

Dengue 3 Outbreak, Palau, December 2019 – February 2020

9th Operational Period

2020 Epi Week 5: January 27 – February 2, 2020



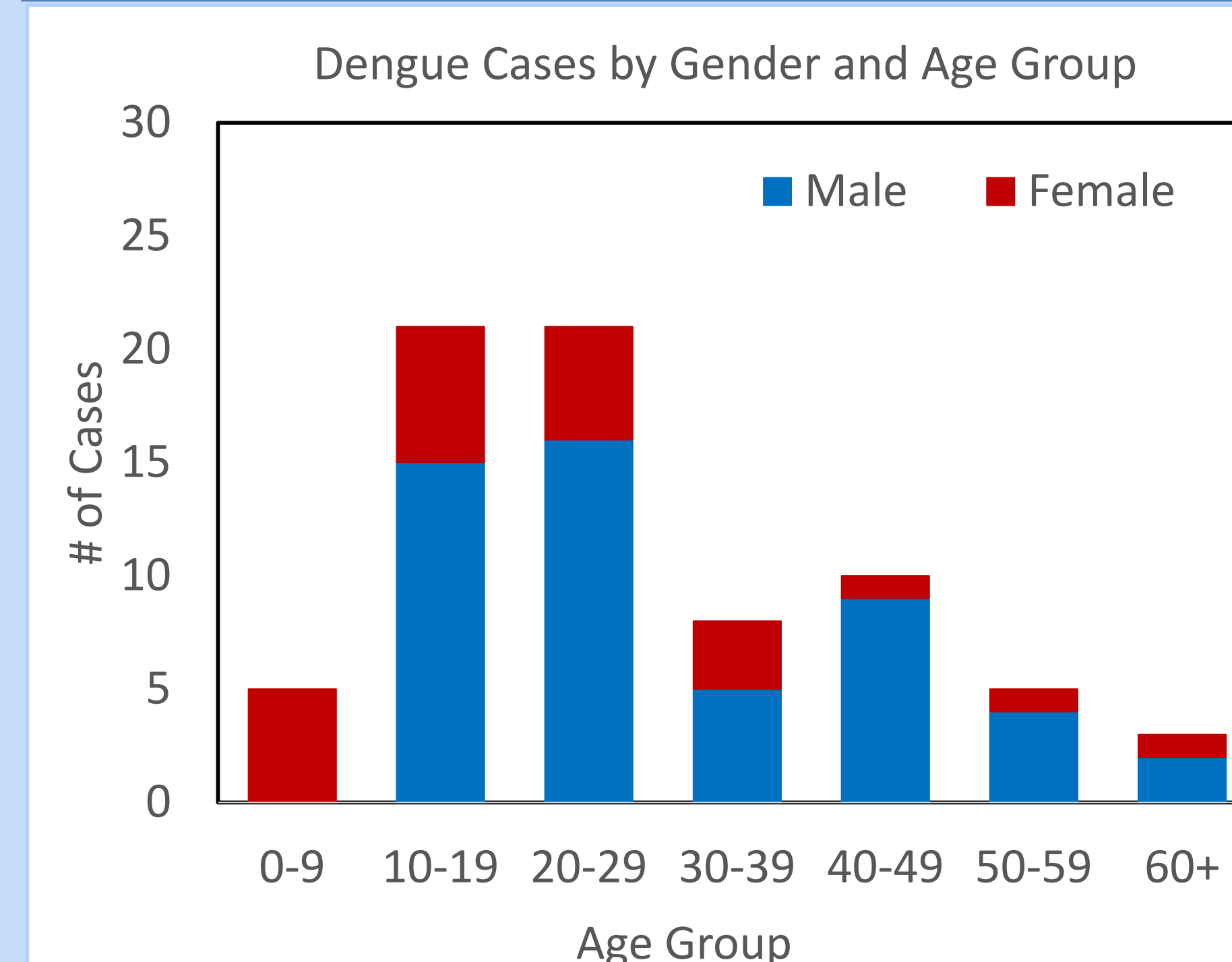
Outbreak Overview

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 between December 3, 2018 and December 17, 2019, including 266 serotyped cases of DENV-3. No cases of other serotypes have been identified since the start of the current outbreak.

During the 9th operational period (January 27 – February 2, 2020), the number of weekly reported cases shows a decreasing trend since the beginning of January of this year. As of February 2, 2020, there were four (4) new cases reported. The cumulative number of cases since the beginning of the outbreak is 806.

During this period, majority of the reported cases were male across all age group.

Demographics



Age range = 1-69years
 Mean age = 28 years
 Median age = 26 years
 Male:Female ratio= 107

Ethnicity	Count	%
Palauan	678	84%
Bangladeshi	47	6%
Filipino	27	3%
Chinese	22	3%
Other	32	4%
Total	806	

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.

