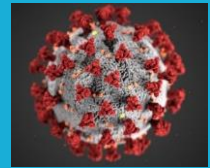




The following document is for historical purposes and is no longer being updated. Please go to the [COVID-19 Vaccination Clinical & Professional Resources](#) for more recent information.



PALAU INTERIM COVID 19 VACCINATION PLAN



Introduction

The current Palau mass vaccination plan was established during the preparedness phase of the H1N1 mass vaccination campaign in 2009. COVID-19 Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Planning Section worked with the Immunization Program to revise the current mass vaccination plan for the pandemic vaccination campaign to include the potential for limited vaccine supply for the critical population, provide community education on the development of the Covid -19 vaccine, and to monitor the community response to vaccination messaging as well as social/physical distancing measures, screen for symptoms upon arrival at the Point of Dispensing (POD), use of masks, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, and cleaning the environment between patients. The Review Team composition all had previous experiences with the H1N1 Mass Vaccination Campaign

COVID-19 Vaccination Planning Sections:

Section 3: Phased Approach to COVID-19 Vaccination

Phase 1: Potentially Limited Doses Available

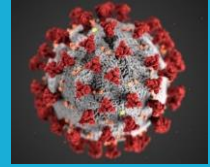
To equitably and effectively distribute the Covid-19 vaccines to priority groups during a pandemic, the Ministry of Health will activate vaccine point of dispensing (POD) sites when the event requires that a large number of people needs to be vaccinated within a specified time frame. Ministry of Health will need to know the location and amount of vaccines throughout Palau and be able to rapidly direct their flow to the appropriate population groups.

Closed POD and/or Clinic is for the critical workforce and at-risk population groups. The vaccine dispensing team visits the critical workforce's office, and setup Closed POD at their office.

Distribution of vaccines will depend on the amounts of vaccines available in Palau. Tier1, Tier2, Tier3 population groups that are to be targeted, and locations of greatest need. One or two Dose administration will be closely monitored through reporting.

Closed POD dispensing locations will be limited due to potential storage and handling requirements.

PALAU INTERIM COVID 19 VACCINATION PLAN

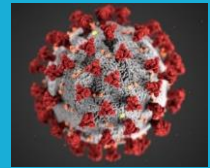


Vaccine in short supply (Sufficient to vaccinate all of Tier 1)	Vaccine in extremely short supply (Insufficient to vaccinate all of Tier 1)
<p>All groups would be offered vaccine at the same time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission critical personnel • Critical healthcare (inpatient, outpatient, long-term care, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians) • Public health personnel • Emergency Medical Services (EMS) • Law enforcement • Fire services • 	<p>Proposed ranking of groups within Tier 1:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Front-line inpatient and hospital-based health care personnel caring for sickest persons; health care personnel with highest risk of exposure 2. Mission critical personnel who play essential role in national security 3. Front-line EMS 4. Front-line outpatient health care personnel, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, and public health personnel who provide immunizations and outpatient care <p>Front-line law enforcement and fire services personnel</p>

Phase 2: Large Number of Doses Available, Supply Likely to Meet Demand

Vaccination Open/Closed POD for Targeting Population Groups

PALAU INTERIM COVID 19 VACCINATION PLAN



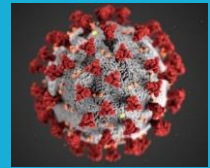
Open POD is for the general public. Due to limited POD sites in Palau, schools will be utilized as open PODS in the evenings and on weekends. See below for identified school POD sites.

Teams/Sites	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Teams/School 1 Team/Osiaol 1 Team/PHS	GBH Koror Meyuns	Osiaol PHS	GBH Koror Meyuns	Osiaol PHS	GBH Koror Meyuns	GBH Koror Meyuns
3 Teams/School 1 Team/Osiaol 1 Team/PHS	GBH Koror Meyuns	Osiaol PHS	GBH Koror Meyuns	Osiaol PHS	GBH Koror Meyuns	GBH Koror Meyuns
3 Teams/School 3 Teams/Airai	GBH Koror Meyuns	Airai Center	GBH Koror Meyuns	Airai Center	GBH Koror Meyuns	Airai Center
3 Teams/School 3 Teams/Airai	GBH Koror Meyuns	Airai Center	GBH Koror Meyuns	Airai Center	GBH Koror Meyuns	Airai Center

Phase 3: Likely Sufficient Supply, Slowing Demand

Same as phase 2 above.

