

# Palau

This document is a compilation of all questions, justifications, and sources used to determine the 2021 Global Health Security Index scores for Palau. For a category and indicator-level summary, please see the Country Profile for Palau.

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## Category 1: Preventing the emergence or release of pathogens with potential for international concern

### 1.1 ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

#### 1.1.1 AMR surveillance, detection, and reporting

##### 1.1.1a

**Is there a national AMR plan for the surveillance, detection, and reporting of priority AMR pathogens?**

Yes, there is evidence of an AMR plan, and it covers surveillance, detection, and reporting = 2, Yes, there is evidence of an AMR plan, but there is insufficient evidence that it covers surveillance, detection, and reporting = 1, No evidence of an AMR plan = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has developed a national AMR plan for the surveillance, detection, and reporting of priority AMR pathogens. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 states that "the second draft of the AMR National Action Plan, which is based on the WHO Global Action Plan, is pending review by the committee". There is no evidence that the AMR National plan has been passed. There is no AMR plan available on the central Palau government website. [2] The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not make such a plan available on their websites. [3] [4]. WHO's Library of national action plans for antimicrobial resistance does not list an entry for Palau. [5]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 14 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[5] WHO. "Library of National Action Plans". [<http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/national-action-plans/library/en/>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

##### 1.1.1b

**Is there a national laboratory/laboratory system which tests for priority AMR pathogens?**

All 7 + 1 priority pathogens = 2, Yes, but not all 7+1 pathogens = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Palau has a national laboratory/laboratory system, which tests for priority AMR pathogens. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 states that the country's "laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory located at the Belau National Hospital (BNH)". The JEE report adds that "the BNH laboratory has the capacity to conduct antimicrobial susceptibility testing and the results are used to produce a periodic hospital antibiogram" and for "testing to detect AMR pathogens that are beyond the capacity of the BNH laboratory, shipping and financing mechanisms are in place to arrange for reference testing at regional and international

laboratories". There is no evidence in the JEE report that the BNH laboratory has the capacity to test priority pathogens. The JEE report mentions that Palau's draft AMR plan is pending review and has not been passed [1] The Ministry of Health operates a laboratory in the Belau National Hospital, but there is no evidence that it performs tests for priority AMR pathogens. The Ministry of Health Annual Report 2014 says that the laboratory "provides a wide range of medical testing services, with the most common tests being on blood and urine, CBC, chemistry panel (blood sugar, sodium, potassium, BUN and creatinine) and urine routine microscopy." [2] There is no further information available on the central Palau government website regarding laboratories or testing for priority AMR pathogens. [3] The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not share any more relevant details on their websites. [2,4] The JEE report and the WHO Global Database for AMR Country Self Assessments state that Palau has no national AMR action plan. [1] [5]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/] Accessed 14 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[5] WHO. "Library of National Action Plans". [http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/national-action-plans/library/en/]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

### 1.1.1c

#### Does the government conduct environmental detection or surveillance activities (e.g., in soil, waterways) for antimicrobial residues or AMR organisms?

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that the government of the Palau conducts detection or surveillance activities (e.g. in soil, waterways, etc.) for antimicrobial residues or AMR organisms. The World Health Organization's (WHO) health security status indicates that no such activity is conducted by authorities. [1] The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 states that "Palau has some local capacity to detect, isolate and identify organisms from humans and food", and states that "there is a need to strengthen the generation and exchange of data between human, animal and environmental sources". The JEE report does not have any further information on surveillance activities in the environment for antimicrobial organisms. [1] There is a Division of Environmental Health in the Ministry of Health (MOH) of the Republic of Palau, however, the MOH website has no information regarding environmental surveillance. [2] There is no information available on the central Palau government website regarding detection or surveillance activities. [3] Palau's Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism page on the government website for the does not have any published information on environmental surveillance. [4] WHO's Library of national action plans for antimicrobial resistance does not list an entry for Palau. [5]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "List of Programs & Services" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHServices1.aspx]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[5] WHO. "Library of National Action Plans". [<http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/national-action-plans/library/en/>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

## 1.1.2 Antimicrobial control

### 1.1.2a

**Is there national legislation or regulation in place requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for humans?**

Yes = 2 , Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in enforcement = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Palau has a national legislation or regulation in place requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for humans. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 states that "in 2012, the Ministry of Health (MOH)'s Pharmacy, Drugs and Therapeutics Committee developed and implemented antibiotic standard treatment guidelines that have been implemented in all public sector health facilities, and a Belau National Hospital (BNH) formulary has been in place since 2006". The JEE report mentions that Palau's draft AMR plan is pending review and has not been passed [1] WHO's "Palau Pharmaceutical Country Profile" published in September 2012 states that "the Antibiotic Standard Treatment Guidelines was endorsed by the Minister of Health in February 2012 which promotes the quality use of antibiotics by aiming to standardize and contain the ever rising microbial resistance and cost of treatment". However, the report mentions that in Palau "sometimes antibiotics are sold over-the-counter without a prescription". [2] The MOH of Palau and the central Palau government website does not have published information on any national legislation or regulation in place requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for humans. [3] [4] WHO's Library of national action plans for antimicrobial resistance does not list an entry for Palau. [5] There is legislation in Palau requiring prescriptions for a variety of analgesic and addictive drugs, but there is no mention of antibiotics. [6]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] WHO. "Palau Pharmaceutical Country Profile".

[[https://www.who.int/medicines/areas/coordination/Palau\\_PSCP\\_NarrativeFeb18.pdf](https://www.who.int/medicines/areas/coordination/Palau_PSCP_NarrativeFeb18.pdf)]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>]. Accessed 15 February 2019.

[5] WHO. "Library of National Action Plans". [<http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/national-action-plans/library/en/>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[6] Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute. "Public Health, Safety and Welfare - Title 34: Republic of Palau". [[http://www.pacii.org/cgi-bin/sinodisp/pw/legis/consol\\_act/phsawt34315/phsawt34315.html](http://www.pacii.org/cgi-bin/sinodisp/pw/legis/consol_act/phsawt34315/phsawt34315.html)]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 1.1.2b

**Is there national legislation or regulation in place requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for animals?**

Yes = 2 , Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in enforcement = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has national legislation or regulation in place requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for animals. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 states that "there are currently no regulations for prescribing antimicrobials in terrestrial and aquatic animals and/or animal

feed”. The JEE report also states that “there is limited monitoring of antimicrobial use and/or consumption in humans, animals and food crops”. The JEE report mentions that Palau’s draft AMR plan is pending review and has not been passed. [1] The Ministry of Health of Palau, the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism and the central Palau government website do not have published information on any national legislation or regulation in place requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for animals. [2] [3] WHO’s Library of national action plans for antimicrobial resistance does not list an entry for Palau. [4] There is legislation in Palau requiring prescriptions for a variety of analgesic and addictive drugs for people, but there do not appear to be any restrictions on animals. Animals sold for meat which were treated with antibiotics may be considered “adulterated” and prohibited from sale. [5]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. “Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau”. [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. “Reports” [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. “Documents” [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>]. Accessed 15 February 2019.

[4] WHO. “Library of National Action Plans”. [<http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/national-action-plans/library/en/>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[5] Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute. “Public Health, Safety and Welfare - Title 34: Republic of Palau”.

[[http://www.paclii.org/cgi-bin/sinodisp/pw/legis/consol\\_act/phsawt34315/phsawt34315.html](http://www.paclii.org/cgi-bin/sinodisp/pw/legis/consol_act/phsawt34315/phsawt34315.html)]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 1.2 ZOOONOTIC DISEASE

### 1.2.1 National planning for zoonotic diseases/pathogens

#### 1.2.1a

**Is there national legislation, plans, or equivalent strategy documents on zoonotic disease?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has a national law, plan, or equivalent strategy document, on zoonotic disease. The World Health Organization’s (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 recommends that the country needs to “develop a zoonotic disease prevention and control plan”. The JEE report also states that “Standard Operating Procedures are in place to address outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza”. Apart from this, the JEE report does not mention national law, plan, or equivalent strategy document, for other zoonotic diseases. [1] The “Republic of Palau Pandemic Influenza Response Plan” published by Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network provides “an overview of the activities and responses that will be required from the Republic of Palau Ministry of Health to prepare for and deal with the possibility of an influenza pandemic”. This report includes the government response to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, however it does not specifically discuss zoonotic diseases and states that influenza “if present in animals, risk of human infection or disease is considered to be low”. [2] There is no relevant information available on the central Palau government website. [3] The Ministry of Health and the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have published information on a national law, plan, or equivalent strategy document, on zoonotic disease. [4,5] The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) does not list a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) evaluation report for Palau. [6] There is no relevant legislation in the Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute Database. [7]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. “Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau”. [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

- [2] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network. "Republic of Palau Pandemic Influenza Response Plan". [https://www.pphsn.net/Outbreak/Influenza/Palau\_Flu\_Plan\_Final\_Draft\_103105.pdf]. Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/] Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [4] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx]. Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [5] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/]. Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [6] World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). "OIE PVS Evaluation Reports". [http://www.oie.int/solidarity/pvs-evaluations/pvs-evaluation-reports/]. Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [7] Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute. [http://www.pacii.org/countries/pw.html]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 1.2.1b

**Is there national legislation, plans or equivalent strategy document(s) which includes measures for risk identification and reduction for zoonotic disease spillover events from animals to humans?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has a national law, plan, or equivalent strategy document, on zoonotic disease, which includes measures for risk identification and reduction for zoonotic disease spillover events from animals to humans. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 recommends that the country needs to "develop a zoonotic disease prevention and control plan". The JEE report also states "there is currently a lack of both capacity and awareness regarding detection of and response to zoonotic diseases in the human and animal sectors (including wildlife and fisheries)". The JEE report also states that "Standard Operating Procedures are in place to address outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza", however the JEE report does not mention national law, plan, or equivalent strategy document, for other zoonotic diseases. [1] There is no relevant information available on the central Palau government website. [2] The Ministry of Health and the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have published information on zoonotic disease. [3, 4] The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) does not list a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) evaluation report for Palau. [5] There is no relevant legislation in the Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute Database. [6]

- [1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/]. Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx]. Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/]. Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [5] World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). "OIE PVS Evaluation Reports". [http://www.oie.int/solidarity/pvs-evaluations/pvs-evaluation-reports/]. Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [6] Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute. [http://www.pacii.org/countries/pw.html]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 1.2.1c

**Is there national legislation, plans, or guidelines that account for the surveillance and control of multiple zoonotic pathogens of public health concern?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has a national legislation, plans, or guidelines that account for the surveillance and control of multiple zoonotic pathogens of public health concern. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 recommends that the country needs to "develop a zoonotic disease prevention and control plan". The JEE report also states that "Standard Operating Procedures are in place to address outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza". Apart from this, the JEE report does not mention national law, plan, or equivalent strategy document, for other zoonotic diseases. [1] The "Republic of Palau Pandemic Influenza Response Plan" published by Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network provides "an overview of the activities and responses that will be required from the Republic of Palau Ministry of Health to prepare for and deal with the possibility of an influenza pandemic". This report includes the government response to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, and includes both surveillance and control of influenza. [2] There is no relevant information available on the central Palau government website. [3] The Ministry of Health and the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have published information on a national law, plan, or equivalent strategy document, on zoonotic disease. [4,5] The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) does not list a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) evaluation report for Palau. [6] There is no relevant legislation in the Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute Database. [7]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network. "Republic of Palau Pandemic Influenza Response Plan". [[https://www.pphsn.net/Outbreak/Influenza/Palau\\_Flu\\_Plan\\_Final\\_Draft\\_103105.pdf](https://www.pphsn.net/Outbreak/Influenza/Palau_Flu_Plan_Final_Draft_103105.pdf)]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[5] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[6] World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). "OIE PVS Evaluation Reports". [<http://www.oie.int/solidarity/pvs-evaluations/pvs-evaluation-reports/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[7] Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute. [<http://www.pacii.org/countries/pw.html>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 1.2.1d

