



# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Update

## Yap Department of Health Services

APRIL 21, 2020



### In YAP:

# of confirmed cases in Yap: 0

# of current PUI in Yap: 2  
*(Person Under Investigation is one who has COVID-19 symptoms.)*

# of PUM in Yap: 17  
*(Person Under Monitoring is one without symptoms but has been in contact with a PUI or confirmed case, or has come from a place with confirmed COVID-19 cases and requires quarantine monitoring.)*

### In FSM:

# of confirmed cases in Chuuk: 0  
Pohnpei: 0  
Kosrae: 0

### Nth Pac. Region:

# of confirmed cases in  
Guam: 136  
(5 deaths)  
CNMI: 14  
(2 deaths)

Palau: 0

RMI: 0

### Globally as of 4/20/20: WHO Sit Rep

# of confirmed cases: 2,314,621

# of deaths: 157,847

### SUMMARY OF COVID-19 SITUATION—Report # 16

**International:** On 14 April, 2020 W.H.O published a strategy update reflecting what it has learnt to inform the next iteration of the Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) due in the coming weeks. The update is intended to help guide the public health response to COVID-19 at national and subnational level. The update emphasizes the need to tailor the response to COVID-19 carefully to local contexts, however, there are some important lessons that can be applied in a broad range of situations.

One important lesson is that the faster and the more effective we are at finding all suspected cases of COVID-19, testing, isolating and treating the confirmed cases and tracing their contacts, then the harder we make it for the virus to spread. This in turn makes it easier for health systems to cope, deliver quality care, and save lives.

The update also sets out key criteria and considerations for countries that are considering lifting some of the widespread restrictions on movement, often termed “lockdowns”, that have been used to suppress the spread of COVID-19 through communities. By ensuring these criteria are met, it should be possible for countries to sustain a steady state of low-level or no transition at the same time as resuming some social and economic activities. However, without careful planning, and in the absence of scaled up public health and clinical care capacities, the premature lifting of physical distancing measures is likely to lead to an uncontrolled resurgence in COVID-19 transmission and an amplified second wave of cases.

The world has never faced this scale of challenge before. COVID-19 is a truly global crisis, and the only way to overcome it is together, in global solidarity

**Local:** Yap DHS wants the public to know that its priority and focus at this time is surveillance and outreach. The Public Health outreach teams are continuing their community education and awareness campaign this week. Community response to the teams going out has been mixed. While many households and families welcome the teams and appreciate the information they are providing to better prepare them for the event of COVID-19 reaching our shores, others are more cautious and question the need for the outreach teams to visit, especially if their communities have already been informed and are being kept up to date with the recommendations coming out of the Yap DHS, the Health Crisis Taskforce and the State Leadership and they are abiding by them.

In response to the concerns of those communities on the need for a visit by the Public Health outreach teams, the Yap DHS wants the communities to know your concerns are valid and well received as there is just so much uncertainty around this new virus which has created a lot of fear. The Yap DHS wants to share that the health workers going out on the outreaches are different to those who handle the hospital outpatient and ward in patients and the PUI’s in isolation. And given the recent negative COVID-19 result of the two PUI’s, the risk DHS feels is minimal but nevertheless we recognize there is still risk.

If there are families or communities who feel very strongly that they do not wish to be visited please call the COVID-19 hotline on 350-4161 and register your request for your household to be skipped during the outreach.

The Yap DHS has been informed that the body of a deceased person will be arriving in to Yap on Thursday night flight April 23, 2020. The Yap DHS has been working with the family to safely receive the body by providing them advice and guidance on clearance and handling of the casket, funeral and burial services to observe social distancing of 6ft, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The night time curfew from 7pm to 6am daily, to restrict or limit people’s movement as part of preventive measures to reduce the risk of possible COVID-19 spread in the community, is still in effect. This is to further reduce the risk of possible COVID-19 spread in the event that there might be asymptomatic people out there who look and feel well, have the virus and are unknowingly spreading it to others in the community because they do not have symptoms. To address this issue, Yap DHS is encouraging everyone to wear a face mask, even home made ones, as an added protective barrier between all people. To learn more on the advice and guidance around the use of face masks, you can tune into the Island Chat radio show at 9am and 2pm daily for the next two weeks with Dr. Ann Lopez explaining more on the use of face masks.

### 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>