



Republic of Palau

Ministry of Health and Human Services

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIRECTIVE NO. 100-22

AUTHORIZING ISOLATION, QUARANTINE, AND RESTRICTED ENTRY MEASURES TO PREVENT AND MITIGATE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that was first identified in December 2019, and that occurs through human-to-human respiratory transmission; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 presents a threat to public health in the Republic, and is particularly dangerous for those who are unvaccinated, immunocompromised or have underlying medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on February 11, 2020, and further characterized it as a Pandemic on March 12, 2020. The WHO and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that all countries and territories implement appropriate measures to prevent and control the transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of June 01, 2022, over 99% of Palau's population has been vaccinated against COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Health and Human Services (MHHS) has established COVID-19 protocols for case prevention, identification, and management, and numerous businesses are now certified through the Pandemic Safety Certification Program for establishing COVID-safe practices such as mask wearing, physical distancing, regular disinfecting, and hand hygiene; and

WHEREAS, the Republic coordinates closely with the WHO, CDC, and Pacific Islands Health Officers Association (PIHOA) on public health guidance, best practices and suggested guidelines for mitigation of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to take action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that the residents at risk and the vulnerable population of Palau remain safe and secure.

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Director of Public Health of the Ministry of Health and Human Services, I hereby authorize revised requirements for International Entry and as required for Isolation and Quarantine pursuant to 34 PNC § 102(m) and 34 PNC § 701 and the MHHS Rules & Regulations for Isolation and Quarantine of Contagious Diseases to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the Republic of Palau, as follows:

Section 1. Vaccine Requirements Applicable to International Travel into the Republic:

- COVID Safe Practices. All Travelers are advised to practice physical distancing, wear a mask over the nose and mouth when within six feet of others, and avoid large indoor gatherings for fourteen (14) days prior to their travel to the Republic.
- Unvaccinated Individuals Under 18 years of age. Unvaccinated individuals under 18 years of age are permitted to travel to the Republic and must adhere to all other requirements of this section.

A. Transit and Entry Protocols:

Steps for Entry:

1. Vaccination. Travelers must be fully vaccinated to enter the Republic. Travelers must submit proof of complete COVID-19 vaccination with final dose administered at least fourteen (14) days prior to departure to the Republic. Vaccine received must be authorized for emergency use or approved by either the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or the World Health Organization (WHO), or the Medigen vaccine authorized by the Republic of China – Taiwan’s health authorities.

*For commercial air travel, travelers must submit proof to the airline.

* For chartered vessels, travelers must submit directly to MHHS.

2. Mitigation Orders After Arrival. All Travelers are required to follow all requirements stated in the Mitigation Orders issued upon arrival.

Section 2. Guidelines for Vessel Crew:

- The crew of any aircraft or vessel entering the Republic must provide proof of full vaccination and official documentation on infection control measures implemented for aircraft or vessel operations and health management protocols for personnel;
- Any crew member of any air or water vessel that disembarks into the Republic of Palau shall be subject to these regulations.

Section 3. Isolation. The isolation of persons infected by COVID-19 is hereby authorized as follows:

- Any person proven or strongly suspected to be infected with COVID-19 shall be isolated for a period as deemed necessary by MHHS at either a government designated facility or at home at the discretion of the Director of Public Health; and
- Infection may be proven or strongly suspected based on a presumptive test result, and/or a confirmatory test result by means of authorized assays for viral testing including those that detect SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid or antigen.
- Isolation Facilities: The isolation rooms of Belau National Hospital shall be reserved for infected persons in need of critical care. MHHS shall identify other appropriate and adequate facilities, either public or private property to be designated as Isolation Facilities for COVID-19 infected persons as necessary.

Section 4. Quarantine. The quarantine of persons exposed to COVID-19 is hereby authorized as follows:

- Any person determined to have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 shall self-monitor for a period of 10 days (10) and follow applicable guidelines as deemed necessary by the Ministry of Health.

Section 5. Applicability to all Travel into the Republic.

- This Directive is intended for all travelers entering the Republic, including those entering the Republic via commercial or private vessel. Private and charter vessel travelers must submit proof of vaccination at least 96 hours before departure to the Republic of Palau.

Section 6. Delegation of Authority.

- Pursuant to 34 PNC § 101 and Section 4.10 of the MHHS Rules & Regulations for Isolation and Quarantine of Contagious Diseases, Authority to order the isolation or quarantine of persons found to be infected or exposed within the Republic of Palau or upon arrival into the Republic either by sea or at the Palau International Airport, is hereby delegated to the Director of the Bureau of Public Health.

Section 7. Exemptions.

- No exemptions to the isolation or quarantine requirements or restricted entry measures of this directive may be made, except by the Director of Public Health and in writing. The Director may issue exemptions on an individual, case-by-case basis, based only on an articulable medical justification.

Section 8. Term.

- This directive supersedes and replaces MHHS Directive N0.66-22, which was issued on May 31, 2022. This directive shall be effective for all entry to the Republic of Palau on 09 July 2022 Palau time. Unless cancelled, revoked, or re-issued, this directive shall remain in effect until further notice.

Issued 01 July 2022 at the Ministry of Health and Human Services in Koror, Republic of Palau.



Sherilynn Madraisau
Director, Bureau of Public Health and Human Services
Ministry of Health and Human Services