

SDA Medical Mission(Continued from pg.1)

...“The Ministry of Health in collaboration with the local SDA Church has had a long history in providing free medical care to the people of Palau whose services have made a difference in the lives of so many of our people. It is truly a warm and special relationship that has been further strengthened and affirmed through the kind support of the Friends of the Seventh Day Adventists (SDA) Gynecology—Urology and ENT Mission Group.” Gregorio Ngirmang, Minister of Health said: “I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Edna Acuna and the Medical Mission for their kind support. It was amazing to see your team provide quality care to so many patients in such a short amount of time. It is a testament to your commitment and dedication and it was an honor to have your team work with our Ministry. I would also like to thank the Palau SDA Church for their continued support, and to our nurses, doctors and the Medical Referral Program for making this medical mission a success. Thank you.”

ANNOUNCEMENT - PARKING

Effective Sunday, February, 1, 2015, parking tickets will now be issued to anyone parked in No Parking Zones at MOH facilities.

Parking tickets will also be issued to anyone parked in reserved handicap zones without authorization. The driveway leading to the Emergency Room is a no parking zone.

The parking area under the solar panels in front of the Belau National Hospital is for patients and visitors. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

For more information, please contact the Office of Health Administration & Support Services at 488-2552.

SUBED EL KIREL A TELETELEL A PARKING

Ngomuchel ra Sunday, el Kot el sils era Ongerul Buil er chelechal rak ra 2015 ea parking tickets a mo meluches el mora ngidil chad el park ra sign el kmo “No Parking Zones.”

Parking tickets a dirrek el mo meluches el mora ngidil chad el park ra sign el kmo “Handicapped” malechub siasing ra handicapped el diak a llemeltel.

A rael el mora mauari ra Emergency Room a diak el sebeched el park er ngii.

A parking el ngara eungel a solar panels el ngara medal a Ospitar a morar smecher, mar okiaksang. Sebechem lomekedong ra obis ra Administration ra dengua el 488-2552 el kirel a mui el lomesodel tial subed.

By the numbers

For the week of February 15 – February 22, 2015 we saw the following cases at Belau National Hospital:

- Gastroenteritis – 11 cases
- Influenza-like Illness (ILI) – 9 cases
- Acute Fever and Rash – 0 cases
- Prolonged Fever – 0 cases
- Conjunctivitis (Pink eye) – 0 cases

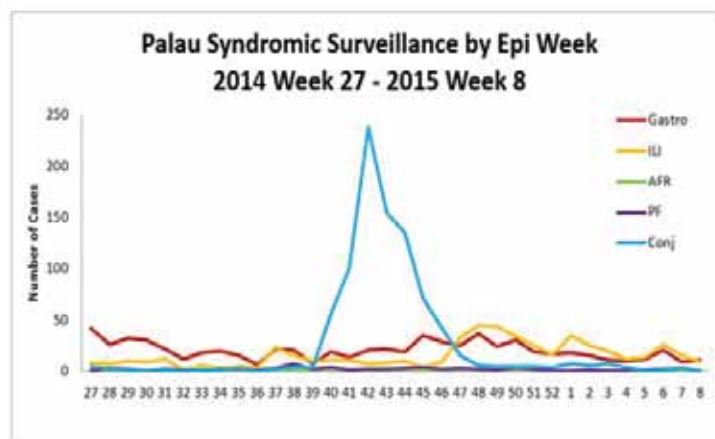
Although the number of Gastroenteritis and Influenza (flu) cases are below the threshold to be considered as outbreaks, the Bureau of Public Health reminds everyone to practice healthy habits to minimize the risk of infections and diseases.

Everyone is urged to:

- Wash hands properly and frequently (20 seconds with soap and water)
- Keep kitchen and bathroom areas clean and disinfected
- Practice proper food handling

For more information on how to prevent the flu and gastro, contact the Communicable Disease Unit at 48-2450 or the Infection Control and Prevention Office at 488-2553.

