SUMMARY OF COVID-19 SITUATION—Report # 38

International: On June 29, 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) Situation Report #161 stated: Today we document a somber landmark: 10 million cases and nearly 500,000 deaths of COVID-19 have now been reported globally. This comes amidst recent record numbers of new cases, with several countries reporting their highest number of new cases in a 24-hour period. As some countries start to reopen their societies and economies, WHO strongly encourages individuals, communities, and nations to take measures to reduce transmission, extend testing and contact tracing, and provide optimal care for every case.

Regional: Meanwhile, in the last 7 days Guam’s number of COVID-19 positive cases has increased by 34 new cases.

According to the Guam Pacific Daily News, Guam’s Joint Information Center reports that Guam now has 259 cases with the latest two cases identified from COVID-19 drive-thru testing held at the Mangilao Senior Center/Mangilao Night Market. Guam’s Public Health has also identified 30 local businesses that were exposed to individuals with COVID-19, and urges residents to monitor their health if they visited any of the locations from June 4-13. An Air Force unit housed at Guam Reef Hotel from May 25 to June 17 is under investigation for possibly having violated restricted movement protocol, according to the Air Force potentially exposing the local community to the virus. Investigation is ongoing by Public Health and the military. So far, one hotel worker and 35 Air Force personnel tested positive.

Local: Yap Department of Health Services continues to work on refining its COVID-19 preparedness and response plans with staff including updating assignments of staff to particular roles and responsibilities, providing relevant training in those areas assigned which will then be put to the test in an upcoming simulation exercise. No date has been set yet but there are plans for a live simulation exercise similar to the one conducted in Pohnpei recently.

Yap Lab has received additional COVID-19 test kits and continues to revise its Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) based on new updates and has revised its testing criteria based on the Pacific Islands COVID-19 Task Force recommendations for prioritizing limited testing resources in a COVID-19 free jurisdiction.

Medical Supply Division reports that a total of 12 ventilators and accessories have been received including additional orders of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) like isolation suits, eye goggles, face shield and masks. It has also received 20 beds for ICU units, 12 portable suction machines along with 3 mobile or floor type machines, 2 Hematology Analyzers for the lab, all of which are at the dock awaiting arrangements for transport to the hospital. The Medical Supply Division is also assessing its current pharmaceutical stock levels in an effort to order more.

In other news, the Yap DHS received two sets of donations. The first was 1000 pieces of the K95 masks donated by FSM Telecommunications Corporation on June 25, 2020 for medical clinical personnel use. The second donation was 10 cell phones from the Yap Department of Transportation for medical clinical personnel use. The Yap DHS also participates in weekly Wednesday zoom calls with PIHOA and CDC consultants to update on our COVID-19 preparedness progress. The Yap Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) team also participates in every other Tuesday zoom calls with FSM National and State RCCE teams and Regional Partners like UNICEF and IOM Micronesia.

The third Yap State Emergency Declaration issued by Governor Henry Falan on June 1, 2020 but made retro-effective May 28, 2020 for 30 days has expired. However, Yap is still covered by the FSM Emergency Declaration which expires on July 31, 2020.

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 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.

HEALTH ADVICE FOR PREVENTION OF COVID-19
1. Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds regularly or use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol and rub for 15 seconds. No more hand shaking!
2. Avoid unnecessary touching of your face (esp. nose, mouth, eyes).
3. Always cover your mouth and nose when you cough/sneeze with tissue and then dispose properly.
4. Stay healthy (eat well, sleep enough, exercise, take breaks, wash betelnut/leaf before chewing).
5. Avoid mass-gatherings and public community events.
6. Practice social/physical distancing—keep 6 ft. away from others.

FOR REGULAR COVID-19 UPDATES: Radio V6AI 1494 AM or KUTE 89.9 FM (every Wed) or the Yap State Media and Protocol FB Page. Also check out the Wa’ab Community Health Center FB Page.