PALAU INTERIM COVID 19 VACCINATION PLAN



Section 4: Critical Populations

A. Describe how your jurisdiction plans to: 1) identify, 2) estimate numbers of, and 3) locate (e.g., via mapping) critical populations. Critical population groups may include:

- Healthcare personnel
- Other essential workers
- People with cancer, chronic kidney diseases, COPD, heart disease, weakened immune system from solid organ transplant, obesity, diabetes, smoking and sickle cell disease that are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 illness
- People 65 years of age and older
- People with disabilities
- People who are under- or uninsured
- Contract workers in congregate settings

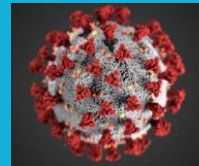
Tiers, groups, and remarks for target population groups

1st Batch Planning Figures & Outline

1. Time: November or December 2020
2. Number of doses: 20 % of Palau population (Palau population: 18,000 → 20%: 3,600 doses for 1st dose)
3. Challenge: 20% of Palau population (3,600 doses) 1st dose administration within 2 weeks.
 - a. Working days + weekend: 14 days for 3,600 doses
 - b. Target average 257 doses administration per day
 - c. Target coverage: 80% or over of each targeting population group.
4. Targeting population groups for vaccine 1st batch (2nd batch: 2 weeks later, same operations for 2nd dose)
 - a. Governmental decision makers and mission essential personnel: 150
 - b. MOH and private clinics personnel: 550
 - c. First Responder and critical government personnel: 340
 - d. Children 3- 18 years old with high risk condition: 150
 - e. Adults 19-64 years old with high risk condition: still pending
 - f. Adults 65 and older: 1300

Total of a – e: 2,340 doses (3,600 – 2,340 = 1,260 doses)

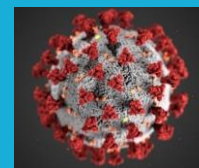
PALAU INTERIM COVID 19 VACCINATION PLAN



Tier	Population Group	Agency	Estimated Number	Administration Location/site
1	Key governmental decision makers		50	Providers visit their office During working hours
1	Mission essential personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Office personnel • VP Office personnel • NEMO personnel 	50	Providers visit their office During working hours
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEC members 	50	NEMO office or BNH Cafeteria during working hours

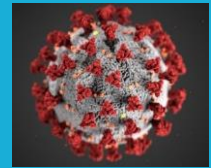
1	Public health personnel		150	BNH Cafeteria during day time
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PALAU INTERIM COVID 19 VACCINATION PLAN



1	Inpatient health care providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belau National Hospital (BNH) personnel • Private clinic personnel 	400	BNH personnel at BNH Cafeteria during day time
1	Outpatient & home health providers			
1	Pharmacists & Pharmacy technicians			
1	Emergency services & public safety sector personnel (EMS, Law enforcement, & fire services)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Safety personnel 	140	Providers visit their office during day time
1	Domestic national security personnel	Koror State Ranger personnel	20	
1	Community support & emergency management	Palau Red Cross Office personnel	20	
2	Other health care personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Koror State Animal Shelter Personnel 	10	
2	Critical government personnel – operational & regulatory functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration personnel • Customs personnel • EQPB personnel • Quarantine personnel • Other airport & seaport critical personnel 	150	
2	Children 3-18 years old with high risk condition	•	150	
2	Adults 19-64 years old with high risk condition	•	Data still pending	FHU Clinic during clinic hour
3	Contract Workers		Data still pending	Designated Closed POD for contract workers.
4	Adults 65 years old and older	Based on Palau Census 2005 and 2012	1300	Designated Closed POD for 65 years old and older during day time and evening.
5	General Population			Designated Open POD

PALAU INTERIM COVID 19 VACCINATION PLAN

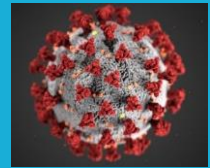


B. Describe how your jurisdiction will define and estimate numbers of persons in the critical infrastructure workforce, which will vary by jurisdiction.

Table: Tiers, groups, and vaccine dispensing location for target population groups during pandemic

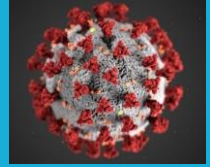
Population Group	Agency	Dispensing Location	Remarks
Key governmental decision makers		Dispensing Team visit the office	
Mission essential personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Office personnel • VP Office personnel • NEMO personnel • NEC members 	Dispensing Team visit the office	
Public health personnel		MOH Cafeteria	
Inpatient health care providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belau National Hospital (BNH) personnel • Private clinic personnel 	For BNH personnel: MOH Cafeteria	.
Outpatient & home health providers			
Pharmacists & Pharmacy technicians			
Emergency services & public safety sector personnel (EMS, Law enforcement, & fire services)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Safety personnel 	Dispensing Team visit the office	
Domestic security personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Koror Sate Ranger personnel 	Dispensing Team visit the office	
Community support & emergency management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palau Red Cross Office personnel 	Dispensing Team visit the office	
Mortuary services personnel		Dispensing Team visit the office	