**Is there a department, agency, or similar unit dedicated to zoonotic disease that functions across ministries?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has a department, agency, or similar unit dedicated to zoonotic disease that functions across ministries. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 does not mention the presence of a department, agency, or similar unit dedicated to zoonotic disease that functions across ministries. However, the JEE report states that for zoonotic diseases "a collaboration mechanism is in place between the MOH, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism and others, through the Healthcare Coalition". The

JEE report also mentions that "intersectoral response mechanisms are in place that can also be activated for zoonotic events (the National Emergency Committee and the National Emergency Management Office)". [1] There is no relevant information available on the central Palau government website. [2] The Ministry of Health and the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have published information on a department, agency, or similar unit dedicated to zoonotic disease that functions across ministries. [3,4] The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) does not list a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) evaluation report for Palau. [5] There is no relevant legislation in the Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute Database. [6]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/] Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[5] World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). "OIE PVS Evaluation Reports". [http://www.oie.int/solidarity/pvs-evaluations/pvs-evaluation-reports/]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[6] Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute. [http://www.pacii.org/countries/pw.html]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 1.2.2 Surveillance systems for zoonotic diseases/pathogens

### 1.2.2a

**Does the country have a national mechanism (either voluntary or mandatory) for owners of livestock to conduct and report on disease surveillance to a central government agency?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has a national mechanism for owners of livestock to conduct and report on disease surveillance to a central government agency. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 mentions that "there is no commercial livestock production in Palau", although "some chickens and pigs are kept in subsistence backyard husbandry systems". The report does not mention any national mechanism in place for owners of livestock to conduct and report on disease surveillance to a central government agency. [1] There is no mention of such a mechanism on the central website on the government of Palau. [2] The Ministry of Health and the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have published information on disease surveillance in animals. [3, 4]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/] Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 1.2.2b

**Is there legislation and/or regulations that safeguard the confidentiality of information generated through surveillance activities for animals (for owners)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has legislation and/or regulations that safeguard the confidentiality of information generated through surveillance activities for animals (for owners). The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 mentions that "there is no commercial livestock production in Palau", although "some chickens and pigs are kept in subsistence backyard husbandry systems". The JEE report does not mention any legislation and/or regulations that safeguard the confidentiality of information generated through surveillance activities for animals (for owners). [1] There is no mention of such a mechanism on the central website on the government of Palau. [2] The Ministry of Health and the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have published information on disease surveillance in animals. [3, 4]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/] Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 1.2.2c

**Does the country conduct surveillance of zoonotic disease in wildlife (e.g., wild animals, insects, other disease vectors)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau conducts surveillance of zoonotic disease in wildlife (e.g., wild animals, insects, other disease vectors). The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 mentions that in the country, "the role of wildlife in the transmission of zoonotic diseases is unknown". The JEE report also states that "there is currently a lack of both capacity and awareness regarding detection of and response to zoonotic diseases in the human and animal sectors (including wildlife and fisheries)". [1] There is no mention of such a mechanism on the central website on the government of Palau. [2] The Ministry of Health and the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have published information on disease surveillance in animals. [3, 4] There is no other evidence of studies or articles that provide relevant information.

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/] Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau"

[<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 1.2.3 International reporting of animal disease outbreaks

#### 1.2.3a

Has the country submitted a report to OIE on the incidence of human cases of zoonotic disease for the last calendar year?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2019

OIE WAHIS database

### 1.2.4 Animal health workforce

#### 1.2.4a

Number of veterinarians per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: -

No data available

OIE WAHIS database

#### 1.2.4b

Number of veterinary para-professionals per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: -

No data available

OIE WAHIS database

### 1.2.5 Private sector and zoonotic

#### 1.2.5a

Does the national plan on zoonotic disease or other legislation, regulations, or plans include mechanisms for working with the private sector in controlling or responding to zoonoses?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has a national plan on zoonotic disease or other legislation, regulation or plan include mechanisms for working with the private sector in controlling or responding to zoonoses. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 recommends that the country needs to

"develop a zoonotic disease prevention and control plan". [1] There is no mention of such a mechanism on the central website on the government of Palau. [2] The Ministry of Health and the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have published information on disease surveillance in animals. [3, 4] There is no other evidence of studies or articles that provide relevant information.

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 1.3 BIOSECURITY

### 1.3.1 Whole-of- government biosecurity systems

#### 1.3.1a

**Does the country have in place a record, updated within the past five years, of the facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed, including details on inventories and inventory management systems of those facilities?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Palau has in place a record, updated within the past five years, of the facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed, including details on inventories and inventory management systems of those facilities. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 states that "no dangerous pathogens are cultured or stored in Palau (a reflection of the country's limited diagnostic and laboratory infrastructure and capacity)". The JEE report states that "Palau carries out active pathogen monitoring and notifications to the Ministry of Health. The JEE report also mentions that "the Palau Biosecurity Act came into effect in 2016". [1] However, this Biosecurity act is published by the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism. [2] The JEE report states that "biobanking of positive patient material is planned for the future, and considerations for appropriate storage, inventory and security are underway" in Palau. [1] The Ministry of Health does not have information available on facilities handling dangerous pathogens. [3] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. VERTIC BWC Legislation Database shows no legislation containing relevant information on biosecurity. [4] Although Palau is a state party to the United Nations Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted any Confidence Building Measures (CBM) reports so far. [5] The Republic of Palau does not have a Ministry of Defense. Palau has entered a Compact of Free Association with the United States of America (USA) under which USA "through the Department of the Interior" "defends Palau's territorial integrity". [6] The JEE report mentions that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the Belau National Hospital (BNH)". [1] There is no externally available website for BNH laboratory.

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "RPPL-9-58 Biosecurity Act" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/wp->

content/uploads/2016/03/rppl-9-58-biosecurity-act.pdf]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] VERTIC. BWC Legislation Database. "Palau". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/p/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[5] BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. "Palau". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/palau>]. Accessed 3 February 2021.

[6] U.S. Department of interior. "Republic of Palau".

[<https://www.doi.gov/oia/islands/palau#:~:text=Political%20Status&text=Upon%20independence%20in%201994%2C%20Palau,and%20the%20Republic%20of%20Palau.&text=Palau%20also%20uses%20the%20U.S.%20dollar%20as%20its%20currency>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 1.3.1b

**Does the country have in place legislation and/or regulations related to biosecurity which address requirements such as physical containment, operation practices, failure reporting systems, and/or cybersecurity of facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has regulations related to biosecurity which address requirements such as physical containment, operation practices, failure reporting systems and/or cybersecurity of facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 states that "Palau carries out active pathogen monitoring and notifications to the Ministry of Health". The JEE report also mentions that "a comprehensive Biosecurity Act was implemented in 2016." [1] However, this Biosecurity act, published by the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, does not mention regulations related to biosecurity which address requirements such as physical containment, operation practices, failure reporting systems and/or cybersecurity of facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed. [2] The JEE report states that no dangerous pathogens are cultured or stored in Palau (a reflection of the country's limited diagnostic and laboratory infrastructure and capacity). [1] The Ministry of Health does not have information available on biosecurity. [3] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. VERTIC BWC Legislation Database shows no legislation containing relevant information on biosecurity. [4] Although Palau is a state party to the United Nations Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted any Confidence Building Measures (CBM) reports so far. [5] The Republic of Palau does not have a Ministry of Defense. Palau has entered a Compact of Free Association with the United States of America (USA) under which USA "through the Department of the Interior" "defends Palau's territorial integrity". [6] The JEE report mentions that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the Belau National Hospital (BNH)". [1] There is no externally available website for BNH laboratory.

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "RPPL-9-58 Biosecurity Act" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/rppl-9-58-biosecurity-act.pdf>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] VERTIC. BWC Legislation Database. "Palau". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/p/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[5] BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. "Palau". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/palau>]. Accessed 3 February 2021.

[6] U.S. Department of interior. "Republic of Palau".

[<https://www.doi.gov/oia/islands/palau#:~:text=Political%20Status&text=Upon%20independence%20in%201994%2C%20Palau,and%20the%20Republic%20of%20Palau.&text=Palau%20also%20uses%20the%20U.S.%20dollar%20as%20its%20currency>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 1.3.1c

**Is there an established agency (or agencies) responsible for the enforcement of biosecurity legislation and regulations?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Palau has an established agency (or agencies) responsible for the enforcement of biosecurity legislation and regulations. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 mentions a Division of Biosecurity, however the mandate of the agency has not been clarified in the report. The JEE report states that "a comprehensive Biosecurity Act was implemented in 2016" in Palau. [1] The Biosecurity Act stipulated that a Division of Biosecurity be formed within the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism in "accordance with the requirement and responsibilities outlined in the Act". [2] Palau's central government website lists the Division of Biosecurity in the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism. [3] The Food and Agriculture Organization published a report in 2018 on "Strengthening Biosecurity Capacity of Palau", suggesting biosecurity measures that can be implemented by the Division of Biosecurity. [4] The Ministry of Health does not have information available on biosecurity. [5] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. VERTIC BWC Legislation Database shows no legislation containing relevant information on biosecurity. [6] Although Palau is a state party to the United Nations Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted any Confidence Building Measures (CBM) reports so far. [7] The Republic of Palau does not have a Ministry of Defense. Palau has entered a Compact of Free Association with the United States of America (USA) under which USA "through the Department of the Interior" "defends Palau's territorial integrity". [8] The JEE report mentions that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the Belau National Hospital (BNH)". [1] There is no externally available website for BNH laboratory.

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[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "RPPL-9-58 Biosecurity Act" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/rppl-9-58-biosecurity-act.pdf>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] Food and Agriculture Organization. 2018. "Strengthening Biosecurity Capacity of Palau". [<http://www.fao.org/3/ca1969en/CA1969EN.pdf>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[5] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[6] VERTIC. BWC Legislation Database. "Palau". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/p/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[7] BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. "Palau". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/palau>]. Accessed 3 February 2021.

[8] U.S. Department of interior. "Republic of Palau".

