



**REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date Released: 07 March 2020

**Official Statement: COVID-19**

**Test results are NEGATIVE on suspected case of COVID-19 identified in Majuro,  
Marshall Islands**

**KEY POINTS:**

- **This means there are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.**
- On March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Majuro identified its first suspected case of COVID-19, also known as a **Person Under Investigation (PUI)**.
- The results from the Hawaii State Lab were released today and the virus that causes COVID-19 was **NOT DETECTED**.
- *Although the test came back negative, the public is advised to remain alert and must continue to practice good hygiene.*

The Republic of Marshall Islands Ministry of Health and Human Services (MoHHS) advises that as of the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, 2020, the one (1) suspected case of novel coronavirus (COVID-19), otherwise known as a **Person Under Investigation (PUI)**, has tested negative for COVID-19.

MoHHS continues to be in daily contact with World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as we prepare for the threat of COVID-19.

As the symptoms of COVID-19 are very similar to other respiratory illnesses (including colds and influenza) it is expected that with time the Ministry will identify more persons requiring investigation for COVID-19. This should not alarm the public as it is an indication of the high level of alertness and precautionary approach the Ministry is taking in response to this global outbreak.

**What can you do?**

The Ministry will inform the public as soon as possible once we have a confirmed case. Use **credible sources** for information on COVID-19, visit:

**CDC website:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>

**WHO website:** <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

**How can you prevent yourself from getting COVID-19 and other diseases?**

- Frequently clean hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub
- When coughing and sneezing cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue – throw tissue away immediately and wash hands
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has fever and cough, and stay home if you feel sick.
- Follow the RMI's current travel restrictions: **WE URGE PEOPLE NOT TO TRAVEL TO THE MARSHALL ISLANDS AT THIS TIME. PLEASE CANCEL YOUR TRAVEL PLANS.**

If anyone should develop fever, cough, and breathing difficulties, **DO NOT COME TO THE HOSPITAL, we will come to you. If you or one of your family members or friends are sick, please call the MoHHS Emergency Room at 625-4144 / 4357** for further guidance.

For general information about COVID-19, contact **455-4031, 455-0263 or 455-6288.**



Jack Niedenthal  
Republic of the Marshall Islands  
Secretary of Health & Human Services