PALAU INTERIM COVID 19 VACCINATION PLAN



Other health care personnel			
Communications/information technology (IT), electricity, oil & gas, water sector personnel, & financial clearing & settlement personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PNCC critical personnel • PPUC critical personnel • Radio station (media?) 	<p>Dispensing Team visit the office</p> <p>Or setup designated dispensing facility</p>	
Critical government personnel – operational & regulatory functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration personnel • Customs personnel • Other airport & seaport critical personnel 	Dispensing Team visit the office	
Children 3-18 years old with high risk condition such as heart disease, asthma, hypertension, diabetes, etc...		FHU Clinic	
Other critical government personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOF critical personnel • State Government Office personnel 	Dispensing Team visit the office	
Adults 19-64 years old with high risk condition such as heart disease, asthma, hypertension, diabetes, etc...		NCD Clinic and/or Home Health Program visit their house.	
Children 3-18 years old without high risk condition		Open POD	
Adults 65 years old and older		Open POD	
Healthy adults 19-64 years old		Open POD	

PALAU INTERIM COVID 19 VACCINATION PLAN



- C. *Describe how your jurisdiction will determine additional subset groups of critical populations if there is insufficient vaccine supply.*

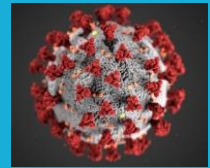
First responders including health professionals and people with high risk medical conditions will be the first in the critical population to receive covid-19 vaccination.

- D. *Describe how your jurisdiction will establish points of contact (POCs) and communication methods for organizations, employers, or communities (as appropriate) within the critical population groups*

Point of Contact will be the Liaison Officer in the Palau Mass Vaccination Branch under Pandemic Response ICS/EOC. The Liaison Officer role is to liaise between agencies identified in the critical population with covid-19 vaccination activities.

Critical Infrastructure workforce includes all first responders within the Palau Ministry of Health, Law enforcement personnel, Immigration and Customs personnel (Border Control), government leadership, traditional leadership and the Palau Red Cross Society. Total critical population count identified is less than a thousand.

PALAU INTERIM COVID 19 VACCINATION PLAN



Section 5: COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Recruitment and Enrollment

- A.** *Describe how your jurisdiction is currently recruiting or will recruit and enroll COVID-19 vaccination providers and the types of settings to be utilized in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program for each of the previously described phases of vaccine availability, including the process to verify that providers are credentialed with active, valid licenses to possess and administer vaccine.*

COVID-19 vaccine providers for communities are current nurses of Bureau of Public Health, Ministry of Health. There will be no enrollment as all are Government providers already enrolled. Requirements are trainings of COVID-19 vaccination standing orders and social distancing and infection control measures prior to mass vaccination.

- B.** *Describe how your jurisdiction will determine the provider types and settings that will administer the first available COVID-19 vaccine doses to the critical population groups listed in Section 4.*

Public Health clinics and to be identified office sites will be used as closed PODs for critical population groups.

- C.** *Describe how provider enrollment data will be collected and compiled to be reported electronically to CDC twice weekly, using a CDC-provided Comma Separated Values (CSV) or JavaScript (JSON) template via a SAMS-authenticated mechanism.*

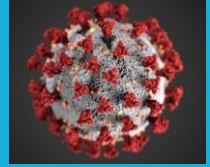
Provider enrollment completed with all Public Health Nurses and Hospital Nurses in the registry. Data entry to be completed on POD site and will be reported to CDC via IZ Gateway within 24 hours.

- D.** *Describe the process your jurisdiction will use to verify that providers are credentialed with active, valid licenses to possess and administer vaccine.*

Immunization Program will submit and retain on file all signed CDC Covid-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement and Profiles with listing of all licensed nurses who will be administering the Covid-19 vaccines. See attached licensed health care provider list.

Describe how your jurisdiction will provide and track training for enrolled providers and list training topics.