[<https://www.doi.gov/oia/islands/palau#:~:text=Political%20Status&text=Upon%20independence%20in%201994%2C%20Palau>]

au,and%20the%20Republic%20of%20Palau.&text=Palau%20also%20uses%20the%20U.S.%20dollar%20as%20its%20currency  
]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 1.3.1d

**Is there public evidence that shows that the country has taken action to consolidate its inventories of especially dangerous pathogens and toxins into a minimum number of facilities?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has taken action to consolidate its inventories of especially dangerous pathogens and toxins into a minimum number of facilities. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 states that "no dangerous pathogens are cultured or stored in Palau (a reflection of the country's limited diagnostic and laboratory infrastructure and capacity)". [1] The Ministry of Health of Palau and the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have information available on action taken by Palau to consolidate its inventories of especially dangerous pathogens and toxins into a minimum number of facilities. [2, 3] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. VERTIC BWC Legislation Database shows no legislation containing relevant information on biosecurity. [4] Although Palau is a state party to the United Nations Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted any Confidence Building Measures (CBM) reports so far. [5] The Republic of Palau does not have a Ministry of Defense. Palau has entered a Compact of Free Association with the United States of America (USA), under which USA "through the Department of the Interior" "defends Palau's territorial integrity". [6] The JEE report mentions that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the Belau National Hospital (BNH)". [1] There is no externally available website for BNH laboratory.

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[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] VERTIC. BWC Legislation Database. "Palau". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/p/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[5] BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. "Palau". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/palau>]. Accessed 3 February 2021.

[6] U.S. Department of interior. "Republic of Palau".

[<https://www.doi.gov/oia/islands/palau#:~:text=Political%20Status&text=Upon%20independence%20in%201994%2C%20Palau,and%20the%20Republic%20of%20Palau.&text=Palau%20also%20uses%20the%20U.S.%20dollar%20as%20its%20currency>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 1.3.1e

**Is there public evidence of in-country capacity to conduct Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)–based diagnostic testing for anthrax and/or Ebola, which would preclude culturing a live pathogen?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has an in-country capacity to conduct Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)-based diagnostic testing for anthrax and/or Ebola, which would preclude culturing a live pathogen. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 states that "Palau's smaller laboratories provide point-of-care testing and limited serology, and one provides PCR testing for chlamydia and gonorrhoea, and some other basic tests", however, the report does not mention PCR based diagnostic testing for anthrax and/or Ebola. The JEE report mentions that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the Belau National Hospital (BNH)". [1] There is no externally available website for BNH laboratory. The Ministry of Health Annual Report 2014 says that the Belau National Hospital Laboratory "provides a wide range of medical testing services, with the most common tests being on blood and urine, CBC, chemistry panel (blood sugar, sodium, potassium, BUN and creatinine) and urine routine microscopy." There is no mention of PCR diagnostic testing capacity. [2] The Belau National Hospital Laboratory is not listed as having the capacity to perform PCR tests in the PPHSN laboratory catalogue. [3] The Ministry of Health of Palau and the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism have not published information on in-country capacity to conduct Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)-based diagnostic testing for anthrax and/or Ebola. [4, 5] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. The Republic of Palau does not have a Ministry of Defense. Palau has entered a Compact of Free Association with the United States of America (USA), under which USA "through the Department of the Interior" "defends Palau's territorial integrity". [6]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Annual Report 2014." [<http://www.palauhealth.org/files/MOH%20Annual%20Report%202014.pdf>] Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Pacific Community. 2020. "PPHSN LabNet catalog - November 2020 Edition". [[https://phs.spc.int/sites/default/files/p-related-files/2020-12/PPHSN\\_LabNet\\_Catalog\\_November\\_2020\\_Edition.pdf](https://phs.spc.int/sites/default/files/p-related-files/2020-12/PPHSN_LabNet_Catalog_November_2020_Edition.pdf)]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[5] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[6] U.S. Department of interior. "Republic of Palau". [<https://www.doi.gov/oia/islands/palau#:~:text=Political%20Status&text=Upon%20independence%20in%201994%2C%20Palau,%20and%20the%20Republic%20of%20Palau.&text=Palau%20also%20uses%20the%20U.S.%20dollar%20as%20its%20currency>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 1.3.2 Biosecurity training and practices

### 1.3.2a

**Does the country require biosecurity training, using a standardized, required approach, such as through a common curriculum or a train-the-trainer program, for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Palau requires biosecurity training, using a standardized, required approach, such as through a common curriculum or a train-the-trainer program, for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 states that "there is annual training for staff at the Division of Biosecurity", however the type of training is not specified. The JEE report also mentions that that "a comprehensive

Biosecurity Act was implemented in 2016." [1] However, this Biosecurity act, published by the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism has no mention of biosecurity training. [2] The Food and Agriculture Organization published a report in 2018 on "Strengthening Biosecurity Capacity of Palau", which states that a "National Training Course on Database Management was held 24 and 17 March, 2017", "to enhance the biosecurity capacity of Palau" and "to support the regulations addressing biofouling". However, there is no mention in the Report of the frequency of this course or the use of standardized approach being used in biosecurity training in Palau. [3] The Ministry of Health of Palau and the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have published information on biosecurity training in Palau. [4, 5] In Palau, the Division of Biosecurity comes under the Bureau of Agriculture. [5] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. VERTIC BWC Legislation Database shows no legislation containing relevant information on biosecurity in Palau. [6]. Although Palau is a state party to the United Nations Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted any Confidence Building Measures (CBM) reports so far. [7] The Republic of Palau does not have a Ministry of Defense. Palau has entered a Compact of Free Association with the United States of America (USA), under which USA "through the Department of the Interior" "defends Palau's territorial integrity". [8] The JEE report mentions that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the Belau National Hospital (BNH)". [1] There is no externally available website for BNH laboratory.

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[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "RPPL-9-58 Biosecurity Act" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/rppl-9-58-biosecurity-act.pdf]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Food and Agriculture Organization. 2018. "Strengthening Biosecurity Capacity of Palau". [http://www.fao.org/3/ca1969en/CA1969EN.pdf]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHPages/MOHReports1.aspx]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[5] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[6] VERTIC. BWC Legislation Database. "Palau". [https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/p/]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[7] BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. "Palau". [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/palau]. Accessed 3 February 2021.

[8] U.S. Department of interior. "Republic of Palau".

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### 1.3.3 Personnel vetting: regulating access to sensitive locations

#### 1.3.3a

**Do regulations or licensing conditions specify that security and other personnel with access to especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential are subject to the following checks: drug testing, background checks, and psychological or mental fitness checks?**

Personnel are subject to all three of these checks = 3, Personnel are subject to two of these checks = 2, Personnel are subject to one of these checks = 1, Personnel are not subject to any of these checks = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has regulations or licensing conditions specify that security and other personnel with access to especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential are subject to drug testing, background checks, and psychological or mental fitness checks. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 does not mention biosecurity personnel requirements in Palau. The JEE report also mentions that that "a comprehensive Biosecurity Act was implemented in 2016." [1] The Biosecurity Act 2014 does not specifically mention especially dangerous pathogens, but says that biosecurity personnel must meet standards set by the National Public Service System Act in Title 33 of the Palau National Code. [2] This code says that government employees may be subject to testing for evidence of illegal drug use and dismissed if found positive. There is no mention of background testing or mental fitness checks in this code. [3] The government has issued regulations regarding plant and animal quarantine procedures, but this does not include reference to testing or checks on personnel. [4] There is no further information on the Ministry of Health or the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism [5, 6] In Palau, the Division of Biosecurity comes under the Bureau of Agriculture. The 2005 "Republic of Palau Pandemic Influenza Response Plan" published by Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network does not mention biosecurity personnel requirements in the country. [7] VERTIC BWC Legislation Database shows no legislation containing relevant information on biosecurity in Palau. [8] Although Palau is a state party to the United Nations Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted any Confidence Building Measures (CBM) reports so far. [9] The Republic of Palau does not have a Ministry of Defense. Palau has entered a Compact of Free Association with the United States of America (USA), under which USA "through the Department of the Interior" "defends Palau's territorial integrity". [10] The JEE report mentions that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the Belau National Hospital (BNH)". [1] There is no externally available website for BNH laboratory.

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[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "National Public Service System Act". [[http://www.palii.org/pw/legis/consol\\_act/pet33246/](http://www.palii.org/pw/legis/consol_act/pet33246/)]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government, Bureau of Agriculture and Mineral Resources. 1999. "Plant and Animal Quarantines and Regulations [sic]". [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Plant-Animal-Quarantines-and-Regulation-with-Amendments.pdf>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[5] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[6] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[7] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network. "Republic of Palau Pandemic Influenza Response Plan". [[https://www.pphsn.net/Outbreak/Influenza/Palau\\_Flu\\_Plan\\_Final\\_Draft\\_103105.pdf](https://www.pphsn.net/Outbreak/Influenza/Palau_Flu_Plan_Final_Draft_103105.pdf)]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[8] VERTIC. BWC Legislation Database. "Palau". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/p/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[9] BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. "Palau". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/palau>]. Accessed 3 February 2021.

[10] U.S. Department of interior. "Republic of Palau". [<https://www.doi.gov/oia/islands/palau#:~:text=Political%20Status&text=Upon%20independence%20in%201994%2C%20Palau,%20and%20the%20Republic%20of%20Palau.&text=Palau%20also%20uses%20the%20U.S.%20dollar%20as%20its%20currency>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 1.3.4 Transportation security

### 1.3.4a

**Does the country have publicly available information on national regulations on the safe and secure transport of infectious substances (specifically including Categories A and B)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available information on national regulations on the safe and secure transport of infectious substances (specifically including Categories A and B) in Palau. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 does not mention any national regulations in place for the safe and secure transport of infectious substances. The JEE mentions that the "staff at the national laboratory and animal shelter have been trained for international shipping and transport of infectious goods". The JEE report also mentions that that "a comprehensive Biosecurity Act was implemented in 2016". [1] The Biosecurity Act 2014 also does not outline any procedures for the transport of infectious substances. [2] The government has issued regulations regarding plant and animal quarantine procedures, but this does not include any reference to transport of infectious substances. [3] There is no further information on the Ministry of Health or the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism. [4, 5] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. VERTIC BWC Legislation Database shows no legislation containing relevant information on biosecurity in Palau. [6] The Republic of Palau does not have a Ministry of Defense. Palau has entered a Compact of Free Association with the United States of America (USA), under which USA "through the Department of the Interior" "defends Palau's territorial integrity". [7] The JEE report mentions that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the Belau National Hospital (BNH)". [1] There is no externally available website for BNH laboratory. Palau has not recently reported to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) for the "Confidence Building Measure Return" -- a reporting mechanism set by the Biological Weapons Convention. [8]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "RPPL-9-58 Biosecurity Act" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/rppl-9-58-biosecurity-act.pdf>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government, Bureau of Agriculture and Mineral Resources. 1999. "Plant and Animal Quarantines and Regulations [sic]". [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Plant-Animal-Quarantines-and-Regulation-with-Amendments.pdf>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[5] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[6] VERTIC. BWC Legislation Database. "Palau". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/p/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[7] U.S. Department of interior. "Republic of Palau". [<https://www.doi.gov/oia/islands/palau#:~:text=Political%20Status&text=Upon%20independence%20in%201994%2C%20Palau,and%20the%20Republic%20of%20Palau.&text=Palau%20also%20uses%20the%20U.S.%20dollar%20as%20its%20currency>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[8] The United Nations Office at Geneva. Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit. "BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/palau>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 1.3.5 Cross-border transfer and end-user screening

