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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Official Statement: COVID-19

Fourth Suspected COVID-19 case identified in Pohnpei, FSM

KEY POINTS:

- There are currently **no confirmed cases** of COVID-19 in Pohnpei, FSM.
 - On April 15, 2020 Pohnpei identified its **fourth suspected case** of COVID-19, **Person Under Investigation (PUI)**.
 - This case is being treated and **investigations are underway for testing** to determine if this case is a confirmed case of COVID-19.
 - A "Person Under Investigation" designation **ONLY** means they have presented with some of the symptoms associated with COVID-19. It does **NOT** mean they have the disease.
 - The public is advised to **remain calm and continue to practice preventative measures**.
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The Pohnpei State COVID-19 Task Force advises that as of April 15, 2020 **one (1) suspected case** of novel coronavirus (COVID-19), otherwise known as a **Person Under Investigation (PUI)** has been **identified on Pohnpei**. This is the fourth suspected case identified in Pohnpei.

The suspected case is currently in isolation away from public contact in a secured government facility. Arrangements are being made for testing as soon as possible to determine if this is a confirmed case of COVID-19. The Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) continues intensive public health measures should this case turn out to be a case of COVID-19. The Department wishes to reemphasize to the public that **there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Pohnpei**.

The Task Force and DHSS, with the help of the National Government, World Health Organization, International Organization for Migration, Micronesian Red Cross and UNICEF technical experts, is responding to this case and continues concentrated public health measures. The Task Force will provide an update to the public once laboratory test results become available.

For credible sources of information on COVID-19, visit:

Pohnpei State Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PohnpeiStateGov/>

V6AH Radio station/Pohnpei Public Broadcasting Corporation YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC103DbQcwFPuaCF4pleV7rw>

CDC Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>

WHO Website: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

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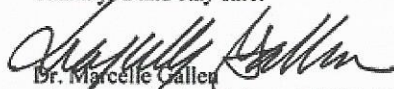
ADVICE TO THE PUBLIC:

✓ DO's	* DON'TS
✓ Learn more about COVID-19 and watch out for signs and symptoms. ✓ Call 320-3109 if you or one of your family members or friends feel sick or develop symptoms. ✓ Stay at home and avoid public spaces and crowds if you feel sick. ✓ Avoid close contact and practice social distancing (4 to 6 feet) with anyone who is sick or has symptoms. ✓ Always practice good hand and cough hygiene - wash hands regularly with soap and water, or using hand sanitizer, and cover your cough and sneeze. ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. ✓ Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces regularly. ✓ Wear a cloth face covering in public places where it is difficult to avoid close contact with others. ✓ Follow Pohnpei's current advisories on travel and public events and gatherings. ✓ Use credible sources for information on COVID-19 (check facts before you share).	* If you have COVID-19 symptoms, <u>DO NOT</u> go to the hospital, clinics or dispensaries as this can cause further spread. * Do not attend public gatherings or crowds. * Do not come in close contact with anyone who has fever or cough. * Do not share dishes, utensils, glasses/cups, bedding, towels and other household items with anyone who is sick. * Do not go out in public if you are elderly or if you have underlying chronic medical conditions such as asthma, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease, heart disease or mental health problems. * Do not visit family or friends who are at greater risk for severe illness from COVID-19. * Do not wait for symptoms to start protecting yourself and your loved ones. * Do not share misinformation and rumors, or discriminate against anyone associated with COVID-19. * Do not believe everything you see or read on social media. * Do not ignore symptoms, call 320-3109.

Initial signs and symptoms of COVID-19 that may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure can include fever, dry cough and shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. Other symptoms can include runny nose, fatigue or tiredness, body aches, chest pain or pressure, sore throat, headache, diarrhea, vomiting, conjunctivitis (pink eye) and the loss of smell or taste. The severity of COVID-19 symptoms can range from very mild to severe. People may be sick with the virus for several days before developing symptoms. The current guidance may change or be updated—stay informed.

The Task Force will inform the public as soon as possible once we have a confirmed case. For general information about COVID-19, contact 320-3109, listen to daily updates on V6AH Radio or visit the official Pohnpei State Government Facebook page: Pohnpei State Enginkehlap.

Thank you and stay safe.



Dr. Marcelle Callen
Chairperson, Pohnpei State COVID-19 Task Force

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