



Republic of Palau

## Ministry of Health

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May 26, 2017

### Memorandum

To : Ministry of Health

Cc : Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., President, Republic of Palau


RE : Declaration of Dengue Epidemic

In response to the epidemic of Dengue Fever virus currently affecting all States of Palau and in order to provide the Ministry of Health and other appropriate officials with all authorities necessary to prevent further transmissions of Dengue; I hereby declare activation of Ministry of Health Hospital and Public Health emergency to ensure that we are prepared to deal with any further cases in which the public has been exposed to the virus or worst case.

Due to the steep rise in dengue cases, 195 lab confirmed cases since November of 2016, with May 2017 alone, confirmed cases maxed at 45 with three (3) deaths in the past months. A majority of the cases received at the hospital are *Dengue Hemorrhagic* Fever (Virus is causing blood vessels to leak fluid into the lungs causing difficulty breathing) which require further urgent public mobilization.

All efforts through the Bureau of Public Health to ensure the community is provided appropriate information to prevent getting dengue or spreading infections is ongoing. Public Service announcements, Meetings with State leaders, Koror State Government and other agencies continues as we mobilize resources to enhance surveillance, community wide clean-up and prevention measures.

The Ministry of Health activated its Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) on May 24, 2017 to organize the Incident Command System (ICS) and on May 25, 2017, Bureau of Public Health EOP was activated as well to strengthen and have unified front to combat this emergency Dengue Outbreak operation.



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Darnelle W. Decherong  
Incident Command