PALAU INTERIM COVID 19 VACCINATION PLAN



- *Trainings to be conducted will be on ACIP recommendations on Covid-19 vaccine (TBD)*
- *Covid-19 vaccine ordering, receiving, storage and handling, inventory management, IIS vaccine administration, management of wastage, VAERS, and Covid-19 Vaccine VIS or Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) Fact Sheets.*
- *Immunization Program to track training dates and providers that attend the trainings*

E. *Describe how your jurisdiction will approve planned redistribution of COVID-19 vaccine (e.g., health systems or commercial partners with depots, smaller vaccination providers needing less than the minimum order requirement).*

Palau only has one depot for vaccine distribution to public health clinics only.

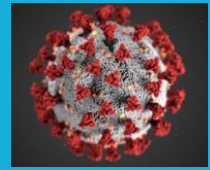
F. *Describe how your jurisdiction will ensure there is equitable access to COVID-19 vaccination services throughout all areas within your jurisdiction.*

Public Health clinics operates the same. Palau will follow the Phase approach starting with the Critical population that will be vaccinated before the general population. The contract workers living in congregated settings will fall under the general population as Palau is still a Covid-19 free nation. If this is changed in the near future, then this group will be prioritized differently.

G. *Describe how your jurisdiction plans to recruit and enroll pharmacies not served directly by CDC and their role in your COVID-19 Vaccination Program plans.*

Not Applicable

PALAU INTERIM COVID 19 VACCINATION PLAN



Section 8: COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling

Instructions:

- A.** Describe how your jurisdiction plans to ensure adherence to COVID-19 vaccine storage and handling requirements, including cold and ultra-cold chain requirements, at all levels:

Palau Immunization Program is currently in the process of procuring additional CDC approved refrigerators to store the 2 to 8 degrees covid-19 vaccines in the main depot and additional vaccine carriers and data loggers to be used to store vaccines for clinic use. Unused vaccines will be transported back to the main depot at the end of each clinic and daily inventory is maintained in the IIS Registry (WEBIZ) inventory. Main depot staff and nurse vaccinators are trained to maintain the cold chain in the main depot, transport process and in the clinics.

Program is awaiting CDC and manufacture company recommendations on ultra-cold chain requirements at this time. Palau currently does not have the capacity to store and dispense ultra-cold vaccines as we do not have any dry ice companies/business on island. We also do not have the capacity to maintain proper cold chain at the POD sites as we currently do not have any dry ice in our storage and handling facility for ultra-cold vaccine use.

- B.** Describe how your jurisdiction will assess provider/redistribution depot COVID-19 vaccine storage and temperature monitoring capabilities.

Quantity of covid-19 vaccines to be transported to the closed POD will be based on the number of critical populations at each designated POD to be vaccinated.

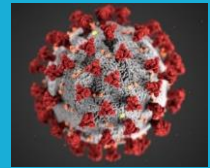
Quantity of Covid-19 vaccines to be transported to the open POD will be based on the generated WEBIZ count per state or area to be vaccinated per visit. This will minimize the potential for vaccine wastage and spoilage.

Use of cold boxes to maintain cold chain will be done at the dispensing site and should not last more than 6 hours per clinic site. Temperature monitoring and recording will start at the main depot, during transport and upon arrival at the POD, during clinic and back to the main depot after clinic for any temperature excursion requiring immediate action. Temperature monitoring devices to be used will be data loggers or probe in a thermal buffer. Vaccines exposed to out of range temperature, must be labeled as "DO NOT USE" and set aside to be transported back to the main depot for further inquiry regarding viability from CDC SME or for wastage as per wastage policy. Number of vaccines destroyed to be reported to CDC.

For off-site cold chain inquiries, see call numbers listed below:

- Palau Ministry of Health Pharmacy: 488-8750

PALAU INTERIM COVID 19 VACCINATION PLAN



- Immunization Program: 488-7252
- On duty personnel: TBD

Section 10: COVID-19 Vaccination Second-Dose Reminders

Instructions:

A. Describe all methods your jurisdiction will use to remind COVID-19 vaccine recipients of the need for a second dose, including planned redundancy of reminder methods.

- Under the Palau Ministry of Health ICS structure, the Public Information Officer will be responsible for communicating with the public and the media for the introduction of Covid-19 vaccine and the two dose schedule separated by 21-28 days.
- Covid-19 Planning Team will also conduct state town hall meetings on the introduction of Covid-19 vaccine and the importance of maintaining second dose schedule.
- Vaccination Screeners will provide patient education at the first dose of the need and timing for the second dose.
- Second dose will be generated and vaccine record card issued at the time of first dose
- Generate weekly reminder/recall reports

Assign staff to do telephone reminder call or Facebook messenger at different times and days before the second dose appointment date.