### 1.3.5a

**Is there legislation and/or regulations in place to oversee the cross-border transfer and end-user screening of especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, and pathogens with pandemic potential?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available information on any legislation and/or regulations in place to oversee the cross-border transfer and end-user screening of especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, and pathogens with pandemic potential in Palau. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 does not mention any legislations and/or regulations in place for the cross-border transfer and end-user screening of highly dangerous pathogens. However, the JEE mentions that the "staff at the national laboratory and animal shelter have been trained for international shipping and transport of infectious goods". The JEE report also mentions that that "a comprehensive Biosecurity Act was implemented in 2016". [1] The Biosecurity Act 2014 also does not outline any procedures for the transport and end-user screening of infectious substances. [2] The government has issued regulations regarding plant and animal quarantine procedures, but this does not include any reference to transport of infectious substances. [3] There is no further information on the Ministry of Health or the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism. [4, 5] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. VERTIC BWC Legislation Database shows no legislation containing relevant information on biosecurity in Palau. [6] The Republic of Palau does not have a Ministry of Defense. Palau has entered a Compact of Free Association with the United States of America (USA), under which USA "through the Department of the Interior" "defends Palau's territorial integrity". [7] The JEE report mentions that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the Belau National Hospital (BNH)". [1] There is no externally available website for BNH laboratory. Palau has not recently reported to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) for the "Confidence Building Measure Return" -- a reporting mechanism set by the Biological Weapons Convention. [8]

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[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "RPPL-9-58 Biosecurity Act" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/rppl-9-58-biosecurity-act.pdf>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government, Bureau of Agriculture and Mineral Resources. 1999. "Plant and Animal Quarantines and Regulations [sic]". [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Plant-Animal-Quarantines-and-Regulation-with-Amendments.pdf>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[5] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[6] VERTIC. BWC Legislation Database. "Palau". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/p/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[7] U.S. Department of interior. "Republic of Palau". [<https://www.doi.gov/oia/islands/palau#:~:text=Political%20Status&text=Upon%20independence%20in%201994%2C%20Palau,%20the%20Republic%20of%20Palau.&text=Palau%20also%20uses%20the%20U.S.%20dollar%20as%20its%20currency>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[8] The United Nations Office at Geneva. Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit. "BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/palau>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 1.4 BIOSAFETY

### 1.4.1 Whole-of-government biosafety systems

#### 1.4.1a

Does the country have in place national biosafety legislation and/or regulations?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has in place national biosafety legislation and/or regulations. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 states that "a biosafety manual has been drafted and submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval", but it is "yet to be officially implemented". [1] The Ministry of Health and the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources do not have any relevant information on their websites. [2, 3] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. VERTIC BWC Legislation Database shows no legislation containing relevant information on biosafety in Palau. [4] The Republic of Palau does not have a Ministry of Defense. Palau has entered a Compact of Free Association with the United States of America (USA), under which USA "through the Department of the Interior" "defends Palau's territorial integrity". [5] The JEE report mentions that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the Belau National Hospital (BNH)". [1] There is no externally available website for BNH laboratory. Palau has not recently reported to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) for the "Confidence Building Measure Return" -- a reporting mechanism set by the Biological Weapons Convention. [6]

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[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] VERTIC. BWC Legislation Database. "Palau". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/p/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[5] U.S. Department of interior. "Republic of Palau".

[<https://www.doi.gov/oia/islands/palau#:~:text=Political%20Status&text=Upon%20independence%20in%201994%2C%20Palau,and%20the%20Republic%20of%20Palau.&text=Palau%20also%20uses%20the%20U.S.%20dollar%20as%20its%20currency>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[6] The United Nations Office at Geneva. Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit. "BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/palau>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

#### 1.4.1b

Is there an established agency responsible for the enforcement of biosafety legislation and regulations?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has an established agency responsible for the enforcement of biosafety legislation and regulations. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 mentions that a "biosafety officer role has been established at the Belau National Hospital (BNH) laboratory", the report

has no mention of an established agency responsible for the enforcement of biosafety legislation and regulations. The JEE report also states that "a biosafety manual has been drafted and submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval", but it is "yet to be officially implemented". [1] The Ministry of Health and the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources do not have any relevant information on their websites. [2, 3] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. VERTIC BWC Legislation Database shows no legislation containing relevant information on biosafety in Palau. [4] The Republic of Palau does not have a Ministry of Defense. Palau has entered a Compact of Free Association with the United States of America (USA), under which USA "through the Department of the Interior" "defends Palau's territorial integrity". [5] The JEE report mentions that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the BNH". [1] There is no externally available website for BNH laboratory. Palau has not recently reported to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) for the "Confidence Building Measure Return" -- a reporting mechanism set by the Biological Weapons Convention. [6]

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[<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

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[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau"

[<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] VERTIC. BWC Legislation Database. "Palau". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/p/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[5] U.S. Department of interior. "Republic of Palau".

[<https://www.doi.gov/oia/islands/palau#:~:text=Political%20Status&text=Upon%20independence%20in%201994%2C%20Palau,and%20the%20Republic%20of%20Palau.&text=Palau%20also%20uses%20the%20U.S.%20dollar%20as%20its%20currency>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[6] The United Nations Office at Geneva. Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit. "BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/palau>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 1.4.2 Biosafety training and practices

### 1.4.2a

**Does the country require biosafety training, using a standardized, required approach, such as through a common curriculum or a train-the-trainer program, for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau requires biosafety training, using a standardized, required approach, such as through a common curriculum or a train the-trainer program, for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau published in 2020 states that "biosafety training has been provided to Belau National Hospital (BNH) laboratory staff via on-the-job training using US CDC guidance", however, the report does not mention that biosafety training is required in Palau. The JEE report also mentions that "local training capacity for the national laboratory is provided by the Ministry of Health Biosafety Officer". [1] The Ministry of Health and the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources do not have any relevant information on their websites. [2, 3] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. VERTIC BWC Legislation Database shows no legislation containing relevant information on biosafety in Palau. [4] The Republic of Palau does not have a Ministry of

Defense. Palau has entered a Compact of Free Association with the United States of America (USA), under which USA "through the Department of the Interior" "defends Palau's territorial integrity". [5] The JEE report mentions that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the BNH". [1] There is no externally available website for BNH laboratory. Palau has not recently reported to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) for the "Confidence Building Measure Return" -- a reporting mechanism set by the Biological Weapons Convention. [6]

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[<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] VERTIC. BWC Legislation Database. "Palau". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/p/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[5] U.S. Department of interior. "Republic of Palau".

[<https://www.doi.gov/oia/islands/palau#:~:text=Political%20Status&text=Upon%20independence%20in%201994%2C%20Palau,and%20the%20Republic%20of%20Palau.&text=Palau%20also%20uses%20the%20U.S.%20dollar%20as%20its%20currency>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[6] The United Nations Office at Geneva. Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit. "BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/palau>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 1.5 DUAL-USE RESEARCH AND CULTURE OF RESPONSIBLE SCIENCE

### 1.5.1 Oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research

#### 1.5.1a

**Is there publicly available evidence that the country has conducted an assessment to determine whether ongoing research is occurring on especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has conducted an assessment to determine whether ongoing research is occurring on especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau published in 2020 does not have information on dual use research. The Ministry of Health and the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources do not have any relevant information on their websites. [2, 3] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. VERTIC BWC Legislation Database shows no legislation containing relevant information on biosafety in Palau. [4] The Republic of Palau does not have a Ministry of Defense. Palau has entered a Compact of Free Association with the United States of America (USA), under which USA "through the Department of the Interior" "defends Palau's territorial integrity". [5] The JEE report mentions that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the BNH". [1] There is no externally available website for BNH laboratory. Palau has not recently reported to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) for the "Confidence Building Measure Return" -- a reporting mechanism set by the Biological Weapons Convention. [6]

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- [2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [4] VERTIC. BWC Legislation Database. "Palau". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/p/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [5] U.S. Department of interior. "Republic of Palau". [<https://www.doi.gov/oia/islands/palau#:~:text=Political%20Status&text=Upon%20independence%20in%201994%2C%20Palau,and%20the%20Republic%20of%20Palau.&text=Palau%20also%20uses%20the%20U.S.%20dollar%20as%20its%20currency>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [6] The United Nations Office at Geneva. Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit. "BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/palau>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 1.5.1b

**Is there legislation and/or regulation requiring oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has a legislation and/or regulation requiring oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau published in 2020 does not have information on dual use research. The Ministry of Health and the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources do not have any relevant information on their websites. [2, 3] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. VERTIC BWC Legislation Database shows no legislation containing relevant information on biosafety in Palau. [4] The Republic of Palau does not have a Ministry of Defense. Palau has entered a Compact of Free Association with the United States of America (USA), under which USA "through the Department of the Interior" "defends Palau's territorial integrity". [5] The JEE report mentions that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the BNH". [1] There is no externally available website for BNH laboratory. Palau has not recently reported to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) for the "Confidence Building Measure Return" -- a reporting mechanism set by the Biological Weapons Convention. [6]

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- [2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [4] VERTIC. BWC Legislation Database. "Palau". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/p/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [5] U.S. Department of interior. "Republic of Palau". [<https://www.doi.gov/oia/islands/palau#:~:text=Political%20Status&text=Upon%20independence%20in%201994%2C%20Palau,and%20the%20Republic%20of%20Palau.&text=Palau%20also%20uses%20the%20U.S.%20dollar%20as%20its%20currency>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[6] The United Nations Office at Geneva. Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit. "BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/palau>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 1.5.1c

**Is there an agency responsible for oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has an agency responsible for oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau published in 2020 does not have information on dual use research. The Ministry of Health and the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources do not have any relevant information on their websites. [2, 3] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. VERTIC BWC Legislation Database shows no legislation containing relevant information on biosafety in Palau. [4] The Republic of Palau does not have a Ministry of Defense. Palau has entered a Compact of Free Association with the United States of America (USA), under which USA "through the Department of the Interior" "defends Palau's territorial integrity". [5] The JEE report mentions that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the BNH". [1] There is no externally available website for BNH laboratory. Palau has not recently reported to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) for the "Confidence Building Measure Return" -- a reporting mechanism set by the Biological Weapons Convention. [6]

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[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] VERTIC. BWC Legislation Database. "Palau". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/p/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[5] U.S. Department of interior. "Republic of Palau".

[<https://www.doi.gov/oia/islands/palau#:~:text=Political%20Status&text=Upon%20independence%20in%201994%2C%20Palau,and%20the%20Republic%20of%20Palau.&text=Palau%20also%20uses%20the%20U.S.%20dollar%20as%20its%20currency>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[6] The United Nations Office at Geneva. Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit. "BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/palau>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 1.5.2 Screening guidance for providers of genetic material

### 1.5.2a

**Is there legislation and/or regulation requiring the screening of synthesized DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) against lists of known pathogens and toxins before it is sold?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has a legislation and/or regulation requiring the screening of synthesized DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) against lists of known pathogens and toxins before it is sold. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau published in 2020 does not have information on the legislation/regulations for synthesized DNA in Palau. The Ministry of Health and the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources do not have any relevant information on their websites. [2, 3] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. VERTIC BWC Legislation Database shows no legislation containing relevant information in Palau. [4] Although Palau is a state party to the United Nations Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted any Confidence Building Measures (CBM) reports so far. [5] The Republic of Palau does not have a Ministry of Defense. Palau has entered a Compact of Free Association with the United States of America (USA), under which USA "through the Department of the Interior" "defends Palau's territorial integrity". [6] The JEE report mentions that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the BNH". [1] There is no externally available website for BNH laboratory.

