



Republic of Palau

Ministry of Health and Human Services

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIRECTIVE 001-23

AUTHORIZING ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE 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.

WHEREAS, as of April 25, 2023, 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

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

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

WHEREAS, the community at large is encouraged to continue to maintain the practice of preventive health measures for the prevention of COVID-19 infection and transmission.

WHEREAS, based on the local epidemiological situation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that more than 99% of the population are fully vaccinated, MHHS has rescinded vaccine and testing entry requirements and determined that Palau is well positioned to shift from the emergency nature of the response of the pandemic to long term public health strategies.

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 the requirements for isolation and quarantine of persons infected by COVID-19 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. Isolation. The isolation of persons infected by COVID-19 is hereby authorized as follows:

- Any person who test positive for COVID-19 or has been clinically diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider shall self-isolate for five days and follow applicable guidelines as required by Ministry of Health and Human Services.
- 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.

Section 2. 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 five days and follow applicable guidelines as deemed necessary by the Ministry of Health and Human Services.

Section 3: Reporting and Confirmation of self-test:

- Any person who test positive for COVID-19 using home test kits must report their self-test result to public health authorities and undergo COVID-19 confirmatory testing at a health facility.

Section 4. Applicability.

- This Directive is intended for all people residing in Palau and all travelers entering the Republic.

Section 5. 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 6. Exemptions.

- No exemptions to the isolation or quarantine except by the Director of Public Health and in writing.

Section 7. Term.

- This directive supersedes and replaces MHHS Directive N0.100-22, which was issued on July 01, 2022. This directive shall be effective on April 25, 2023 . Unless cancelled, revoked, or re-issued, this directive shall remain in effect until further notice.

Issued on April 25, 2023 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