* NOE: This column depicts the number of cases of some communicable diseases seen at the Belau National Hospital over a certain time period. The graph below shows the weekly cases of Gastroenteritis, from the last half of 2014 and the start of 2015 until February 22, 2015.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

pulse

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2nd SNS Full Scale Exercise

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEP) conducted Palau’s 2nd National Strategic Stockpile Full Scale Exercise (SNS FSE) during the week of February 9-13 in partnership with various offices and agencies from Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, National Emergency Management Office and Palau Red Cross. About three hundred participants attended this SNS FSE, including partners from FSM, CNMI, Guam, Hawaii and USA (CDC and Marshals Services) who provided technical assistances and served as evaluators. *Continued pg.2*

Pictured below: Medical Assets/Materials Received at RSS Site



Palau joins ASTHO Million Hearts Collaborative

Joining November 2014, Palau is the newest funded member of the ASTHO (Association for State and Territorial Health Officials) Million Hearts State Learning Collaborative. Million Hearts is a national initiative to prevent 1 million heart attacks and strokes by 2017.

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pictured above: SDA medical team at the Belau National Hospital

S.D.A. Medical Team Provides Free Medical Care

“The Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Church sponsored a Medical Mission from the United States to Palau from February 3-5, 2015. The Mission provided medical care free to the people of Palau.

The medical mission saw over 86 patients, conducted 19 surgical procedures and provided consultations in the areas of Gynecology, Urology, Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT). In recognition of their kind support, the Ministry hosted a dinner in honor of the medical mission and presented the team with Certificates of Appreciation.

The Medical Mission consisted of Dr. Edna Acuna, Dr. Jeffrey Morgan, Dr. Kevin Gordon, Dr. Douglas Burgett, Dr. Sherry Gordon, Dr. Jason Hahn, Ms. Jacqueline Morgan, RN, Ms. Jacqueline Burgett, RN, Mr. Bruce Headings, CRNA, Mr. Tom Matula, CRNA and Ms. Yuri Cruz, LPN (Recovery Nurse). Gregorio Ngirmang, Minister of Health stated . . .

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Above: Screening for SNS medicine

The purpose of the exercise was to measure and validate responders' performance in carrying out critical tasks pertaining to resource management and operation during a pandemic event. This exercise provided the opportunity to strengthen interagency partnership, train in disaster planning, and execute response mechanisms. Particular emphasis was on how to use and manage the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) focusing on coordination and control; managing SNS Operations; and providing mass dispensing of the medical materiel.

In the event of a large scale emergency or disaster, severe enough to cause local supplies to run out, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has large quantities of medicine and medical supplies available to all US States, its territories and the US Affiliated Pacific Islands, including the Republic of Palau. This is called the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), which includes antibiotics, chemical antidotes, antitoxins, life-support medications, IV administration, airway maintenance supplies, and medical/surgical items. In order to acquire these SNS assets, Palau must have plans and protocols, currently built into the Ministry of Health's Public Health Emergency Operations Plan, to receive and distribute SNS medicine and medical supplies to Palau communities as quickly as possible.

This exercise also helped the Republic of Palau assess its national systems and resource capabilities. It provided opportunity to gauge the potential needs for external assistance and future training specific to the Strategic National Stockpile Program. Communication system, both at the agency and national level, was identified as an area to be improved. All in all, the 2nd SNS FSE was a great success, due in large part to the exceptional support of our local partners.

Congratulations!

Congratulations! to our very own Junior Skebong. Mr.Skebong was awarded a certificate of completion in the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Class in the "2014 Vocational Training Project for Youth in the Pacific", a program commissioned by the International Cooperation and Development Fund (I.C.D.F), and Taiwan (Republic of China)



From Oct. 2nd, 2014 to December 26th, 2014 at Taichung-Changhua-Nantou Regional Branch of Workforce Development Agency.

In an interview with Mr. Skebong, he said it was "A very educational program, and a great experience". Mr.Skebong said he was proud to have joined the program representing the Ministry of Health, and we're proud of you, Junior. Congratulations on this great accomplishment.