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau".

[<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau"

[<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] VERTIC. BWC Legislation Database. "Palau". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/p/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[5] BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. "Palau". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/palau>]. Accessed 3 February 2021.

[6] U.S. Department of interior. "Republic of Palau".

[<https://www.doi.gov/oia/islands/palau#:~:text=Political%20Status&text=Upon%20independence%20in%201994%2C%20Palau,and%20the%20Republic%20of%20Palau.&text=Palau%20also%20uses%20the%20U.S.%20dollar%20as%20its%20currency>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 1.6 IMMUNIZATION

### 1.6.1 Vaccination rates

#### 1.6.1a

##### Immunization rate (measles/MCV2)

Immunization rate (measles/MCV2), 95% or greater = 2, 80-94.9% = 1, Less than 80%, or no data = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

2019

World Health Organization

#### 1.6.1b

Are official foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccination figures for livestock publicly available through the OIE database?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2020

OIE WAHIS database

## Category 2: Early detection and reporting for epidemics of potential international concern

### 2.1 LABORATORY SYSTEMS STRENGTH AND QUALITY

#### 2.1.1 Laboratory testing for detection of priority diseases

##### 2.1.1a

**Does the national laboratory system have the capacity to conduct diagnostic tests for at least 5 of the 10 WHO-defined core tests?**

Evidence they can conduct 5 of the 10 core tests and these tests are named = 2, Evidence they can conduct 5 of the 10 core tests and the tests are not named = 1, No evidence they can conduct 5 of the 10 core tests = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient information that Palau has the capacity to conduct diagnostic tests for at least 5 of the 10 World Health Organization (WHO)-defined core tests. PPHSN laboratory catalogue lists the Belau National Hospital (BNH) Laboratory as having the capacity to perform tests for Chlamydia, Cholera, Dengue, Gonorrhoea, HIV, Influenza, Measles, Rubella, Syphilis, Tuberculosis and Typhoid. However, out of these diseases, the laboratory catalogue only the culture tests for Typhoid is listed under the 10 WHO defined core tests. [2] The WHO's Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the BNH". [1] There is no externally available website for BNH laboratory. The JEE report states that Palau does not currently have a system in place "to detect and investigate potential transmission of bloodborne viruses (hepatitis B, hepatitis C or HIV) in health care settings". The JEE report mentions that "TB testing and verification and reference testing are facilitated through the Pacific Island Health Officers' Association (PIHOA)", however, the type of test is not specified. [2] The "Republic of Palau Pandemic Influenza Response Plan" published by Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network does not specify the type of test conducted in Palau for Influenza. [3] The Ministry of Health of Palau does not have relevant information on its website. [4] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website.

[1] Pacific Community. 2020. "PPHSN LabNet catalog – November 2020 Edition". [[https://pfs.spc.int/sites/default/files/p-related-files/2020-12/PPHSN\\_LabNet\\_Catalog\\_November\\_2020\\_Edition.pdf](https://phs.spc.int/sites/default/files/p-related-files/2020-12/PPHSN_LabNet_Catalog_November_2020_Edition.pdf)]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network. "Republic of Palau Pandemic Influenza Response Plan". [[https://www.pphsn.net/Outbreak/Influenza/Palau\\_Flu\\_Plan\\_Final\\_Draft\\_103105.pdf](https://www.pphsn.net/Outbreak/Influenza/Palau_Flu_Plan_Final_Draft_103105.pdf)]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed

18 January 2021.

### 2.1.1b

**Is there a national plan, strategy or similar document for conducting testing during a public health emergency, which includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing?**

Yes, there is evidence of a plan, and it includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing = 2, Yes, there is evidence of a plan, but there is insufficient evidence that it includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing = 1, No evidence of a plan = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has a COVID-19 specific testing strategy which go beyond conducting tests. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau, published on 21 July 2020, it doesn't have any update on COVID-19 testing strategy. [1] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have any information on COVID-19 testing strategy. [2]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 19 April 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 19 April 2021

## 2.1.2 Laboratory quality systems

### 2.1.2a

**Is there a national laboratory that serves as a reference facility which is accredited (e.g., International Organization for Standardization [ISO] 15189:2003, U.S. Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments [CLIA])?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has a national laboratory that serves as a reference facility which is accredited (e.g., International Organization for Standardization [ISO] 15189:2003, U.S. Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments [CLIA]). The World Health Organization's Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 states "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the BNH", however, the JEE report does not mention Belau National Hospital (BNH) laboratory serving as an accredited reference facility. [1] There is no externally available website for the BNH laboratory. The Ministry of Health of Palau does not have relevant information on its website. [2] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. Pacific Island Health Officers' Association "Regional Laboratory Strengthening Initiative continues to focus on" the "delivery of the Strengthening Laboratory Management Towards Accreditation (SLMTA) initiative targeting unregulated labs in the FSM, Palau and RMI (the US Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) regulates public health labs in the US territories)". [3] The Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism does not have relevant information. [4]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Pacific Island Health Officers' Association. "Regional Initiatives". [<https://www.pihoa.org/laboratory-strengthening/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 2.1.2b

**Is there a national laboratory that serves as a reference facility which is subject to external quality assurance review?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Palau has a national laboratory that serves as a reference facility which is subject to external quality assurance review. The World Health Organization's Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 states that the country's "key strengths include a good level of laboratory service capacity despite a small population base; the existence of testing algorithms for core diagnostic capacities; established referral networks (out of country); the ability to perform key tests rapidly; and participation in external quality assurance programmes for targeted tests". The JEE report makes no further mention of quality assurance of laboratories in Palau. The JEE report states that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the Belau National Hospital (BNH)". [1] There is no externally available website for the BNH laboratory. The Ministry of Health of Palau does not have relevant information on its website. [2] The Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism does not have relevant information. [3]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 2.2 LABORATORY SUPPLY CHAINS

### 2.2.1 Specimen referral and transport system

#### 2.2.1a

**Is there a nationwide specimen transport system?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that Palau has a nationwide specimen transport system. The World Health Organization's Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 scores the country a 4 in the indicator D.1.2 "Specimen referral and transport system", which denotes that the specimen referral and transport system covers at least 80% of the country. The JEE report states that "Palau participates in regional laboratory networks (e.g. the United States Affiliated Pacific Islands Regional Lab Network) and has multiple trained international shippers in both the human and animal health sectors". The JEE report states that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the Belau National Hospital (BNH)" and the "the BNH laboratory receives specimens from other laboratories and agencies within Palau, and coordinates sample shipment and testing services at international reference laboratories". The JEE adds that "At the national level, a trained

team is able to assess foodborne events, collect and transport appropriate specimens to a laboratory, and identify various aetiological agents". [1] There is no externally available website for the BNH laboratory. [1] The Ministry of Health of Palau and the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have relevant information on their website. [2] [3]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 2.2.2 Laboratory cooperation and coordination

### 2.2.2a

**Is there a plan in place to rapidly authorize or license laboratories to supplement the capacity of the national public health laboratory system to scale-up testing during an outbreak?**

Yes = 2 , Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in implementation = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Palau has a plan in place to rapidly authorize or license laboratories to supplement the capacity of the national public health laboratory system to scale-up testing during an outbreak. The WHO's Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 has no information on rapidly authorize or licensing laboratories during an outbreak. The JEE mentions that "Palau has a Hospital and Public Health Emergency Operations Plan", however this plan is not available on the Ministry of health website. [1, 2] The JEE report states that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the Belau National Hospital (BNH)". [1] There is no externally available website for the BNH laboratory. The Ministry of Health of Palau and the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have relevant information on their website. [2] [3]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 2.3 REAL-TIME SURVEILLANCE AND REPORTING

### 2.3.1 Indicator and event-based surveillance and reporting systems

#### 2.3.1a

**Is there evidence that the country is conducting ongoing event-based surveillance and analysis for infectious disease?**

Yes, there is evidence of ongoing event-based surveillance and evidence that the data is being analyzed on a daily basis = 2,

Yes, there is evidence of ongoing event-based surveillance, but no evidence that the data are being analyzed on a daily basis = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Palau is conducting ongoing event-based surveillance and analysis for infectious disease. The World Health Organization's Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 states that "Palau has two complementary infectious disease surveillance systems operated by the MOH: notifiable disease surveillance and syndromic surveillance". The JEE report adds that "thirty-eight priority infectious diseases are monitored as national notifiable diseases at the Belau National Hospital (BNH), in community health centres and in private health clinics" and "the BNH uses a web-based electronic reporting system for notifiable diseases and carries out syndromic surveillance on six syndromes". The JEE report mentions that "weekly syndromic surveillance reports and ad hoc situation reports on unusual events are being developed by the Ministry of Health and shared with relevant stakeholders including the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network and WHO. However, the JEE report also notes the following areas as challenges and that need strengthening: "the event-based surveillance system needs to be strengthened in order to function in both the public and private health sectors." "The introduction of event-based surveillance in community settings should be considered." [1] There is no externally available website for the BNH laboratory. The Ministry of Health of Palau and the Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have relevant information on their website. [2] [3]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

**2.3.1b**

**Is there publicly available evidence that the country reported a potential public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) to the WHO within the last two years?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has reported a potential public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) to the World Health Organization (WHO) within the last two years. The WHO's disease outbreak news cites no incidence in Palau during the first month of 2021 and all of 2020 and 2019. There is no evidence that Palau reported COVID-19 as a PHEIC to the WHO before the WHO announced it as a Public Health Emergency. [1] The Ministry of Health of Palau does not have relevant information on its website. [2] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau, published on 21 July 2020, there is no mention of any reported PHEIC in Palau in the last two years.

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). "Disease Outbreak News". [<https://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>] Accessed 21 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] WHO. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 2.3.2 Interoperable, interconnected, electronic real-time reporting systems

### 2.3.2a

**Does the government operate an electronic reporting surveillance system at both the national and the sub-national level?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that the government of Palau operates an electronic reporting surveillance system at both the national and the sub-national level. The World Health Organization's Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 states that "a web-based electronic reporting system for notifiable diseases has been set up at national level and includes laboratory information". The JEE further recommends that "electronic reporting should be extended to include community health centres and private health clinics". The JEE report states that the "thirty-eight priority infectious diseases are monitored as national notifiable diseases at the BNH, in community health centres and in private health clinics". The JEE report states that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the Belau National Hospital (BNH)". [1] There is no externally available website for the BNH laboratory. The Ministry of Health of Palau does not have relevant information on its website. [2] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website.

