

Dengue 3 Outbreak, Palau, December 2019 – February 2020

10th Operational Period

2020 Epi Week 10: March 02, – March 08, 2020

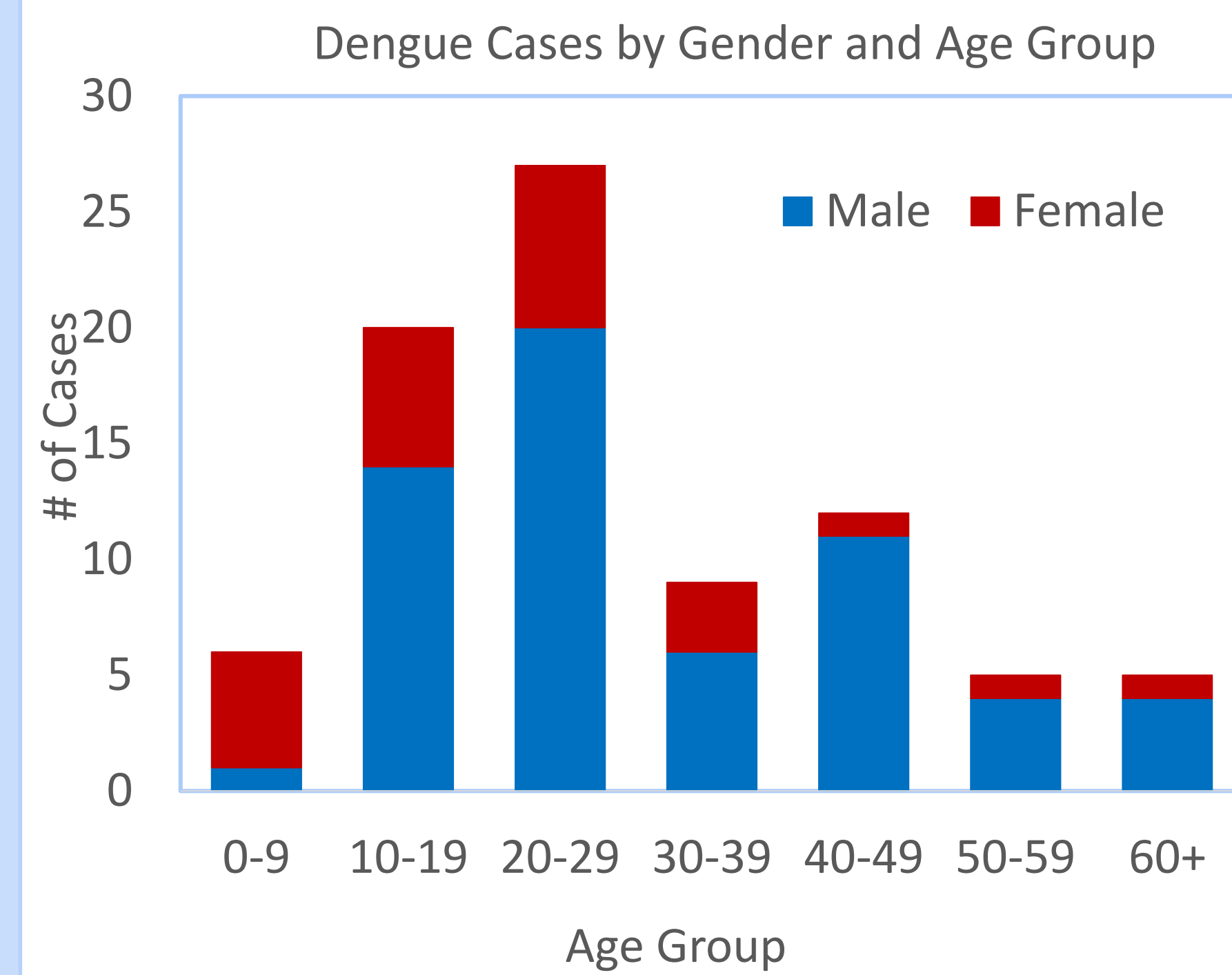


Outbreak Overview

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 March 2 to March 8, 2020, there were **two (2)** new cases reported in Koror, bringing up the total number of cases in Koror for the month of March to **three (3)**. 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= 250

