



# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Update

## Yap Department of Health Services

May 10 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: **151 (5 death)**  
 CNMI: **16 (2 death)**  
 Palau: **0**  
 RMI: **0**

**Globally as of 5/9/20:**  
**WHO Sit Rep**  
 # of confirmed cases: **3,855,788**  
 # of deaths: **265,862**

### SUMMARY OF COVID-19 SITUATION—Report # 24

**International:** May 8, 2020 marked the 40th anniversary of the Declaration of Smallpox Eradication by the World Health Assembly.

Smallpox claimed more than 300 million lives in the first three-quarters of the 20th century alone and on average around 4 million deaths each year. It had existed for at least 3000 years and was one of the world's most feared diseases until it was eradicated by a global effort, led by WHO. It is now the only human disease to have been eradicated worldwide. How the global community came together at the time to eradicate smallpox offers important and valuable lessons today in the fight against COVID-19.

COVID-19 is not the same as smallpox. Smallpox was caused by the variola virus, an orthopoxvirus, transmissible from one person to another by respiratory droplets or direct contact, and a vaccine had been available for over 150 years. COVID-19 also passes from person to person and via contact with contaminated surfaces, but there are currently no licensed vaccines available. Regardless, measures and approaches employed to eradicate smallpox, which centered around strong political will, basic field epidemiology and life-saving public health interventions, are equally pertinent today as the world battles the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 40th anniversary of the eradication of smallpox is also significant for immunization. The eradication of smallpox laid the foundation for immunization programs worldwide, underpinning the establishment of primary healthcare in many countries. Today, vaccine hesitancy is on the rise and may yet derail the global response to COVID-19 if communication countermeasures are not in place. Vaccines work, and vaccination continues to save up to 3 million lives every year from polio, measles and other infectious and chronic diseases, beyond the millions of deaths averted thanks to the discovery and adoption of the smallpox vaccine.

**Local:** On May 8, 2020 the Yap Department of Health Services (DHS) released a public announcement to let the public know of its decision to test the 12 Persons Under Monitoring (PUM) at the Matson Sports Complex after 14 days of quarantine and its intention to release the 12 PUM should their tests come back negative, halving the original quarantine time of 28 days.

All 12 PUM's were tested and all their results came back negative for COVID-19. All were released from quarantine and allowed to go home on May 9, 2020. Prior to their release, all the PUM were given one final COVID-19 education awareness presentation by Public Health (PH) staff and Release Forms to sign including a short survey for feedback of their time during the 14 days quarantine.

Risk communication messaging that has taken place to date since the FSM declared a Public Health State of Emergency and Yap State followed suit, efforts to keep the people of Yap informed and abreast of COVID-19 and all related issues, have included:

Weekly COVID-19 Sit Reps aired locally on radio V6AI every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and posted on the Waab Community Health Center (WCHC) Facebook Page; Regular Public Alerts and Prevention Messages when needed to address issues as they arise; Community Billboards with daily data updates on COVID-19 posted in Colonia and at the WCHC sites; COVID-19 Prevention Banners posted around the island in public places; Community Household Education and Awareness Outreach to 3000 plus family homes headed by Dr. Ann Lopez supported by staff from PH, WCHC and volunteers from COM-FSM, Red Cross, IOM; Mass text messages on COVID-19 prevention; Island Chat radio show with special feature on the Basics of COVID-19, Need for Quarantine and Isolation of possible COVID-19 cases and Advice on Use of Face Masks during COVID-19; Printed materials on COVID-19 and associated prevention measures distributed to all PUI and PUM's upon release from isolation and quarantine; COVID-19 Interim Guidelines for Schools for Yap Department of Education (DOE) for implementation in the schools; COVID-19 education briefing and checklist with Public Transportation System (PTS) for managing bus passengers safely during transport; in-house COVID-19 related training and capacity building for DHS/PH/WCHC staff; Set up and demonstration of W.A.S.H stations at select high risk island communities and in schools; regular radio net with the Outer Island Dispensary Managers giving them COVID-19 updates and also conducting other communicable disease surveillance for the likes of dengue, leptospirosis, influenza like illness and more in addition to COVID-19. A health team is also being planned to visit the Outer Islands on the next long field trip scheduled for May 15, 2020 to provide COVID-19 prevention services, messages and education materials.

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-554531107958008>