SUMMARY OF COVID-19 SITUATION—Report # 13

National: On April 13, 2020 the Office of the FSM President posted a reminder on its Facebook Page of the FSM National Governments instructions to all international air carriers to check outbound travelers for documentation supporting their exemption from the travel ban when leaving the FSM on the scheduled April 13th and April 14th outbound flights. In an April 11th, 2020 letter to international air carriers, the Honorable Carlson D. Apis, Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Communication, & Infrastructure, described the important role of “all international air carriers in implementing [the travel restrictions instated by His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)]...[to ensure] that the FSM remains COVID-19 free.”

Secretary Apis instructed all international air carriers servicing the FSM to abide by both the incoming and outgoing travel restrictions, as all FSM citizens are banned from travel to COVID-19 affected jurisdictions until further notice and until such a time that a determination is made that the COVID-19 Pandemic is effectively contained.

Examples of supporting documentation may include evidence of residency abroad (such as a driver’s license), or evidence of returning to a place of employment (such as a letter from one’s employer, or documentation certifying one’s employment at a given business). After this April 13th and April 14th, the only FSM citizens who will be allowed outbound travel to COVID-19 affected jurisdictions are individuals who have a doctor-certified note that they require specialized healthcare that can only be received abroad.

Local: The Yap DHS has received word that by next week Yap should be receiving its ID NOW machine and COVID-19 test kits. After receipt it will take another two weeks of online training and pilot testing before the hospital lab can start doing point of care testing for COVID-19.

On Monday April 13, 2020 the Yap DHS sent out two mass text messages to all cell phones on COVID-19 the first one was informing everyone about the new PUI and to limit movements and social gatherings until the PUI test result is back. The second message was encouraging everyone to come up with their own COVID-19 plans for home quarantine and isolation in the event that PUI’s COVID-19 test comes back positive for COVID-19. However, upon checking with DHS staff and Health Crisis Taskforce members it was discovered that that most did not get any of the two mass texts in their phones, while only a few got only one of the two messages and even less people actually got both messages.

On April 13, 2020 the Yap State Department of Resource and Development put out a public announcement encouraging the people of Yap to start thinking about food security in light of this global pandemic given the limits on incoming cargo due to transport logistics and all the uncertainties with supply chains around the world. The public is encouraged to start planning on shifting reliance from imports onto local food sources and start implementing water conservation efforts given the dry season that is upon us. Given the uncertain and ever changing nature of this pandemic, it is wise that we prepare ourselves to survive on what is locally available stated the R&D message.

On April 13, 2020 Yap State Governor Henry Falan by memo extended the closure of all schools to April 26, 2020 at which time the need to continue school closures will be reviewed based on the Health Crisis Taskforce recommendations.

All government non-essential services workers will continue to be on administrative leave until further notice and all are encouraged to continue to practice the 6 feet social distancing and no mass gatherings. All cabinet members are still required to be at work during regular government working hours and be on call on the weekends.

FOR REGULAR COVID-19 UPDATES

Radio: V6AI 1494 AM (Mon., Wed., Fri.) 8:45am in English. 9.45am and every hour after till 10.45pm in local languages; & 5pm News Bulletin. Also check out https://www.facebook.com/Waab-Community-Health-Center-554531107958008