



Republic of Palau

Ministry of Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PUI PATIENT CLEARED OF COVID-19; PUBLIC URGED TO REMAIN CAUTIOUS AND CONTINUE PRACTICING PREVENTIVE MEASURES

5:00pm - March 7, 2020

KEY POINTS:

- ROC-Taiwan COVID-19 test result for Palau's 1st **PERSON UNDER INVESTIGATION (PUI)** is **NEGATIVE**.
- Result was officially received from the ROC-Taiwan CDC's Ku-Yang Laboratory while results from Hawaii State Laboratory are still pending.
- MOH continues to urge the public to remain calm and to continue practicing basic preventive measures including **respiratory etiquettes – cover cough and sneeze with a clean tissue or your sleeve & hand hygiene - frequent handwashing with soap and warm water or hand rub with 70% alcohol-based sanitizer**. The public is also advised to stay home if they are sick, avoid those who are sick, and not to visit the BNH if not seeking medical care.
- For more information call the **MOH Hotline at 488-0555**.

The Ministry of Health (MOH) is informing the public that as of 5:00pm March 7, 2020 Palau remains COVID-19 free, as first set of confirmatory testing results for Palau's first COVID-19 Person Under Investigation (PUI) is negative. The official test results were received within 24-hours after being sent to the Ku-Yang Laboratory of ROC-Taiwan's Centers for Disease Control. MOH expresses its appreciation to Shin-Kong Hospital, the government of the Republic of China – Taiwan, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for their partnership and assistance with its COVID-19 response.

While the news proves optimistic for Palau and especially for the patient and her family, the public is nevertheless urged to remain vigilant with efforts to prevent infection and diseases. Everyone is urged to continue practicing preventive measures including proper hand-washing and coughing etiquettes, and to exercise self-observation of their health.

MOH will continue to monitor the COVID-19 outbreak and maintain screening and public health measures to limit the risk of import of COVID-19. 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**.