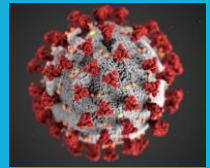
Section 12: COVID-19 Vaccination Program Communication

A. Describe your jurisdiction's COVID-19 vaccination communication plan, including key audiences, communication channels, and partner activation for each of the three phases of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program.

Covid-19 Planning Team mainly Immunization Program, EOC PIO, Bureau of Nursing and Chief Pharmacist will design communication, information and social mobilization strategies for the introduction of Covid-19 vaccination.

- Develop Covid-19 vaccine standing order based on ACIP recommendations by November 2020 or when vaccines become available
- Conduct covid-19 vaccination training to all identified vaccinators by November 2020 or when vaccines become available

PALAU INTERIM COVID 19 VACCINATION PLAN



- Develop introduction of covid-19 vaccination communication campaigns to generate vaccine confidence and demand thru radio, television, newspaper ads and social networks by November 2020 or when vaccine information becomes available
- Conduct state town hall meetings for advocacy and coordination by November 2020 and ongoing
- Develop covid-19 vaccine information statement materials in different languages by November 2020
- Establish covid-19 vaccination hotline by November 2020
- Train and assign personnel to man hotline by November 2020

B. *Describe your jurisdiction's expedited procedures for risk/crisis/emergency communication, including timely message development as well as delivery methods as new information becomes available.*

Palau EOC mainly Public Information Team and the Covid-19 Vaccination Planning Team will work with the Government Leadership, Governor's Association, Palau Red Cross Society, Traditional Leaders and the general public with communication messages on the importance of vaccination, benefits and risks, and will also provide updates when new information becomes available.

Covid-19 vaccination hotline will also be available 24/7 for individuals with inquiries of Covid-19.

Section 14: COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Monitoring

A. *Describe how your jurisdiction will ensure enrolled COVID-19 vaccination providers understand the requirement and process for reporting adverse events following vaccination to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).*

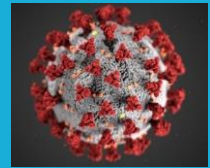
Provide provider training on Covid-19 vaccination adverse event following immunization when vaccine information becomes available. Any adverse events will be immediately reported to the Immunization Program for further investigation and online VAERS reporting.

Section 15: COVID-19 Vaccination Program Monitoring

A. *Describe your jurisdiction's methods and procedures for monitoring progress in COVID-19 Vaccination Program implementation, including:*

- *Provider enrollment*
No new enrollment
- *Access to COVID-19 vaccination services by population in all phases of implementation*
- *IIS or other designated system performance*

PALAU INTERIM COVID 19 VACCINATION PLAN



- *Data reporting to CDC*
- *Provider-level data reporting*
- *Vaccine ordering and distribution*
- *1- and 2-dose COVID-19 vaccination coverage*

Immunization Program will partner with CDC USAPI Assessment Team to monitor IIS data quality including timely data entry into the IIS, provider-level data reporting, and 1 and 2 dose Covid-19 vaccination coverage.

B. *Describe your jurisdiction's methods and procedures for monitoring resources, including:*

- *Budget*
Monthly submission of Covid-19 supplemental funds used to implement activities
- *Staffing*
Ministry of Health staff are tasked for this activity during working hours and will be compensated if work is performed outside of normal working hours. It is a challenge to hire personnel for this activity as this will not be a permanent position. Duration of work to be performed is too short.
- *Supplies – Covid-19 supplemental funds will be used to support supplies needed*

C. *Describe your jurisdiction's methods and procedures for monitoring communication, including:*

- *Message delivery*

Conduct surveys after each town hall meetings to assess community knowledge, opinions, and feelings on Covid-19 vaccine uptake.

- *Reception of communication messages and materials among target audiences throughout jurisdiction*

Covid-19 Planning Team will use CDC Awardee call and CDC Dashboard messages to develop materials for each targeted audiences.

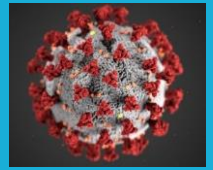
D. *Describe your jurisdiction's methods and procedures for monitoring local-level situational awareness (i.e., strategies, activities, progress, etc.).*

See section C responses.

E. *Describe the COVID-19 Vaccination Program metrics (e.g., vaccination provider enrollment, doses distributed, doses administered, vaccination coverage), if any, that will be posted on your jurisdiction's public-facing website, including the exact web location of placement.*

Number of provider enrollment: refer to provider agreement form attached

PALAU INTERIM COVID 19 VACCINATION PLAN



Doses to be distributed: Not definite yet

Number of doses administered: this information will be generated monthly including wastage

Coverage: generated monthly

Additional Information