	0%
Ngardmau						2	0%
Kayangal						1	0%
Tourist			1	2	3	10	1%
Pending				1		7	1%
Total	6	39	58	36	44	812	



Dengue cases in Koror by hamlet, Feb 10 – Feb 16, 2020: n=4
 2 new cases in Ngermid are in Ngesaol

Epi Curve



Lab Testing

- The Belau National Hospital Laboratory and laboratories at the three private clinics in Koror have the capacity to test symptomatic patients for dengue via a rapid diagnostic test kit, SD Bioline Dengue Duo (Dengue NS1Ag and IgG/IgM)
- Received 500 tests on 2/14/2020
- There have been 286 cases of DENV-3 confirmed by HSL. The last DENV-2 recorded in Palau were from November 2018.

Response Measures

During the past week, there were a total of four (4) reported cases of dengue. The four (4) cases were Koror residents from the following hamlets: **Ngermid (2), Meyuns (1), Madalaih (1)**.

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.

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 8, will be released on Tuesday, February 25, 2020.