



Republic of Palau

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PALAU REMAINS COVID-19 FREE; SYMPTOMATIC TRAVELERS ADVISED TO EXERCISE SELF-CARE

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KEY POINTS:

- As of February 19, 2020, there are **NO SUSPECTED CASES** of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Palau.
- Flight and traveler restrictions from mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macau to Palau remain in effect until March 31, 2020.
- MOH and border control agencies continue to conduct health screening at airport and seaport for all arriving visitors to Palau. Almost 7,000 incoming travelers have undergone screenings at all ports of entry. **All travelers with fever or respiratory symptoms are urged to exercise self-care during their stay.**
- MOH continues to urge the public to practice basic preventive measures including **respiratory etiquette (cover your cough and sneeze with a clean tissue or your sleeve) and proper hand hygiene (frequent handwashing with soap & warm water or hand rub with 70% alcohol-based sanitizer).**

While Palau remains on alert with the ongoing outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), to date there are still no suspected cases in Palau. However, the Republic of Palau Ministry of Health (MOH) urges the public to practice preventive measures to prevent respiratory infections. These include proper and consistent handwashing with soap & water or 70% alcohol-based sanitizer, respiratory etiquette like covering coughs & sneezes with disposable tissue, and avoiding close contact with anyone showing respiratory illness symptoms.

Health screenings at both airport and seaport have continued since January 23 with over 6,903 travelers screened to date. All arriving visitors exhibiting fever or respiratory symptoms—even without travel history through mainland China, Hong Kong, or Macau—must exercise self-care during their stay and Ministry of Health personnel will monitor their conditions.

The Ministry of Health has conducted briefings with its partners & stakeholders, including private clinics and non-government organizations, informing them of the COVID-19 outbreak situation and MOH response activities. Additionally, preparations are ongoing at the Belau National Hospital (BNH) to ensure that personnel and facilities are ready as well as adequately equipped to screen & treat patients in the event that a COVID-19 case is imported. This includes training of healthcare workers on the COVID-19 clinical management protocols and infection prevention. Furthermore, improvements are underway at the BNH Isolation Ward for potential cases that would require hospitalization.

The Ministry of Health will continue to monitor the COVID-19 outbreak and advise the public on any developments. For more information about the novel Coronavirus Disease 2019, contact the MOH Hotline at **488-0555**.