Ethnicity	Count	%
Palauan	683	83%
Bangladeshi (2 new)	53	6%
Filipino	28	3%
Chinese	22	3%
Other	35	4%
Total	821	

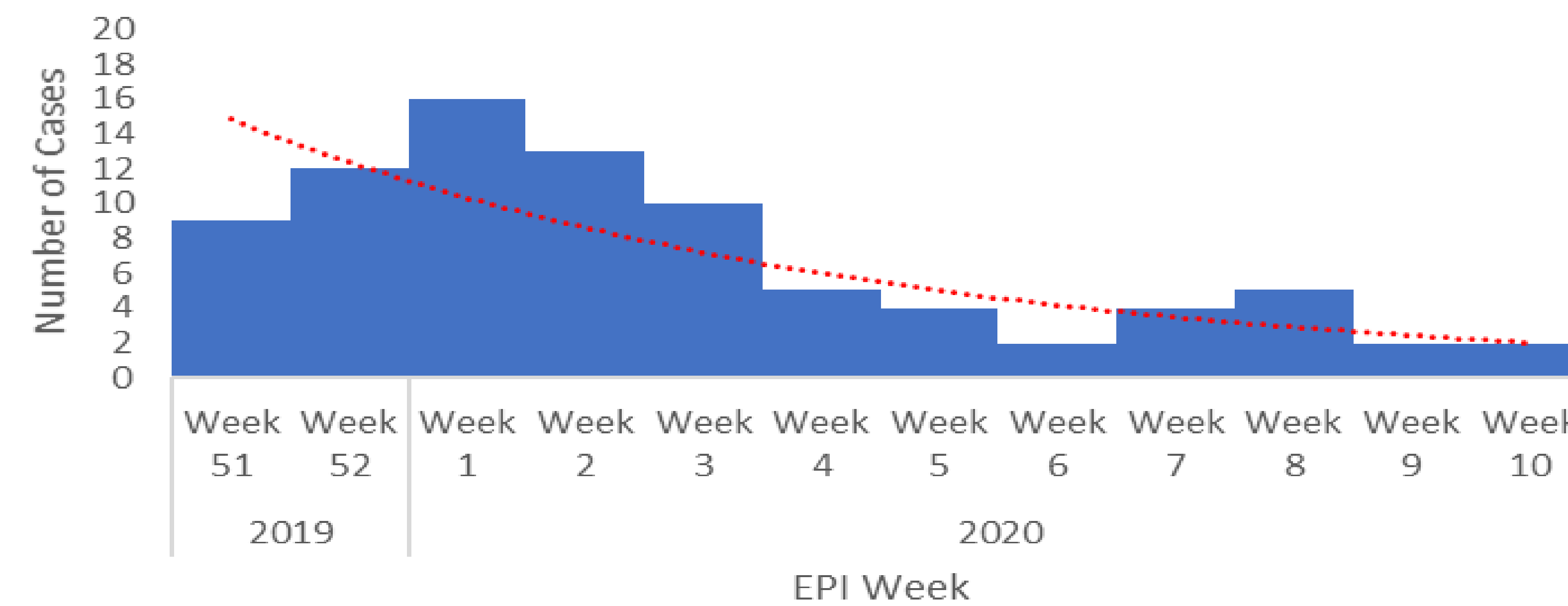
Symptom Profile of Cases & Hospitalization

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).

Month	Total # of Cases	Hospitalizations (% 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	12	6 (50%)
Mar-20	3	1 (33%)

