Dengue 3 Outbreak, Palau, December 2019 – February 2020
10th Operational Period
2020 Epi Week 9: February 24 – March 01, 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 24 to March 1, 2020, there were two (2) new cases reported in Koror, bringing up the total number of cases in Koror for the month of February to twelve (12) and one (1) in the month of March. The cumulative number of cases since December 2018 is 819. During this period, majority of the reported cases were male across all age group except for age group 0-9.

Demographics
Age range = 1-89 years
Mean age = 29 years
Median age = 26 years
Male:Female ratio = 242
Prevalence Rate = 4.5/

Ethnicity Count %
Palauan 683 83%
Bangladeshi 51 6%
Filipino 28 3%
Chinese 22 3%
Other 35 4%
Total 819

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).

Response Measures
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 35 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 10, will be released on Tuesday, March 10, 2020.