SUMMARY OF COVID-19 SITUATION—Report # 29

International: The WHO and CDC have alerted doctors globally to be on the lookout for a rare and serious inflammatory condition in children and adolescents that may be linked to COVID-19. The condition known as Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C), can inflame multiple organs in the body including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs. CDC is still learning about MIS-C and how it affects children, so we don’t know why some children have gotten sick with MIS-C and others have not. We also do not know if children with certain health conditions are more likely to get MIS-C. These are among the many questions CDC is working to try to understand.

National: On May 20, 2020 during his first State of the Nation Address, FSM President David W. Panuelo announced his government is providing financial support in the amount of $300,000 for FSM citizens who are stranded in Guam and Hawaii while in transit on their way back home.

"Our citizens are our obligation, and we are united in our efforts to assist them,” President Panuelo told members of FSM Congress during his state of the nation address. While no concrete date has been set for the return of the stranded citizens, President Panuelo said the government has a broad agreement that returning citizens may be required to be tested for Covid-19 two days prior to entry into the FSM, to be followed by state-mandated quarantine and isolation procedures. Then returning citizens may then be tested a second time prior to departing their quarantine area into the general population. These protocols will be necessary to ensure that our nation remains Covid-19 free, he added.

"In the context of Covid-19, all frontline workers, to include health and border control staff, have received infection control training; we’ve been building quarantine and isolation sites in all four states,” President Panuelo said. State’s have also implemented risk communication processes and acquired the capacity to test for Covid-19. The President expressed that he could not be prouder of our national and state frontline personnel.

Local: On May 23, 2020 the Yap Department of Health Services (DHS) will be conducting a table top simulation exercise for COVID-19 preparedness for all Division of Public Health staff who have been assigned as part of entry screeners. The training will start at 9am in the DHS conference room, with PH staff divided into three groups doing COVID-19 table top simulation exercises for a few hours.

On May 20, 2020 the Health Crisis Taskforce Chairman, John Gilmamat and DHS Director, Aileen Tareg received a donation of medical supplies from the Yap-China Economic and Cultural Exchange Association. The medical supplies included isolation clothing, protective clothing and disposable non sterile masks.

The Yap DHS Risk Communication committee was invited to participate in its first FSM/State Risk Communication Team virtual meeting along with regional and international partners. United Nations Children’s Fund or UNICEF offered assistance to help guide the development of Yaps COVID-19 Risk Communication Plan. In the meeting was also shared that WHO has given funding to the FSM for Risk Communication activities which Yap can also tap into for its Risk Communication Plan activities.

The FSM Declaration of Public Health Emergency will be ending on May 31, 2020 and without any clear indication if it will be extended or not at the national level, the Yap DHS is working with the Health Crisis Taskforce and the Governor’s Office to ensure the travel ban into Yap, through all ports of entry, is still maintained for at least another 30 days, as Yap is still not fully prepared for reopening up the borders to fight COVID-19.

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.