



# REPUBLIC OF PALAU MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

## OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

### **MOE COVID-19 Response: Directive No. 01-20**

At the direction of the National Emergency Committee and the Ministry of Health, all schools in Palau will be closed for two weeks beginning from Monday, March 23, 2020, to Friday, April 03, 2020. Pursuant with this direction, the Palau Ministry of Education, in consultation with the National Emergency Committee and the Ministry of Health, puts into effect the following contingency plan as a response to threats of COVID-19.

### **School Closure Contingency Plan**

#### **1. Prior to the School Closure: March 19-20, 2020**

- i. The Ministry of Education will announce to the general public that all schools will be closed for two weeks from Monday, March 23, 2020, to Friday, April 03, 2020.
- ii. Communicate to all school stakeholder groups that students will be required to stay at home during the school closure.
- iii. Provide to all schools COVID-19 preventive measures checklists.

#### **2. School Closure: March 23-April 03, 2020**

- i. All students are urged to remain at home.
- ii. From March 23-25, teachers and school staff will report to work to conduct thorough clean-up of all school facilities.
- iii. Ensure the adequate supplies of soaps and sanitizers are readily available at the schools before reopening.
- iv. Develop plans for covering missed lessons during school closure.
- v. Develop contingency plans for prolonged school closure.

#### **3. Reopening of Schools: April 06, 2020, and onward**

- i. Monitor daily attendance of students, teachers, and school staff.
- ii. Promote frequent hand washing with soap and water or 70% alcohol-based sanitizers.
- iii. Promote the practice of respiratory etiquette. (Cover cough and sneeze with clean tissue or shirt sleeve).
- iv. Require students, teachers, and school staff who are sick to stay at home.

- v. Implement UNICEF recommended preventive measures and control in response to COVID-19.
- vi. Continue to work in with the National Emergency Committee and the Ministry of Health to monitor the COVID-19 situation in Palau daily.
- vii. Finalize strategies for completing the current school year in the event of a prolonged school closure.



Sintón Soalablai

Minister of Education

cc: Management Team

Attachments for school use from UNICEF:

1. Checklist for school administrators, teachers, and staff
2. Checklist for parents, caregivers, and community members
3. Checklist for students and children