



POHNPEI STATE GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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CONSTITUTIONAL EMERGENCY ORDER NO. 20-01

WHEREAS, on February 1, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Directive No. 20-01 to prescribe necessary preventive and rehabilitative measures in response to the ongoing threat and risks associated with the new strain of corona virus (COVID-19) to the state of Pohnpei;

WHEREAS, such measures included a Corona Virus Task Force to review and assess the conditions within the State relating to the spread of COVID-19 and to submit an action plan; and

WHEREAS, such action plan was submitted and approved on February 5, 2020; and

WHEREAS, based on the action plan, several measures were imposed and undertaken to strengthen existing preventive measures and outbreak preparedness, including response and surveillance systems. Such measures were carried out by the task force in cooperation with key state departments, offices, and agencies in collaboration with the FSM National Task Force, relevant national agencies, local stakeholders and assistance and input from other organizations such as the World Health Organization, UNICEF, Micronesia Red Cross, and IOM.

WHEREAS, confirmed cases of COVID-19 continue to rise globally and the increase in the number of countries and territories affected by COVID-19 is happening at an alarming rate. As of March 10, 2020, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported globally is 113,702. Out of these cases, 71% are from mainland China and 29% are attributed to 109 other countries and territories.

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has placed every country at high risk due to the alarming rate of spread of COVID-19 throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii recently reported two confirmed cases of COVID-19. Due to proximity, there is a very high risk of importation of COVID-19 into the state of Pohnpei; and

WHEREAS, the Pohnpei State Coronavirus Task Force adopted the Pohnpei State COVID-19 Contingency Plan, which was developed in collaboration with the World Health Organization. The COVID-19 Contingency Plan has 5 levels of preparedness. Cov-Con 5 being zero cases, no threat; Cov-Con 4a being zero cases but real threat identified and Cov-Con 4b being zero cases in Pohnpei but confirmed cases in Hawaii, Guam, RMI, Palau, CNMI, Chuuk, Yap, or Kosrae, that Pohnpei State will declare a state of emergency.


WHEREAS, it is imperative to elevate the level of preparedness, response, and mitigation efforts due to the imminent threat and risks of COVID-19 to the economy, health, welfare, and safety of the people of Pohnpei.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Reed B. Oliver, Governor of the State of Pohnpei, pursuant to the authority vested upon me under Article 13, Section 9 of the Pohnpei Constitution and pursuant to 8 PC 1-102(e), hereby declare a state of emergency for the State of Pohnpei in response to the imminent threat of COVID-19 and order as follows:

- 1) The COVID-19 Contingency Plan for Pohnpei State is hereby elevated to the level of response of Cov-Con3. All departments, offices, and agencies are urged to perform all tasks required pursuant to their respective roles under the plan.
- 2) The Department of Treasury & Administration in cooperation with Office of Budget shall identify sources of funds necessary to carry out this order and recommend to the Governor.
- 3) Funding assistance shall be immediately requested from the Office of the President of the FSM.
- 4) Government travel by Pohnpei State Government employees are hereby suspended until further notice for the duration of this emergency declaration.
- 5) All incoming passengers on flights and vessels will be required to have a medical certificate and will be quarantined at the Dekehtik isolation area for a mandatory 14 days; provided, however, the period of quarantine may be reduced as determined by the Department of Health services based on required medical protocols and health measures. With regards to the crew of the vessels, the existing requirements and procedures will remain the same.
- 6) During the emergency, a civil right may be impaired only to the extent necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety. In addition, competitive bidding procedures for any procurement in connection with this constitutional emergency order are hereby waived.
- 7) Unless revoked or amended sooner, this Constitutional Emergency Order is valid for a period of thirty (30) days counting from March 11, 2020.

Copies of this order shall be transmitted to the President of the FSM, the Speaker of the 10th Pohnpei Legislature, the Chief Justice of the Pohnpei Supreme Court, the local chief executives of each municipality, members of Mwoalen Wahu, Chamber of Commerce, church leaders, and the Pohnpei Women's Advisory Council.

SO ORDERED.



Hon. Reed B. Oliver
Governor
State of Pohnpei

Date: 03/11/2020