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 2.3.2b

**Does the electronic reporting surveillance system collect ongoing or real-time laboratory data?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient publicly available evidence that the electronic reporting surveillance system in Palau collects ongoing or real-time laboratory data. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 states that "a web-based electronic reporting system for notifiable diseases has been set up at national level and includes laboratory information" and that "weekly syndromic surveillance reports and ad hoc situation reports on unusual events are being developed by the Ministry of Health and shared with relevant stakeholders including the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network and WHO". The JEE report also states that the Ministry of Health operates "two complementary infectious disease surveillance systems", "notifiable disease surveillance and syndromic surveillance". [1] The Ministry of Health of Palau does not have information on its website. [2] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have relevant its own website. The JEE report mentions that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the BNH". [1] There is no externally available website for BNH laboratory. [1]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 2.4 SURVEILLANCE DATA ACCESSIBILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

### 2.4.1 Coverage and use of electronic health records

#### 2.4.1a

##### Are electronic health records commonly in use?

Electronic health records are commonly in use = 2, Electronic health records are not commonly in use, but there is evidence they are used = 1, No evidence electronic health records are in use = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that electronic health records commonly in use in Palau. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 recommends that the country should "consider the planned transition to a system of electronic medical records". The JEE report also states that "a web-based electronic reporting system for notifiable diseases has been set up at national level and includes laboratory information". [1] The Ministry of Health of Palau does not have relevant information on its website. [2] The JEE report mentions that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the Belau National Hospital (BNH)". [1] There is no externally available website for BNH laboratory. [1]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

#### 2.4.1b

##### Does the national public health system have access to electronic health records of individuals in their country?

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau's national public health system have access to electronic health records of individuals in their country. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 recommends that the country should "consider the planned transition to a system of electronic medical records". Since Palau does not have electronic health records of all individuals in the country, the national public health system does not have access to it. The Ministry of Health (MOH) of Palau does not have relevant information on its website. [2] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. The JEE report mentions that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the BNH". [1] There is no externally available website for BNH laboratory.

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

#### 2.4.1c

##### Are there data standards to ensure data is comparable (e.g., ISO standards)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Palau has data standards to ensure data is comparable (e.g., ISO standards). The World Health Organization’s (WHO) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 does not mention data standards. The Ministry of Health of Palau does not have relevant information on its website. [2] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. The JEE report mentions that “the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the BNH”. [1] There is no externally available website for the Belau National Hospital (BNH) laboratory.

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. “Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau”. [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. “Reports” [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 2.4.2 Data integration between human, animal, and environmental health sectors

### 2.4.2a

**Is there evidence of established mechanisms at the relevant ministries responsible for animal, human, and wildlife surveillance to share data (e.g., through mosquito surveillance, brucellosis surveillance)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is publicly available evidence that Palau has established mechanisms at the relevant ministries responsible for animal, human, and wildlife surveillance to share data (e.g., through mosquito surveillance, brucellosis surveillance). The WHO’s Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 recommends that the surveillance systems “information sharing between the public health, animal health and environmental health sectors should be formalized”. The JEE report states that “weekly syndromic surveillance reports and ad hoc situation reports on unusual events are being developed by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and shared with relevant stakeholders” and “monitoring of animal diseases is done on an ad hoc basis”. The JEE report mentions that surveillance “information is shared between the public health and environmental health sectors with regard to risk of water contamination and gastroenteritis outbreaks, informing actions in both sectors”. The JEE report also mentions that the Ministry of Health of Palau has an “EpiNet Team, a multi-disciplinary group of clinical and public health professionals” which “coordinates surveillance and outbreak response activities and functions as a monitoring body for surveillance data, a facilitator of communication and a body to inform policy and planning”. There is no externally available website for the BNH laboratory. The Ministry of Health of Palau and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have relevant information on their website. [2] [3] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. The Bureau of Agriculture comes under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism has no relevant information. [3]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. “Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau”. [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. “Reports” [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. “Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau”

[<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 2.4.3 Transparency of surveillance data

### 2.4.3a

**Does the country make de-identified health surveillance data on infectious diseases publicly available via reports (or other format) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, or similar)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available information that Palau makes de-identified health surveillance data on infectious diseases apart from Covid-19 publicly available via reports (or other format) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, or similar). The Ministry of Health (MOH) of Palau has been publishing reports in its website under "Public Announcements/RFP" providing regular updates (at least once in a week) on the Covid-19 situation in the country, however, there is no evidence of regular published reports on other infectious diseases on the MOH website. [1] The central Palau government website published the Ministry of Health (MOH)'s "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) Situation Report" either weekly or once in two weeks from 31st March to 26th October 2020, but there is no published evidence of regular reports being published on other infectious diseases. [2] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the MOH does not have its own website. The Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism does not have relevant information. [3]

[1] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Public Announcements/RFP".

[<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHPublicAnnouncements1.aspx>]. Accessed 22 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents, Covid-19". [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/document-category/covid-19/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 2.4.3b

**Does the country make de-identified COVID-19 surveillance data (including details such as daily case count, mortality rate, etc) available via daily reports (or other formats) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, or similar)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

Although there is some evidence that Palau makes de-identified COVID-19 surveillance data (including details such as daily case count, mortality rate, etc) available on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, or similar), however, it is not daily. The Ministry of Health of Palau has been publishing reports in its website under "Public Announcements/RFP" providing regular updates (at least once in a week) on the Covid-19 situation in the country. [1] The MOH of Palau has published the latest "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) Situation Report" on its website 20th January 2020. [2] The central Palau government website published the Ministry of Health (MOH)'s "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) Situation Report" either weekly or once in two weeks from 31st March to 26th October 2020, which included the number of suspected and confirmed cases in Palau. [3] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the MOH does not have its own website. The Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism does not have relevant information. [4] The World Health Organization's Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 states that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the Belau National Hospital (BNH)". [5] There

is no externally available website for the BNH laboratory.

- [1] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Public Announcements/RFP". [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHPublicAnnouncements1.aspx]. Accessed 22 January 2021.
- [2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) Situation Report". [http://www.palauhealth.org/2019nCoV\_SitRep/MOH-COVID-19%20Situation%20Report.pdf]. Accessed 22 January 2021.
- [3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents, Covid-19". [https://www.palau.gov.pw/document-category/covid-19/]. Accessed 18 January 2021
- [4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/]. Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [5] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 2.4.4 Ethical considerations during surveillance

### 2.4.4a

**Is there legislation and/or regulations that safeguard the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals, such as that generated through health surveillance activities?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that Palau has laws or guidelines that safeguard the confidentiality of health information for individuals, such as that generated through health surveillance activities. The Ministry of Health Strategic Plan 2014-2018 states that "laws exist to protect the privacy of your healthcare information. Sometimes however our staff need to share information with others. All MOH staff that have access to protected information are legally required to keep it confidential." [1]. However, the strategic plan has lapsed and there is no evidence that it has been renewed. [2] The Ministry of Health of Palau does not have relevant information on its website. Moreover, no evidence of the actual laws was found. [2] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website.

- [1] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Ministry of Health Strategic Plan 2014-2018". [https://extranet.who.int/countryplanningcycles/sites/default/files/planning\_cycle\_repository/palau/palau\_moh\_strategic\_plan\_2014-2018.pdf]. Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [2] World Health Organization, Country Planning Cycle Database. "Palau". [https://extranet.who.int/countryplanningcycles/search/site/palau]. Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 2.4.4b

**Is there legislation and/or regulations safeguarding the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals, such as that generated through health surveillance activities, include mention of protections from cyber attacks (e.g., ransomware)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Palau has a legislation and/or regulations safeguarding the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals, such as that generated through health surveillance activities, include mention of protections from cyber attacks (e.g., ransomware). The Ministry of Health Strategic Plan 2014-2018 states that "laws exist to protect the privacy of your healthcare information. Sometimes however our staff need to share information with others. All MOH staff that have access to protected information are legally required to keep it confidential". There is, however, no further information in the report on how this information is protected. [1] However, the strategic plan has lapsed and there is no evidence that it has been renewed. [2] The Ministry of Health of Palau and Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have relevant information on their website. [3] [4] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website.

[1] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Ministry of Health Strategic Plan 2014-2018".

[[https://extranet.who.int/countryplanningcycles/sites/default/files/planning\\_cycle\\_repository/palau/palau\\_moh\\_strategic\\_plan\\_2014-2018.pdf](https://extranet.who.int/countryplanningcycles/sites/default/files/planning_cycle_repository/palau/palau_moh_strategic_plan_2014-2018.pdf)]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] World Health Organization, Country Planning Cycle Database. "Palau".

[<https://extranet.who.int/countryplanningcycles/search/site/palau>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 2.4.5 International data sharing

### 2.4.5a

**Has the government made a commitment via public statements, legislation and/or a cooperative agreement to share surveillance data during a public health emergency with other countries in the region?**

Yes, commitments have been made to share data for more than one disease, Yes, commitments have been made to share data only for one disease = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence to show that the government has made a commitment via public statements, legislation and/or a cooperative agreement to share surveillance data during a public health emergency with other countries in the region.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau, published on 21 July 2020, Palau "shares surveillance reports with other Pacific island countries and areas through the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN), and regularly contributes to the Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System of the PPHSN". [1] Palau is part of the PPHSN which shares information between countries in the region in the event of public health emergencies through a platform called PacNet. [2] However, there is no explicit evidence of commitments to share surveillance information at times of public health emergency. The Ministry of Health of Palau and Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have relevant information on their website. [3] [4] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. The JEE report states that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the Belau National Hospital (BNH)". There is no externally available website for the BNH laboratory.

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau".

[<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 April 2021.

[2] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). "PacNet". [<https://www.pphsn.net/Services/PacNet/intro.htm>]. Accessed 18 April 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 April 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 April 2021.

## 2.5 CASE-BASED INVESTIGATION

### 2.5.1 Case investigation and contact tracing

#### 2.5.1a

**Is there a national system in place to provide support at the sub-national level (e.g. training, metrics standardization and/or financial resources) to conduct contact tracing in the event of a public health emergency?**

Yes, there is evidence that the national government supports sub-national systems to prepare for future public health emergencies = 2, Yes, there is evidence that the national government supports sub-national systems, but only in response to active public health emergencies = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available information to show that Palau has a national system in place to provide support at the sub-national level (e.g. training, metrics standardization and/or financial resources) to conduct contact tracing in the event of a future public health or active public health emergencies. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau, published on 21 July 2020, Palau has "a Hospital and Public Health Emergency Operations Plan", however, this plan has not been published on the Ministry of Health Website of Palau. [1] [2] The JEE report does not contain information on the mechanism to expand contact tracing in the event of a public health emergency in Palau. [1] The Ministry of Health of Palau does not have relevant information on its website. [2] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. The JEE report states that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the Belau National Hospital (BNH)". There is no externally available website for the BNH laboratory.

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

#### 2.5.1b

**Does the country provide wraparound services to enable infected people and their contacts to self-isolate or quarantine as recommended, particularly economic support (paycheck, job security) and medical attention?**

Yes, both economic support and medical attention are provided = 2, Yes, but only economic support or medical attention is provided = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient publicly available evidence that Palau provide wraparound services to enable cases and suspected cases to self-isolate as recommended, particularly economic support (paycheck, job security) and medical attention. The available evidence is COVID-19 specific. According to a report by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and

Pacific (ESCAP) published in November 2020 Palau has provided a total stimulus of "USD 20.9 million (equivalent to 8.3% of GDP)" which includes a "Hospital Trust Fund to help with prevention and preparation for COVID-19 (USD 0.9 million)", "maintaining government services, new unemployment benefit scheme, temporary subsidies for utility bills", "a new temporary job creation scheme for public works" and "a lending scheme for the private sector". The report states that Palau has a "provision of financial relief to affected business and households, including interest only payments, term extension, loan consolidation, and temporary payment deferral" and the country has introduced "loan deferral and forbearance programs for three months by some private banks". The Ministry of Health (MOH) of Palau does not have relevant information on their website. [2] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. The MOH of Palau published the latest "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) Situation Report" in January 2020 which states that there are "no suspected or confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Palau". [3] According to the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau, published on 21 July 2020, "Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the Belau National Hospital (BNH)". [4] There is no externally available website for the BNH laboratory.

