SUMMARY OF COVID-19 SITUATION—Report # 20

International: W.H.O has called on countries to ensure that usual immunization is maintained wherever possible and surveillance for vaccine-preventable diseases is not disrupted during the ongoing pandemic.

In the case of a temporary interruption of routine immunization, countries are urged to develop solid plans for catch-up vaccination and create comprehensive lists of all children who have missed their scheduled vaccine doses. At the earliest opportunity, countries should reinvigorate and resume services to close any immunity gaps and prevent occurrence of any outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases.

Immunization is a right and a responsibility. Ensuring that everyone is fully vaccinated not only saves lives but also prevents outbreaks of diseases, including measles, which could burden economies and health-care systems already strained by COVID-19.

Local: The Yap Department of Health Services (DHS) placed 12 people under monitoring (PUM) in State Quarantine facility at the Matson Sports Complex on April 29, 2020 for breaching the COVID-19 State of Public Health Emergency Interim Guidance on the Handling of Human Remains. The 12 PUM will be in mandatory quarantine for 28 days.

This situation creates a dilemma for the Health Crisis Taskforce as there is a pending request for another human remains to be air shipped to Yap coming in from Saipan. The Health Crisis Taskforce is mindful of the need to balance family considerations of wanting to have the remains of their loved ones return home for burial but also has the responsibility to ensure that the community as a whole is kept safe from any and all risk of possible introduction of COVID-19 into Yap. Recommendations have been made to the Governor for his consideration of next steps relating to the repatriation of human remains going forward.

The COVID-19 community education and awareness outreaches to families and households across the main island with Public Health and Community Health Center staff have been completed. More than 1000 households were reached during this education campaign.


The Yap State Department of Public Works and Transportation has announced there will be a long field trip service and student run on MV Hapilmohol-1 departing Yap on May 15, 2020 and returning to port on May 30, 2020.

The Yap Epi Net surveillance team has shared that last week two new dengue cases were identified in Ulithi and this week one positive dengue case in Maap with one case of Leptospirosis in Tomil. The community is asked to continue to keep cleaning in and around their homes and yards to ensure there are no mosquito breeding sites within 300 feet of homes. People are also asked to protect themselves from mosquito bites and ensure regular hand washing before you eat, wash all your cooking and eating and drinking utensils with clean water before use and cook your food well to kill any germs.

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 and more recently loss of taste and/or smell.

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-