"Great effort becomes great success" - Junior Skebong



MOH Human Resources congratulates the following Employees of the 1st Quarter (October to December 2014):

Selma August, Division of Primary and Preventive Health, Bureau of Public Health

Flora Kintaro, Division of Clinical Nursing, Bureau of Nursing.

Carmin Pipit, Division of Ancillary Services, Bureau of Hospital and Clinical Service (Represented by Supervisor Termeteet)

Additionally, we'd like to appreciate the following clinical nurses who were considered as nominees by their respective supervisors:

1. Jake D. Mahor, RN, Emergency Room
2. Viola Francis, LPN, OB
3. Evelina Elidechedong, RN, OR

Special thanks to the Office of Health Preparedness, Planning, Policy & Research for fostering greater team work and recognizing great effort.

Next selection for the employee of the 2nd quarter will be in April, covering January to March.



Doctor's Rx

This month we feature
Dr. Debbie Ngemaes - Maddison,
Director of the Bureau of Hospital
& Clinical Services.

The "Health of the Nation" is at a critical cross road as there has been a dire increase in Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) such as cancer, heart disease, obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure rates among our people. This has resulted in more people suffering from chronic conditions, and has led to the unfortunate and unnecessary loss of life and suffering of families. Currently, NCD is the main cause of premature deaths among adults in Palau and the disabilities and illness caused by these diseases has had a heavy, emotional and financial toll on all of us.

The average total expenditure for health is roughly 9% of GDP, which ranks Palau as number 18th in world in terms of expenditure for health. Yet despite our high ranking, Palauans have some of the worst rates of obesity, diabetes, hypertension, alcohol and tobacco use in the world. We know from our experience that funding alone will not solve the issue. We may have the best doctors, nurses, and best hospital, but unless we make the changes we need to make in our laws, our churches, our schools, and our homes, our lifestyles, our efforts will prove meaningless.

Every one of us has a father, mother, brother, sister, close relative or friend who is suffering or has passed away prematurely due to NCDs. Yet, the time has come for all of us to come together to say enough is enough. We will not lose another loved one to NCDs. As a doctor, I have often had the unfortunate job of telling patients that you are suffering from a serious illness and that there is nothing more we can do. And it breaks my heart, especially since I know that many of these diseases can be preventable. I can only treat the body, but I cannot treat "The Soul". That role is the responsibility of the pastor, priest, family member or friend.

pulse

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For more information or comments regarding articles, email to news@palauhealth.org or visit our website at www.palauhealth.org. Also, like us on facebook at www.facebook.com/MOHPalau.

Let us work together to encourage one another to eat a little healthier, have moderate exercise, and eliminate the unhealthy use of tobacco and alcohol in our lives. Because nothing makes me happier than to see our OPD, wards and hospital beds empty and seeing every one of us laughing and sharing our lives with our family and loved ones.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our doctors, nurses, radiology, rehabilitation, laboratory, pharmacy and administrative team from the Bureau of the Hospital and Clinical Services for a job well done. We have been through some tough times together; through Typhoons, Tsunamis and disease outbreaks. Yet despite our many challenges, we have always been family and we have always been there for our people. It is an honor and privilege to be a part of your family. Thank you for all the work you have done.

And to all our patients and members of the community, let us make a commitment to live happier and healthier lives for our children and our family.

Palau joins Million Hearts (continued from pg.1)

Launched in September 2011, the initiative brings together public and private partners to enhance cardiovascular disease prevention activities and improve care by encouraging a target focus on the "ABCS": Aspirin for people at risk, Blood pressure control, Cholesterol management, and Smoking or tobacco cessation. For the Million Hearts project, the Palau MOH team will be analyzing how relevant hypertension data can be incorporated into its current NCD registry to inform effective disease management, how data on tobacco use can be captured to assist referral to quit programs, and how to leverage other public health clinics to screen for hypertension. Palau aims to increase the number of patients with controlled blood pressures.



Above: ASTHO and MOH partners