- [1] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific. 4 November 2020. "Palau". [[https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/Palau\\_COVID%20Country%20profile%20041120.pdf](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/Palau_COVID%20Country%20profile%20041120.pdf)]. Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.
- [3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) Situation Report". [[http://www.palauhealth.org/2019nCoV\\_SitRep/MOH-COVID-19%20Situation%20Report.pdf](http://www.palauhealth.org/2019nCoV_SitRep/MOH-COVID-19%20Situation%20Report.pdf)]. Accessed 22 January 2021.
- [3] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 2.5.1c

**Does the country make de-identified data on contact tracing efforts for COVID-19 (including the percentage of new cases from identified contacts) available via daily reports (or other format) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, or similar)?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

Although there is some evidence that Palau makes de-identified data on contact tracing efforts for COVID-19 (including the percentage of new cases from identified contacts) available on a government website, the frequency of publication is unclear. An article published on the central Palau government website in September 2020 "Outbound Traveler Tests Negative for COVID-19 After a Second Laboratory Test", states that "on September 17, 2020 the Ministry of Health (MOH) activated investigation, contact tracing, and testing protocols after receiving communication from a local contractor that an employee traveling out of Palau last week had tested positive of COVID-19 upon arrival at destination". The article further stated that "MOH had tested all known contacts in Palau, and all results were negative". The Ministry of Health of Palau has been publishing reports in its website under "Public Announcements/RFP" providing regular updates (at least once in a week) on the Covid-19 situation in the country. The covid-19 situation updates on the MOH website include testing, quarantine, vaccination, travel provisions, suspected and confirmed cases in Palau. [1] The central Palau government website published the Ministry of Health (MOH)'s "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) Situation Report" either weekly or once in two weeks from 31st March to 26th October 2020, which included the number of suspected and confirmed cases in Palau. [3] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the MOH does not have its own website. The Bureau of Agriculture under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism does not have relevant information. [4]

[1] Republic of Palau National Government. September 2020. "Outbound Traveler Tests Negative for COVID-19 After a Second Laboratory Test". [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/outbound-traveler-tests-negative-for-covid-19-after-a-second-laboratory-test/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Public Announcements/RFP".

[<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHPublicAnnouncements1.aspx>]. Accessed 22 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents, Covid-19". [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/document-category/covid-19/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 2.5.2 Point of entry management

### 2.5.2a

**Is there a joint plan or cooperative agreement between the public health system and border control authorities to identify suspected and potential cases in international travelers and trace and quarantine their contacts in the event of a public health emergency?**

Yes, plan(s)/agreement(s) are in place to prepare for future public health emergencies = 2, Yes, but plan(s)/agreement(s) are in place only in response to active public health emergencies = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Palau has a joint plan or cooperative agreement between the public health system and border control authorities to identify suspected and potential cases in international travelers and trace and quarantine their contacts in the event of a public health emergency. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau, published on 21 July 2020, "there is an agreement between all National Emergency Committee members to cooperate in national emergencies", which includes the Bureau of Public Health, which is under the Ministry of Health and the Bureau of Customs & Border Protection. [1] [2] However, the JEE report mentions that "there is no formal agreement between public health and law enforcement on joint risk/threat assessment, investigation and/or training". The JEE report also states that although "there is a functional mechanism for timely and systematic information exchange between public health and law enforcement agencies in cases of deliberate and/or accidental events", the "information sharing mechanisms between the public health and security sectors are not reciprocal". The Ministry of Health of Palau and the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection do not have relevant information on their website. [3, 4] The Bureau of Public Health which comes under the Ministry of Health does not have its own website. The JEE report states that "the Palau laboratory system is comprised of a single national laboratory, located at the Belau National Hospital (BNH)". There is no externally available website for the BNH laboratory. [5] Although there is an order from the Ministry of Health to quarantine international travelers, but there is insufficient evidence that Palau has entered a joint plan or cooperative agreement between the public health system and border control authorities.

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau".

[<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "NEC members". [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/NEC-Members.pdf>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports". [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Bureau of Customs and Border Protection". [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/bcbp>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[5] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "NEW TRAVEL GUIDELINES INTO THE REPUBLIC OF

PALAU". [http://www.palauhealth.org/2019nCoV/MOH%20PR%20New%20Travel%20Guidelines%2004052021.pdf]. Accessed 18 April 2021.

## 2.6 EPIDEMIOLOGY WORKFORCE

### 2.6.1 Applied epidemiology training program, such as the field epidemiology training program, for public health professionals and veterinarians (e.g., Field Epidemiology Training Program [FETP] and Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians [FETPV])

#### 2.6.1a

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Applied epidemiology training program (such as FETP) is available in country
- Resources are provided by the government to send citizens to another country to participate in applied epidemiology training programs (such as FETP)

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure. , Yes for both = 1 , Yes for one = 1 , No for both = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is publicly available evidence that applied epidemiology training program (such as FETP) is available in Palau. There is insufficient evidence that resources are provided by the government of Palau to send citizens to another country to participate in applied epidemiology training programs (such as FETP). The World Health Organization's Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 states that although "Palau has the Palau Community College, but no university, and all staff need to gain their professional degrees off-island", "short and long-term training programmes are available for various professions, including the Data for Decision Making (DDM) course, which is a product of the [Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network] PPHSN". The JEE report also states that "the DDM programme originated as a set of outbreak epidemiology and response workshops created by the US CDC" and "students who pass all five modules of the DDM course are awarded a postgraduate certificate in applied epidemiology from Fiji National University". The JEE report also states that the DDM course run by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the United States of America (USA) and the Pacific Island Health Officers' Association "is open to MOH staff interested in pursuing formal degrees in data and epidemiology". Apart from this, the JEE report mentions that "Palau has access to training programmes in other countries - such as Australia, the Republic of Cuba, the Republic of Fiji, New Zealand, the Philippines, Taiwan, China and the USA - that provide professional qualifications". [1] The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials published a report titled "PIHOA-SPC-WHO-FNU-RAPID-CDC Joint EpiTech-Data for Decision Making Training Program" which stated that the "Data for Decision Making I: Disease Outbreak Surveillance & Response Meeting Report" had been held in Palau Community College in June 2014. [2] The USA CDC or the Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network do not have a record of FETP participation by Palau. [3] The Ministry of Health of Palau does not have relevant information on their website. [4]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. 2014. "PIHOA-SPC-WHO-FNU-RAPID-CDC Joint EpiTech-Data for Decision Making Training Program". [https://www.astho.org/Preparedness/PIHOA-EpiTech-DDM1-Workshop-Report/]. Accessed 24 November 2020.

[3] US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP)". [https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/healthprotection/fetp/index.htm]. Accessed 24 November 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports". [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx]. Accessed

18 January 2021.

### 2.6.1b

**Are the available field epidemiology training programs explicitly inclusive of animal health professionals or is there a specific animal health field epidemiology training program offered (such as FETPV)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

The World Health Organization's Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 states that in Palau, "short and long-term training programmes are available for various professions, including the Data for Decision Making (DDM) course, which is a product of the [Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network] PPHSN", however, animal health professionals or a specific animal health field epidemiology training program offered (such as FETPV) have not been mentioned in the report. [1] The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials published a report titled "PIHOA-SPC-WHO-FNU-RAPID-CDC Joint EpiTech-Data for Decision Making Training Program" which stated that the "Data for Decision Making I: Disease Outbreak Surveillance & Response Meeting Report" had been held in Palau Community College in June 2014. However, this report does not mention animal health professionals or a specific animal health field epidemiology training program included in the module [2] The USA CDC or the Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network do not have a record of FETP participation by Palau. [3] The Ministry of Health of Palau does not have relevant information on its website. [4]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau".

[<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP)".

[<https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/healthprotection/fetp/index.htm>]. Accessed 24 November 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports". [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## 2.6.2 Epidemiology workforce capacity

### 2.6.2a

**Is there public evidence that the country has at least 1 trained field epidemiologist per 200,000 people?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

2020

Completed JEE assessments; Economist Impact analyst qualitative assessment based on official national sources, which vary by country

## Category 3: Rapid response to and mitigation of the spread of an epidemic

### 3.1 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLANNING

#### 3.1.1 National public health emergency preparedness and response plan

##### 3.1.1a

**Does the country have an overarching national public health emergency response plan in place which addresses planning for multiple communicable diseases with epidemic or pandemic potential?**

Evidence that there is a plan in place, and the plan is publicly available = 2, Evidence that the plan is in place, but the plan is not publicly available OR, Disease-specific plans are in place, but there is no evidence of an overarching plan = 1, No evidence that such a plan or plans are in place = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is public evidence that Palau has a disease-specific plan in place, but there is no evidence of an overarching plan. There is a response plan in place for an influenza pandemic, which came out in 2005. [1] There is no evidence that Palau has a national public health emergency response plan in place which addresses planning for multiple communicable diseases with pandemic potential. Palau also has a Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement with the CDC, but no evidence of a national overarching plan for an epidemic or pandemic. [2] In the newly released Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report in 2020 of the Republic of Palau, there is mention of a "public health emergency plan" in place which came out in 2005, but no other details regarding the plan are present. [3] There is no specific mention of any such plan on the main Palau government website. [4] The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have any relevant information on their websites. [5,6] Palau has a National Emergency Management Office, but it is primarily concerned with dealing with extreme weather events such as tsunami, typhoons or drought, and does not refer to pandemics on its website. [7]

[1] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). 2005. Outbreak. "Republic of Palau Pandemic Influenza Response Plan". [[https://www.pphsn.net/Outbreak/Influenza/Palau\\_Flu\\_Plan\\_Final\\_Draft\\_103105.pdf](https://www.pphsn.net/Outbreak/Influenza/Palau_Flu_Plan_Final_Draft_103105.pdf)]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[2] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Documents. "Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement (PHEP) Program". [<https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/epf/docs/RepOfPalau.pdf>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[3] World Health Organization. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau 2019". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 03 February 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[5] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 14 January 2021.

