



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Update

Yap Department of Health Services

June 24, 2020



In YAP:

of confirmed cases in Yap: 0

of current PUI in Yap: 0

(Person Under Investigation is one who has COVID-19 symptoms.)

of PUM in Yap: 0

(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:

225 (5 deaths)

CNMI: 30

(2 deaths)

Palau: 0

RMI: 0

Globally as of 6/23/20:

WHO Sit Rep

of confirmed cases: 8,993,659

of deaths: 469,587

SUMMARY OF COVID-19 SITUATION—Report # 37

National: The FSM Public information Office reports that from June 17th to 19th, 2020, at the instruction of His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Governors of the FSM, the National Government in collaboration with the Government of the State of Pohnpei, the Defense Attaché Office of the Embassy of the United States of America, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and United Airlines, Inc., conducted a series of exercises to assess and simulate Pohnpei State's capacity and procedures for what to do when the Nation's citizens stranded abroad are allowed to be repatriated. Although the Government cannot yet confirm a designated date for opening the FSM's borders in Pohnpei State for the repatriation of the Nation's citizens, the National and State Task Forces are working the week of June 22nd, 2020 with the aim of seeing if Saturday, June 27th 2020 can serve that purpose. The FSM National Government is coordinating with the States of Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae to conduct similar exercises with their respective Governments.

Some areas of weakness highlighted during the PNI State live COVID-19 simulation exercise on June 19, 2020 included: Upon airport arrival confusion on where to present incoming passengers medical certificates; airport cleaners not wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or trained in PPE use; immigration and customs officers not trained in donning and doffing of PPE; ambulance aircon not working making patient transport uncomfortable; and difficult access to the hospital isolation room and the electronic blood pressure machine not working. At POE there was a lack of proper waste disposal guidance, no briefing to passengers as they waited for passport clearance. At Quarantine, need more health screening than just temperature check; no phone or wifi access; and need to develop SOP for waste management. At Isolation, ambulance only had one driver and one doctor when SOP calls for two medical personnel; decontamination of the ambulance not done properly; no specimen collection kit placed in the ante-room before patient arrived; staff doffed PPE in the wrong order; and placement of sharps container was with other waste bins but should be separated to avoid misplacement of sharps.

Meanwhile in other news, the FSM National Department of Health and Social Affairs in a nationwide email to health staff has alerted of the US Food and Drug Administration's (USFDA) warning to consumers not to use hand sanitizer products made by Eskbiochem, due to the potential presence of methanol (wood alcohol), a substance that can be toxic when absorbed by the skin or ingested. There are 9 products listed on the USFDA website. FDA encourages health care professionals, consumers and patients to report adverse events or quality problems experienced with the use of hand sanitizers to FDA's MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting program.

Local: Over the last week, Yap Department of Health Services (DHS) reports that one human remains arrived into Yap on June 18, 2020 from Hawaii via Guam and was buried without incident per the Human Remains Interim Guidance procedures for Yap.

Meanwhile, DHS staff are continuing their inhouse training and preparation for responding to COVID-19. Port Of Entry (POE) facilities continue to be assessed and plans made to improve their readiness for COVID-19. United Airlines announced to customers on June 18, 2020 that it now requires wearing of face coverings in its airport and freight facilities as enhanced safety measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

DHS received some donations from China and Israel which included PPE's, masks and thermo scans. There are some suction machines sitting at the dock awaiting clearance. Yap has medical referral patients still stranded in Philippines who need to be repatriated back to Yap.

On June 22, 2020, the Division of Public Health staff conducted health screening and provided education awareness on safety and prevention of COVID-19, dengue and leptospirosis to passengers leaving Yap port for the outer islands on State ship MV Hapilmohol. The DHS has been informed that there is a request from FSM Foreign Affairs for two ships to dock and refuel in Yap in July.

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.