

**FACT SHEET for Release by U.S. Embassy Koror**  
**U.S. Assistance to Palau COVID-19**

U.S. Embassy Koror continues to work closely with the government of the Republic of Palau to prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. U.S. Embassy Koror is closely coordinating with U.S. interagency partners including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), USAID, the Department of Interior and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM). The U.S. response in the Pacific Island countries is currently prioritizing the U.S. Freely Associated States (FAS)—the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and Republic of Palau (Palau)—with whom we have uniquely close relationship rooted in the Compacts of Free Association and longstanding public health programs.

**Preparedness and Emergency Response:** For many years, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has engaged with Palau to develop and continuously refine emergency response plans. Now the lead agency on U.S. COVID-19 response, CDC is in frequent communication with the Palau to determine needs and provide guidance and assistance. CDC also leads a weekly call with health care professionals in the U.S. Pacific territories and Freely Associated States. Currently, CDC is collaborating with WHO colleagues and others in the region to help the FAS adapt and apply their existing national response plans for the current COVID-19 threat. CDC is providing technical assistance and developing additional funding options to support established regional mechanisms for infectious disease response.

**Testing:** The United States through CDC is supporting COVID-19 testing for the FAS. In addition to CDC's laboratory in Atlanta, Hawaii's state public health laboratory and the Guam Public Health Laboratory are now available to serve the COVID-19 testing needs of Palau. CDC is currently acting to supply additional test kits to support increased testing demands in Guam.

**Supplemental Funding:** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) received a share of the U.S. government's recent \$8.3 billion supplemental funding package for coronavirus-related research and assistance. The following amount has been made available to Palau to support their response to COVID-19: Palau (\$336,793.50).

**Personal Protective Equipment:** The U.S. Freely Associated States are eligible to receive allocations of personal protective equipment (PPE) from the strategic national stockpile managed by HHS/Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

**Donor Coordination:** Embassy Koror and U.S. interagency partners are coordinating with like-minded partners including Australia, Japan, and Taiwan, Pacific Islands Health Officers Association (PIHOA), and the World Health Organization (WHO) to address requests for personal protective equipment (PPE), medical supplies, testing, and technical assistance. The U.S. government has provided longstanding public health assistance to the people and government of Palau.

POCs: Ambassador John Hennessey-Niland and Mission Deputy Gwen Llewellyn

Helpful Links:

HHS/CDC:

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/11/cdc-to-award-over-560-million-to-state-local-jurisdictions-in-support-of-covid-19-response.html>

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/11/cdc-funding-information.html>

DOI:

<https://www.doi.gov/oia/press/interior-applauds-centers-disease-controls-support-us-territories-and-freely-associated>