



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Update

Yap Department of Health Services

May 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: 166 (5 deaths)
CNMI: 22 (2 deaths)
Palau: 0
RMI: 0

Globally as of 5/23/20: WHO Sit Rep

of confirmed cases: 5,103,006
of deaths: 333,401

SUMMARY OF COVID-19 SITUATION—Report # 30

International: May 31, 2020 is “World No Tobacco Day”. Globally the World Health Organization is calling on all young people to join the fight to become a tobacco-free generation. WHO has shared that studies show that smokers are more likely to develop severe disease with COVID-19, compared to non-smokers. COVID-19 is an infectious disease that primarily attacks the lungs. Smoking impairs lung function making it harder for the body to fight off coronaviruses and other diseases. Tobacco is also a major risk factor for non-communicable diseases like cardiovascular disease, cancer, respiratory disease and diabetes which put people with these conditions at higher risk for developing severe illness when affected by COVID-19.

Local: The Yap Department of Health Services (DHS) successfully conducted its COVID-19 table top simulation exercise for all Public Health Port of Entry screeners this past weekend. The screeners will get the opportunity to implement their simulation exercise on inbound passengers arriving into Yap this week on the MV Hapilmohol, which is on its way back to Yap port after servicing the outer islands.

As part of the re-opening of public and private schools earlier this month with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, the Yap DHS, through the Health Crisis Taskforce and Yap State Department of Education (DOE), enlisted the assistance of the Yap State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct water quality testing and school campus inspections to gauge the safety and cleanliness levels of all the schools.

On May 18, 2020, EPA in a letter to the Director of Education, indicated that it had visited 16 schools across the main island from elementary to middle school, high schools and college campuses and taken water samples from each for testing, to ensure that no Coliform or E.coli bacteria are present in the school water systems. Of the 16 schools tested, four came back positive for the presence of Coliform (Maap, Gagil and Dalipebinaw elementary schools and International Christian School) and additionally, two (Dalipebinaw elementary and International Christian School) of the four schools were also found to have E. coli present in their water system.

According to the EPA communication, total Coliform does not pose a health risk, however they should not be present within the distribution system. However, the E. coli bacteria on the other hand, pose a great threat to human health and can cause health issues. If a water source is found to have the E. coli bacteria that water source would not be safe to consume without boiling the water first. Water should be brought to a rolling boil and boiled like that for 3 minutes before consuming. The EPA has also recommended the affected schools have their water systems flushed and be retested again after flushing.

On May 20, 2020, the EPA shared with both the Directors of Health and Education that school inspections of the 16 public and private schools found that most were in need of some kind of improvement and or repair in different areas relating to either school grounds cleanliness, garbage/waste management and maintenance, functioning and cleanliness of school restrooms. Of the 16 schools assessed, only five (Tamil and Maap elementary schools, Yap International Christian School, Yap Catholic High School and COM-FSM Yap Campus) were found to be in good condition with clean and functioning facilities.

In light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, Yap is fortunate that we do not have any confirmed cases of the corona virus yet. While we are in this state, the Yap DHS wants to encourage those schools that have recommendations to improve, fix or repair certain areas, especially those relating to water, to make those a priority to avoid any other potential health outbreaks from water borne, water shed and water wash diseases.

Meanwhile, the Yap Lab is continuing to work with the Project Management Office (PMO) on its plans for expansion of its facilities. The PMO architect has been visiting the lab site to put together the design plans, while the lab supervisor is working on providing the specifications for space and electrical needs of the new equipment that needs to be housed in the expansion project.

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 (Mon., Wed., Fri.) & Yap State Media and Protocol FB Page. Also check out the Wa’ab Community Health Center FB Page.