



The President
Palikir, Pohnpei
Federated States of Micronesia

February 14, 2020

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina
Speaker
Twenty First Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Palikir, Pohnpei, FM 96941

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am writing to transmit to you and our Honorable members of Congress, an amended Health Emergency Declaration, which I had originally signed on January 31, 2020, in order to address the growing prevalence of the new Coronavirus illness.

Pursuant to the recent adoption by Congress of CR 21-117, I have amended my original declaration to reflect some of the changes contained in the Resolution. I thank Congress for the attention you have given to this National Emergency; including the 60 day extension and access to funds available in our National Disaster Relief Fund (DRF). Likewise, I appreciate the granted authority to amend terms of our travel ban, and to reimpose previous restrictions and requirements as may be necessary.

Accordingly, after much focused and dedicated consultations with our State and National Health professionals, I have determined that it is in the best interest of the health and safety of our citizens and residents, to reimpose the 14 day delay requirement stipulated in paragraph 4 of my declaration of January 31st; specifically, for a period of 2 weeks from the effective date of this amended declaration. As long as we can remain virus free, I am confident that after a 2 week period, our overall capabilities to screen, assess, isolate if necessary, and treat any suspected cases will be improved to a point where the overall exposure risk can be lowered to a locally manageable level. As we all know at this point, this measure in and of itself is no guarantee; but as part of a larger overall mitigation plan, it certainly has credible merit. And it is my hope that you agree that to err on the side of caution represents one of our best measures for reducing the "chance" of exposure at this time. In these 2 weeks, I am advised that our Nation can expect to be better prepared due to the following important actions:

- We are in receipt of very credible information that an actual Lab testing capability should be operational in Guam.
- It is vital that we conduct intensive training of medical personnel throughout our Nation in all aspects of infection control; particularly as it relates to suspect cases of this highly contagious Coronavirus illness.
- Establishment of adequate isolation infrastructure, along with required training in monitoring, with emphasis on isolation processes and procedures.



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With respect to paragraph 6 of the adopted Resolution, please know that as much as I appreciate and respect the expert guidelines that are periodically provided by the recognized World Health Organization, I have not hesitated to also seriously consider our Local and National level health service capabilities as part of any decision to amend travel ban terms, or reimpose any restrictions necessary to safeguard the health of our Nation's citizens and residents.

I thank Congress for the adoption of the resolution, and assure you once again, that we continue to actively take actions to be better prepared to address this continuously evolving emergency health situation.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David W. Panuelo", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

David W. Panuelo
President

xc: Chief Justice, FSM Supreme Court
All FSM State Governors