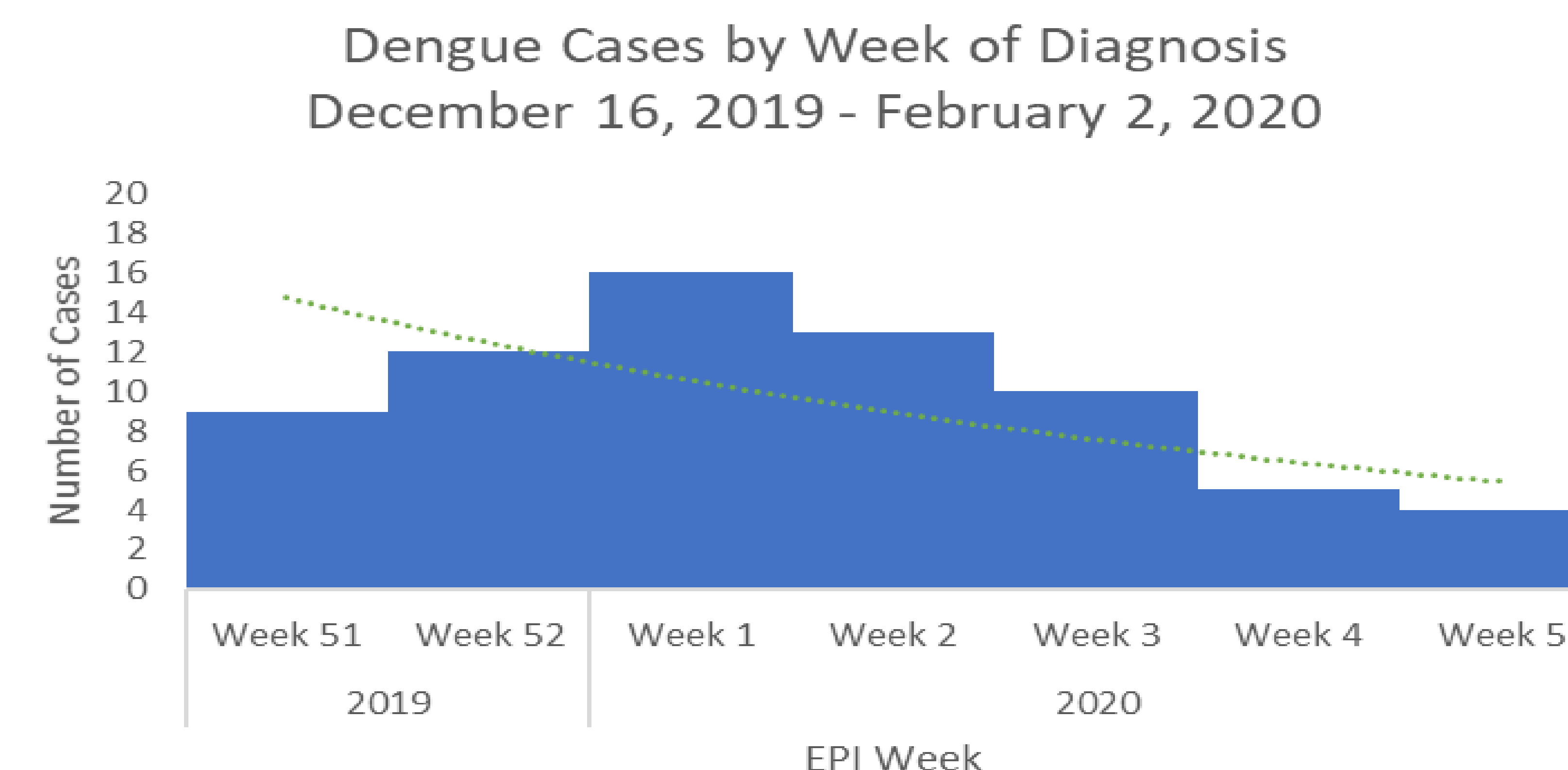
Hospitalizations

Month	Total # of Cases	(% 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%)

Cases by State and Koror Hamlets

State	2020				Total since Dec 2018	
	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	#	%
Koror	32	45	24	33	587	73%
Airai	3	3	3	5	69	9%
Aimeliik		2		1	33	4%
Melkeok					21	3%
Ngaremlengui			3		19	2%
Ngatpang		1			13	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%
Kayangal					1	0%
Tourist		1	2	3	10	1%
Pending			1		7	1%
Total	39	58	36	44	806	

Epi Curve



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)
- Confirmatory testing and serotyping is done by the Hawaii State Laboratory (HSL). Further shipment of 20 positive NS1 were sent to HSL as a routine effort to monitor Dengue serotype in circulation
- There have been 266 cases of DENV-3 confirmed by HSL. The last DENV-2 recorded in Palau were from November 2018.

Response Measures

During the past week, there were a total of four (4) reported cases of dengue. Three (3) cases were Koror residents from the following hamlets: Ngerkebesang (2), Ngerbeched (1). One (1) other case was a resident of Ngiwal state.

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 7, will be released on Tuesday, February 18, 2020.

