



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF POHNPEI
KOLONIA, POHNPEI FM 96941
TEL: (691) 320-2235/2204 FAX: (691) 320-2505

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date Released: April 30, 2020

Official Statement: COVID-19

Fifth PUI (Person Under Investigation) identified in Pohnpei, FSM Test results **NEGATIVE**

KEY POINTS:

- There are currently **no confirmed cases** of COVID-19 in Pohnpei, FSM.
- On April 28, 2020 Pohnpei identified its **fifth suspected case** of COVID-19, **Person Under Investigation (PUI)**.
- Results from the Pohnpei State Department of Health and Social Services were released today, indicating that the virus that causes COVID-19 was **NOT DETECTED**.

The Pohnpei State COVID-19 Task Force advises that as of April 28, 2020, **one (1) suspected case** of novel coronavirus (COVID-19), otherwise known as a **Person Under Investigation (PUI)** was **identified on Pohnpei**, and as of April 30, 2020, **tested negative for COVID-19**.

The availability and convenience of test kits in Pohnpei has modified the process of information dissemination to the public. The Task Force and the Pohnpei State Department of Health and Social Services are constantly adapting to this emerging situation. The public is advised to continue to practice preventative measures and physical distancing.

As symptoms of COVID-19 are very similar to respiratory illnesses (including colds and influenza) it is expected that with time the Pohnpei State Department of Health & Social Services will identify more persons requiring investigation for COVID-19. This should not alarm the public as it is an indication of the high level of alertness and precautionary approach that DHSS is taking in response to this global pandemic. Due to limited supplies of test kits, DHSS is currently not conducting mass testing nor testing of people who do not show symptoms of COVID-19.

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>

ADVICE TO THE PUBLIC:

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