



SUPREME COURT
THE JUDICIARY
REPUBLIC OF PALAU

P.O. Box 248 Koror, Palau 96940
Telephone: Koror : (680) 488-2607/4979/3331 or
Capitol: (680) 767-2330/2482/2607
Facsimile: Koror (680) 488-1597 or
Capitol: (680) 767-2606
E-mail address: judiciary@palausupremecourt.net

March 20, 2020

PRESS RELEASE #136

Re: 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Court Operations

*(It is our duty at the Judiciary to inform the people what we do.
This Press Release is one way to achieve that responsibility.)*

Due to the increased risk of 2019 Novel Coronavirus outbreak (also known as COVID-19), the Judiciary of Palau is taking proactive measures to protect Court staff and visitors, effective March 19, 2020. While there are no changes to normal Court operations, the Court is prohibiting entry to those people who have traveled internationally within the past 14 days; been asked to quarantine, isolate, or self-monitor by any doctor, hospital, or health agency; been diagnosed with, or have had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with, COVID-19; a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other respiratory symptoms; or resided with or been in close contact with any person in the above-mentioned categories. Additionally, Judges and Justices may use their discretion to continue matters where any party, counsel or witness meets the aforementioned criteria. Affected persons should contact the clerk's office for further instructions regarding alternate arrangements.

In addition, the Judiciary mandates that all other people take mitigating measures; including but not limited to prudent methods of social distancing to eliminate unnecessary face-to-face contact to the extent consistent with law; sanitary procedures designed to mitigate the spread of COVID19 on court property, such as frequent hand-washing; and use of technology, electronic documents, electronic communications, and other electronic means of conducting court business to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, to the extent consistent with law.

The Judiciary shall continue to monitor the situation and provide continued guidance in accordance with the Ministry of Health and other government agencies. Please contact the clerk's office with any questions about this policy.

###