The Ministry of Health (MOH) is informing the public that as of March 3, 2020 there is one (1) Person Under Investigation (PUI) at the Belau National Hospital (BNH) who may be infected with the 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). The patient is a 73-year-old female visitor from Oregon State with underlying conditions, who came to Palau with the visiting Canvasback Medical Team. She is currently admitted in isolation and is being monitored at BNH. Public health providers are also conducting further investigations to determine any potential exposures.

MOH is in contact with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and will be sending the patient’s specimen for COVID-19 confirmatory testing to a CDC approved laboratory on March 4, 2020. MOH is also seeking assistance from Republic of China – Taiwan for confirmatory testing as well.

The public is advised to remain calm and to continue to practice preventive measures including proper hand-washing and coughing etiquettes, and to exercise self-observation of their health. If anyone should develop fever, cough, and breathing difficulties, call the BNH Emergency Room at 488-2558 for further guidance. For general information about COVID-19, contact the MOH Hotline at 488-0555.