Cases by State and Koror Hamlets

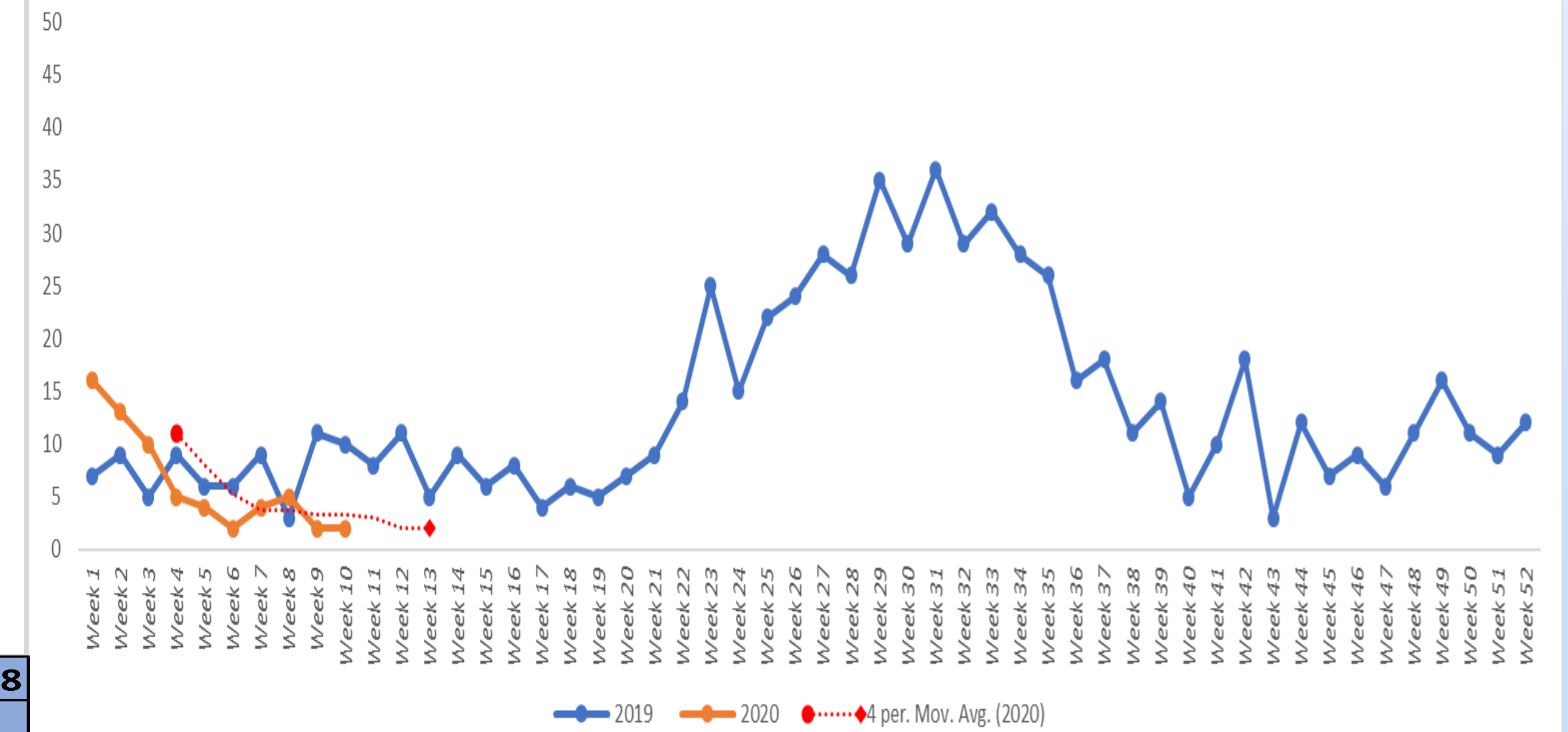
Dengue Cases by Week of Diagnosis
December 16, 2019 - March 8, 2020



State	2020		Oct - Dec 2019			Total since Dec 2018		
	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	#	%
Koror	3	11	32	45	24	33	601	73%
Airai			3	3	3	5	69	8%
Aimeliik				2		1	33	4%
Melkeok							21	3%
Ngaremlengui					3		19	2%
Ngatpang		1		1			14	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%
Kayangel							1	0%
Tourist				1	2	3	10	1%
Pending					1		7	1%
Total	3	12	39	58	36	44	821	

Epi Curve

Weekly Dengue 3 Trend 2019 - 2020



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)
- The last DENV-2 recorded in Palau were from November 2018.
- Still 286 cases of DENV-3 confirmed by HSL.

Response Measures

During the past week, there were a total of two (2) reported cases of dengue. The two (2) cases were Koror residents from **Ngesaol, Ngermid**.

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.

