



REPUBLIC OF PALAU MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

MOE COVID-19 Response: Directive No. 02-20

At the recommendation of President Remengesau, the Ministry of Health, and the National Emergency Committee, the Ministry of Education will extend school closure for two additional weeks from Monday, April 6, 2020, to Friday, April 17, 2020. The additional days of school closure will help prevent the likelihood of the spread of COVID-19 in the community should there be an unexpected turn of events in Palau. Furthermore, it would allow time for the Ministry of Health to finalize mitigation efforts in response to the potential impacts of COVID-19. In the meantime, the Ministry of Education will continue to provide students with lessons and activities to do while at home through the Internet or other means.

The Ministry of Education continues to work in close coordination with the National Emergency Committee and the Ministry of Health to monitor the COVID-19 situation and to determine the best course of action to implement for protecting the health and safety of students, teachers, and school staff along with all other personnel of the Ministry of Education.

Scenario 1: If no COVID-19 case occurs in Palau.

- a. Reopen schools on April 20, 2020
- b. Monitor daily attendance of students, teachers, and school staff.
- c. Promote frequent hand washing with soap and water or 70% alcohol-based sanitizers.
- d. Promote the practice of respiratory etiquette. (Cover cough and sneeze with clean tissue or shirtsleeve.)
- e. Require students, teachers, and school staff who are sick to stay at home.
- f. Implement UNICEF recommended preventive measures and control in response to COVID-19.
- g. Extend current school year by four weeks until June 12, 2020
- h. Reschedule all statewide assessments accordingly
- i. Postpone all teacher trainings except Achieve 3000 training for outlying schools

- j. Cancel 8th Grade Transition Workshop and provide local high school information to elementary schools for distribution to 8th graders
- k. Hold promotion and graduation ceremonies on June 15-18, 2020
- l. Begin School Year 2020-2021 on August 03 or 24, 2020

Scenario 2: At the direction of President Remengesau, the Ministry of Health, and the National Emergency Committee or if a COVID-19 case occurs anytime before the end of the school year.

- a. Close schools
- b. Cancel remainder of SY 2019-2020 along with all statewide assessments
- c. Postpone all teacher trainings
- d. Cancel 8th Grade Transition Workshop
- e. Compute student grades with only three completed quarters (1st, 2nd, and 3rd)
- f. Promote and graduate students without holding ceremonies
- g. Determine the beginning of SY 2020-2021 at a later date

This directive was issued this 31st day of March 2020 at the Ministry of Education in Koror, Republic of Palau.



Sinton Soalablai

Minister of Education