SUMMARY OF COVID-19 SITUATION—Report # 19

International: W.H.O has published guidance on adjusting public health and social measures for the next phase of the COVID-19 response. Some governments have suggested that the detection of antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, could serve as the basis for an “immunity passport” or “risk-free certificate” that would enable individuals to travel or to return to work assuming that they are protected against re-infection.

There is currently no evidence that people who have recovered from COVID-19 and have antibodies are protected from a second infection. As new evidence becomes available, W.H.O will update this scientific brief.

The Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has now added to its list of COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms. According to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) website, the CDC’s “Symptoms of Coronavirus” list had only three symptoms: fever, cough, and shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.

As of Saturday (April 25), the health institute has extended its initial list with six new potential symptoms. They are: chills, headache, sore throat, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, and repeated shaking with chills. Per the CDC website, these symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

Regional: The Honolulu Civic Beat news reported on April 23, 2020 that Pacific Islanders in Oregon have the highest rate of COVID-19. The article stated that Pacific Islanders in Oregon are being disproportionately affected by the coronavirus pandemic, according to new data released by the Oregon Health Authority. The data found that Pacific Islanders have 13.1 cases per 10,000 residents, a much higher rate than any other racial or ethnic group. Statewide, Oregon’s COVID-19 infection rate is 4.6 cases per 10,000 residents.

Pacific Islanders make up a relatively small percentage of Oregon’s population, so the rate reflects the number of confirmed cases in relation to the size of the state’s Pacific Islander community. There are 22 confirmed COVID-19 cases involving Pacific Islanders in Oregon. Oregon is reporting six Pacific Islanders have been hospitalized with COVID-19, with no reported deaths in the state so far.

Local: The Yap Department of Health Services registered a total of 70 calls on its COVID-19 Hotline number 350-4161 from March 17 to April 24, 2020. The majority of callers questions were generally COVID-19 related, followed by more specific questions around quarantine, directions on visiting the hospital, how to get PPE’s, while others expressed their frustration at the restrictions on movement and not wanting outreach teams to visit their homes.

The COVID-19 Hotline is still operational and everyone is encouraged to continue using it to get information and clarification. If we cannot answer you right away, we will endeavor to get the answer for you and get back to you on the phone number you provided on the same day. For all the people who have called in to date, a big thank you for making use of this hotline to get information and updates for you and your family. It is your hotline. Please feel free to call any time.

Yap DHS is having weekly calls with US CDC and PIHOA consultants to assist with COVID-19 planning and preparedness. The weekly zoom calls with all the Pacific Island jurisdictions are to get status updates on testing, containment, community outreach, mitigation and supplies for COVID-19 and to see how the consultants can help each jurisdiction strengthen their efforts in these respective areas. Yap zoom calls take place every Wednesday.

On April 29, 2020 FSM President David Panuelo will be having another virtual meeting with all the State Governor’s to continue discussions on harmonizing next steps as a nation to deal with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Important points to remember. Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 can be any or all of the following: Runny Nose and/or Dry Cough and/or Sore throat for 3-4 days and/or Generalized body pain and/or Shortness of Breath and/or Fever and/or Diarrhea.

Call the COVID-19 Hotline on 350-4161 if you feel or fall sick with any one of the above symptoms before you go to the hospital for advice and further instructions.

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