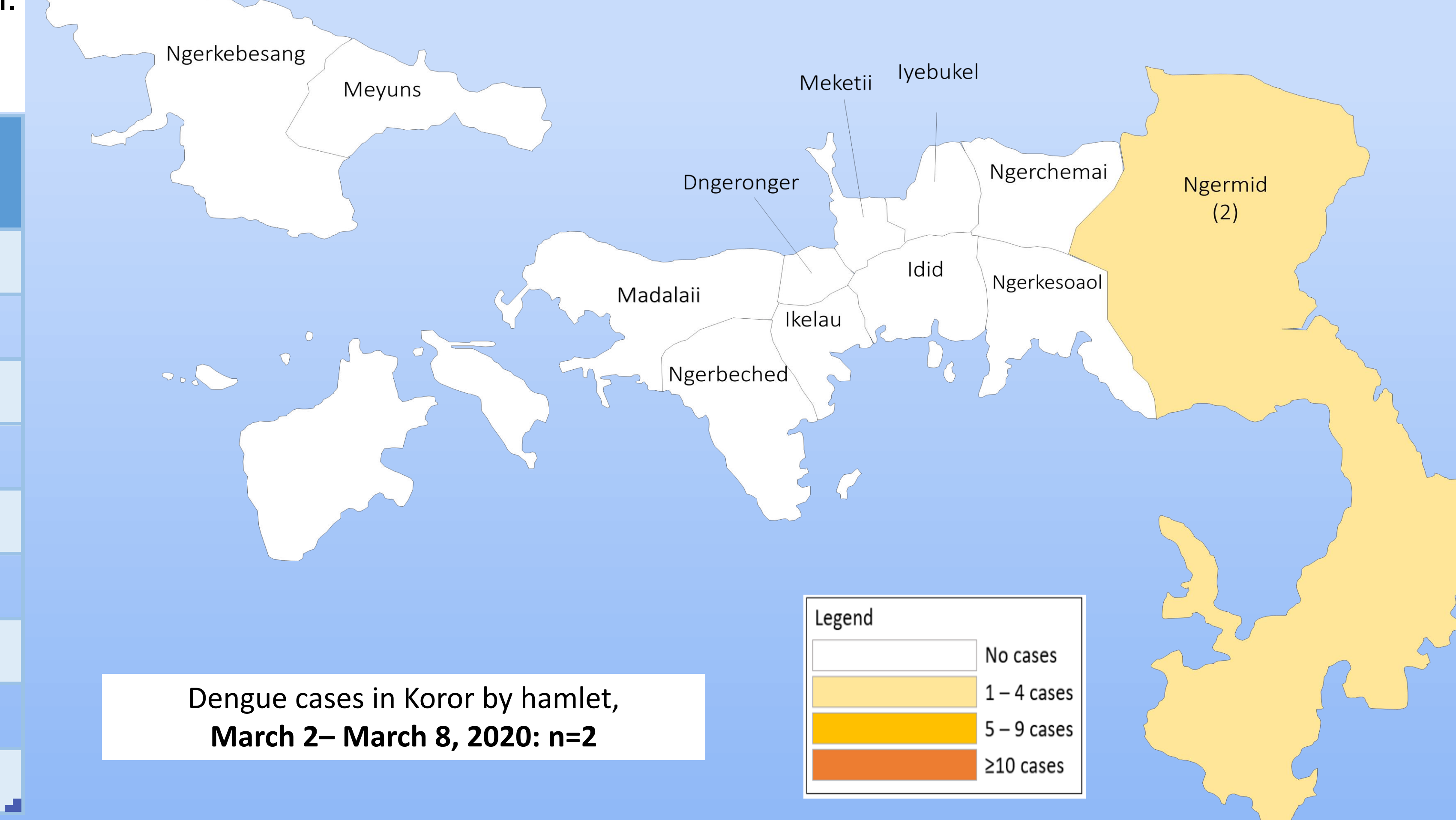
The Communicable Disease Unit and the DEH Vector Control Program continue to investigate all reported cases of dengue fever and implement vector control measures.

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 11, will be released on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

Map of dengue cases by state between March 02 – March 08, 2020



Dengue cases in Koror by hamlet,
March 2– March 8, 2020: n=2

