



Republic of Palau

# Ministry of Health

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## COVID-19 QUARANTINE POLICY FOR ALL TRAVELERS TO THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU

Pursuant to MOH Rules and Regulations for Isolation and Quarantine of Contagious Diseases and MOH Directive No. 170-20, which authorizes isolation and quarantine measures in response to the 2019 Coronavirus Diseases (COVID-19), this document outlines the quarantine process for all incoming travelers to the Republic of Palau originating from high-risk and non-high risk COVID-19 areas<sup>1</sup>.

In order to prevent the import and spread of COVID-19 in Palau, these quarantine measures for all travelers entering its borders shall remain in effect for ninety (90) days from date of issuance.

### TRAVELERS ORIGINATING FROM NON-HIGH RISK COVID-19 AREAS

All travelers originating from non-high-risk-areas will be required to provide proof of a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for COVID-19, taken within seventy-two (72) hours prior to departure. The result of that test must be negative for the passenger to board a flight to Palau. All travelers must also certify that they have remained non-symptomatic for COVID-19 for 14 days prior to departure.

All travelers originating from non-high-risk COVID-19 areas shall undergo seven (7) days of mandatory quarantine, seven (7) days quarantine in place and three (3) COVID-19 tests in Palau.

*NOTE: All travelers transiting less than 14 days through non-high-risk COVID-19 areas from high-risk COVID-19 areas shall be regarded as travelers originating from high-risk COVID-19 areas.*

### Mandatory Quarantine<sup>2</sup>

- All travelers from non-high-risk COVID-19 areas shall undergo mandatory quarantine at a government designated facility for at least seven (7) days from date of arrival into Palau.
- All travelers will undergo two (2) COVID-19 tests during the mandatory quarantine period on Day 1 and Day 7 from arrival date.

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Section 3 of MOH Directive No. 170-20, High-Risk Areas are defined as being jurisdictions with ongoing community transmission of COVID-19; whereas jurisdictions that have no identified COVID-19 community transmission for at least 30 consecutive days shall be deemed as Non-High-Risk Areas of COVID-19.

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to Sections 4.11, 4.12, 7, 9 of the MOH Rules & Regulations for Isolation and Quarantine of Contagious Diseases, mandatory quarantine entails restriction of freedom of movement of persons to within a government designated quarantine facility.

- MOH personnel shall conduct daily symptoms monitoring of all travelers during mandatory quarantine.
- All travelers will undergo Day 7 test for COVID-19. If test result is negative, travelers are then released from mandatory quarantine.
- If any quarantined individual tests positive for COVID-19 at any time during the quarantine period, he or she will be moved to an appropriate isolation and care facility and all relevant protocol will be activated. All remaining quarantined individuals (other travelers arriving on the same vessel) who tests negative for COVID-19 shall remain in mandatory quarantine and the quarantine period will reset to Day 1.

### **Quarantine in Place and self-monitoring<sup>3</sup>**

- With negative Day 7 test result, travelers are released to quarantine in place and self-monitor at place of residence for a period of seven (7) days.
- MOH personnel shall continue to conduct daily symptoms monitoring of all travelers during quarantine in place period. Travelers shall also exercise self-monitoring of symptoms during quarantine in place period.
- Essential workers<sup>4</sup> shall restrict their movement to between place of residence and workplace during quarantine in place period.
- All travelers shall undergo final COVID-19 test on Day 14 (Day 7 of quarantine in place) after arrival in Palau at the Belau National Hospital.
- If tested negative on Day 14, traveler is released from quarantine process.

### **TRAVELERS ORIGINATING FROM HIGH RISK COVID-19 AREAS**

All travelers originating from high-risk-areas will be required to provide proof of a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for COVID-19, taken within seventy-two (72) hours prior to departure. The result of that test must be negative for the passenger to board a flight to Palau. All travelers must also certify that they have remained non-symptomatic for COVID-19 for 14 days prior to departure.

All travelers originating from high-risk COVID-19 areas shall undergo fourteen (14) days of mandatory quarantine, seven (7) days quarantine in place and three (3) COVID-19 tests in Palau.

### **Mandatory Quarantine<sup>2</sup>**

- All travelers from high-risk COVID-19 areas shall undergo mandatory quarantine at a government designated facility for at least fourteen (14) days from date of arrival into Palau.
- All travelers will undergo two (2) COVID-19 tests during the mandatory quarantine period on Day 7 and Day 14 from arrival date.
- MOH personnel shall conduct daily symptoms monitoring of all travelers during mandatory quarantine.
- All travelers will undergo Day 14 test for COVID-19. If test result is negative, travelers are released from mandatory quarantine.

<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Sections, 4.11, 4.13, 7, 8 of the MOH Rules & Regulations for Isolation and Quarantine of Contagious Diseases, quarantine in place entails quarantine of a person within place of residence and restriction of movement to limited locations.

<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to Section 3 of the MOH Rules & Regulations for Isolation and Quarantine of Contagious Diseases, "essential workers" are defined as public safety personnel, health professionals, military personnel, members of the diplomatic corps, personnel responsible for operating, maintaining, supplying, or developing critical infrastructure, providing emergency services, environmental quality services, or transportation services, or those otherwise specifically identified by the Minister of Health.

- If any quarantined individual tests positive for COVID-19 at any time during the quarantine period, he or she will be moved to an appropriate isolation and care facility and all relevant protocol will be activated. All remaining quarantined individuals (other travelers arriving on the same vessel) who tests negative for COVID-19 shall remain in mandatory quarantine and the quarantine period will reset to Day 1.

### **Quarantine in Place and self-monitoring<sup>3</sup>**

- With negative Day 14 test result, travelers are released to quarantine in place and self-monitor<sup>5</sup> at place of residence for a period of seven (7) days.
- MOH personnel shall continue to conduct daily symptoms monitoring of all travelers during quarantine in place period. Travelers shall also exercise self-monitoring of symptoms during quarantine in place period.
- Essential workers<sup>4</sup> shall restrict their movement to between place of residence and workplace during quarantine in place period.
- All travelers shall undergo final COVID-19 test on Day 21 (Day 7 of quarantine in place) after arrival in Palau at the Belau National Hospital.
- If tested negative on Day 21, traveler is released from quarantine process.

### **EXEMPTIONS**

Pursuant to Section 3 and Section 7 of MOH Directive 170-20, no exemptions to these quarantine requirements may be made, except by the Minister of Health and in writing. The Minister may issue exemptions on an individual, case-by-case basis, only based on an articulable medical justification. Crew members of any air or water vessel that disembark into Palau shall be subject to these requirements, except in cases wherein an air or water vessel breaks down unexpectedly within the territory of the Palau. In such cases, any crew member disembarking such vessel shall be quarantined for an appropriate period or until the vessel is repaired and ready to depart Palau, at which time quarantined crew members may be permitted to re-board their vessels.



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<sup>5</sup> Self-monitoring entails traveler monitoring themselves for COVID-19 symptoms including but not limited to high-temperature and to report any development of symptoms to MOH personnel.