[6] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[7] National Emergency Management Office [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/vice-president/the-national-emergency-management-office/>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

##### 3.1.1b

**If an overarching plan is in place, has it been updated in the last 3 years?**

Yes = 1 , No /no plan in place= 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that Palau has a national public health emergency response plan in place which addresses planning for multiple communicable diseases with pandemic potential. In the newly released Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report in 2020 of the Republic of Palau, there is mention of a "public health emergency plan" in place which came out in 2005, but no other details regarding the plan are present. [1] There is no specific mention of any such plan on the main Palau government website. [2] The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have any relevant information on their websites. [3,4] The Republic of Palau has a response plan in place for an influenza pandemic, which came out in 2005 and has not been updated since then. [5]

[1] World Health Organization. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau 2019". [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 03 February 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx] Accessed 14 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[5] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). Outbreak. "Republic of Palau Pandemic Influenza Response Plan". [https://www.pphsn.net/Outbreak/Influenza/Palau\_Flu\_Plan\_Final\_Draft\_103105.pdf]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

**3.1.1c**

**If an overarching plan is in place, does it include considerations for pediatric and/or other vulnerable populations?**

Yes = 1, No /no plan in place= 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

Palau does not have a national public health emergency response plan in place which addresses planning for multiple communicable diseases with pandemic potential, let alone one that includes considerations for paediatric and other vulnerable populations. In the newly released Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report in 2020 of the Republic of Palau, there is mention of a "public health emergency plan" in place which came out in 2005, but no other details regarding the plan are present. [1] There is no specific mention of any such plan on the main Palau government website. [2] The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have any relevant information on their websites. [3,4] The Republic of Palau has a response plan in place for an influenza pandemic (from 2005) but that also does not include considerations for pediatric and other vulnerable populations. [5] Palau has a National Emergency Management Office, but this is primarily concerned with preparing for extreme weather events and does not mention pandemics on its website. [6]

[1] World Health Organization. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau 2019". [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 03 February 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx] Accessed 14 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[5] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). Outbreak. "Republic of Palau Pandemic Influenza Response Plan". [https://www.pphsn.net/Outbreak/Influenza/Palau\_Flu\_Plan\_Final\_Draft\_103105.pdf]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[6] National Emergency Management Office [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/vice-president/the-national-emergency-management-office/>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

### 3.1.1d

**Does the country have a publicly available plan in place specifically for pandemic influenza preparedness that has been updated since 2009?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

2020

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH)

## 3.1.2 Private sector involvement in response planning

### 3.1.2a

**Does the country have a specific mechanism(s) for engaging with the private sector to assist with outbreak emergency preparedness and response?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is not sufficient public evidence to confirm that Palau has a specific mechanism for engaging with the private sector to assist with outbreak emergency preparedness and response. There is no specific mention of any such plan on the main Palau government website. [1] The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have any relevant information on their websites. [2,3] The Republic of Palau has a response plan in place for an influenza pandemic but that also does not include any mechanism for engaging with the private sector. [4] Palau has a National Emergency Management Office, but this is primarily concerned with preparing for extreme weather events and does not mention pandemics on its website. [5]

[1] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 14 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[4] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). Outbreak. "Republic of Palau Pandemic Influenza Response Plan". [[https://www.pphsn.net/Outbreak/Influenza/Palau\\_Flu\\_Plan\\_Final\\_Draft\\_103105.pdf](https://www.pphsn.net/Outbreak/Influenza/Palau_Flu_Plan_Final_Draft_103105.pdf)]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[5] National Emergency Management Office [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/vice-president/the-national-emergency-management-office/>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

### 3.1.3 Non-pharmaceutical interventions planning

#### 3.1.3a

**Does the country have a policy, plan and/or guidelines in place to implement non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) during an epidemic or pandemic?**

Yes, a policy, plan and/or guidelines are in place for more than one disease = 2, Yes, but the policy, plan and/or guidelines exist only for one disease = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that Palau has a policy, plan or guidelines in place to implement non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) during an epidemic or pandemic for more than one disease or only for one disease. The Republic of Palau has a pandemic influenza response plan in place, which just briefly mentions non-pharmaceutical interventions but does not outline any proper plan or the fact that it can be used for other diseases. [1] There is no specific mention of any such plan on the main Palau government website. [2] The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have any relevant information on their websites. [3,4] Palau has a National Emergency Management Office, but this is primarily concerned with preparing for extreme weather events and does not mention pandemics on its website. [5] According to the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau, published on 21 July 2020, there is no plan or guidelines in place to implement non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs). [6]

[1] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). Outbreak. "Republic of Palau Pandemic Influenza Response Plan". [https://www.pphsn.net/Outbreak/Influenza/Palau\_Flu\_Plan\_Final\_Draft\_103105.pdf]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx] Accessed 14 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[5] National Emergency Management Office [https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/vice-president/the-national-emergency-management-office/]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[5] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau". [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "NEC members". [https://www.palau.gov.pw/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/NEC-Members.pdf]. Accessed 18 January 2021

## 3.2 EXERCISING RESPONSE PLANS

### 3.2.1 Activating response plans

#### 3.2.1a

**Does the country meet one of the following criteria?**

- Is there evidence that the country has activated their national emergency response plan for an infectious disease outbreak in the past year?

- Is there evidence that the country has completed a national-level biological threat-focused exercise (either with WHO or separately) in the past year?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure. , Yes for both = 1 , Yes for one = 1 , No for both = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is an evidence that Palau has developed a plan to address COVID-19 and then activated it.

The National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) at Palau is involved in all aspects of disaster management. It acts with the counsel of and in concert with the National Emergency Committee (NEC). As per the "NEC Expedites Anti-COVID19 Action, Palau prepared by April 9 March 29, 2020", the following actions and measures have been put in place: Prevention and Preparation Action Plan, COVID-19 Testing Kits, Airline Service, Isolation and Quarantine Facility Preparation, Alternate Care Sites (ACS), New COVID-19 Test Lab, Hotel Isolation/Quarantine Sites, temporary Closure of All Schools, A Whole-Of-Society Effort. [1]

[1] National Emergency Management Office [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/12290-2/>]. Accessed 20 April 2021.

### 3.2.1b

**Is there evidence that the country in the past year has identified a list of gaps and best practices in response (either through an infectious disease response or a biological-threat focused exercise) and developed a plan to improve response capabilities?**

Yes, the country has developed and published a plan to improve response capacity = 2 , Yes, the country has developed a plan to improve response capacity, but has not published the plan = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient public evidence that Palau has identified a list of gaps and best practices in response (either through an infectious disease response or a biological-threat focused exercise) in the past year and developed a plan to improve response capabilities. In the newly released Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report in 2020 of the Republic of Palau, it is clearly mentioned that "A combination of health emergency exercises is conducted more than once per year. Six of these have been conducted and documented in the past five years. Detailed AARs have been developed for each exercise and after real events to improve existing plans and procedures". Therefore, there is evidence of after action reviews, but no evidence of any published reports can be found in the public domain. [1] There is no evidence of an after-action review on the WHO IHR Strategic Partnership Portal, or in the WHO Palau country profile. [2,3] The websites of the Ministry of Health and the National Emergency Management Office do not share any relevant information. [4,5]

[1] World Health Organization. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau 2019". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 03 February 2021.

[2] World Health Organisation. "Strategic Partnership for International Health Regulations (2005) and Health Security (SPH): After Action Review". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/after-action-review>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[3] World Health Organisation. "Palau". [<https://www.who.int/palau/>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[4] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[5] National Emergency Management Office. [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/vice-president/the-national-emergency-management-office/>] Accessed 14 January 2021.

## 3.2.2 Private sector engagement in exercises

### 3.2.2a

**Is there evidence that the country in the past year has undergone a national-level biological threat-focused exercise that has included private sector representatives?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no public evidence that Palau has undergone a national-level biological threat-focused exercise, either with WHO or separately, in the past year, let alone the inclusion of private sector representatives. No evidence of such exercises can be found for Palau on the WHO extranet webpage listing simulation exercises, or in the WHO country or regional profiles for Palau. [1,2,3] The websites of the Ministry of Health and the National Emergency Management Office do not share any relevant information. [4,5]

[1] World Health Organisation. "Simulation Exercise". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/simulation-exercise>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[2] World Health Organisation. "Palau". [<https://www.who.int/palau/>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[3] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Western Pacific". [<http://www.who.int/westernpacific>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[4] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[5] National Emergency Management Office. [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/vice-president/the-national-emergency-management-office/>] Accessed 14 January 2021.

## 3.3 EMERGENCY RESPONSE OPERATION

### 3.3.1 Emergency response operation

#### 3.3.1a

**Does the country have in place an Emergency Operations Center (EOC)?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is public evidence that Palau has an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in place that manages public health related emergencies. In the newly released Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report in 2020 of the Republic of Palau, it is clearly mentioned that "For health emergencies the MOH runs a multi-functional EOC". [1] Palau has a National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) listed on the Palau government website and mentions in its mission to "provide logistical support to the Emergency Operation Centre." [2] The Emergency Operations Centre does not appear to have its own website but is mentioned in the National Disaster Risk Management Framework 2010. [3] This framework describes the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) as "a facility from which the control of national emergency or disaster operations and coordination of resources are carried out." The Palau government published a standard operating procedures document for the Emergency Operations Centre in 2016. [4] In the Ministry of Health's Covid-19 situation report, it is mentioned that EOC was activated on 22 January, 2020 to implement preparedness and response measures. [5]

[1] World Health Organization. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau 2019". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

[2] Government of the Republic of Palau. "National Emergency Management Office." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive->

branch/vice-president/the-national-emergency-management-office/] Accessed 14 January 2021.

[3] Government of the Republic of Palau. "National Disaster Risk Management Framework 2010."

[https://www.palau.gov.pw/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/FINALIZED-NDRMF\_2016.pdf] Accessed 14 January 2021.

[4] Government of the Republic of Palau/ "ROP National Emergency Operations Center: Standard Operating Procedures."

[https://www.palau.gov.pw/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/ROP-NEOC.pdf] Accessed 14 January 2021.

[5] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "COVID-19 Situation Report" [http://www.palauhealth.org/2019nCoV\_SitRep/MOH-COVID-19%20Situation%20Report.pdf]. Accessed 14 January 2021.

### 3.3.1b

**Is the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) required to conduct a drill for a public health emergency scenario at least once per year or is there evidence that they conduct a drill at least once per year?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has conducted or is required to conduct a drill for a public health emergency scenario at least once per year. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau, published on 21 July 2020, it is mentioned that "EOC functionality is exercised many times a year through real events and drills", but no evidence of it being health-specific. [1] The Palau Emergency Operations Center does not appear to have its own website. The Palau government published a standard operating procedures document for the Emergency Operations Centre in 2016, but does not mention anything about a drill conducted for public health emergency scenario. [2] There is no further information on the Ministry of Health website. [3]

[1] World Health Organization. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau 2019".

[https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 15 January 2021.

[2] Government of the Republic of Palau/ "ROP National Emergency Operations Center: Standard Operating Procedures."

[https://www.palau.gov.pw/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/ROP-NEOC.pdf] Accessed 15 January 2021.

[3] Palau Ministry of Health. [http://www.palauhealth.org/] Accessed 15 January 2021.

### 3.3.1c

**Is there public evidence to show that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has conducted within the last year a coordinated emergency response or emergency response exercise activated within 120 minutes of the identification of the public health emergency/scenario?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no public evidence to show that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has conducted within the last year a coordinated emergency response or emergency response exercise activated within 120 minutes of the identification of the public health emergency/scenario, there is evidence that it has the capacity to do so. In the newly released Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report in 2020 of the Republic of Palau, it is clearly mentioned that "EOC may be assembled within 60 minutes of first notification". The country receives a score of 5 on indicator R.2.2 [Emergency operations centre (EOC) capacities, procedures and plans], which indicates that EOC functions at all levels have been tested and updated regularly, and that EOC operations can be sustained for large scale or concurrent emergencies due to a network of fully functional emergency operations centres and trained staff. [1] In the Ministry of Health's Covid-19 situation report, it is mentioned that EOC was activated in response to the outbreak, but no information can be found regarding it being activated within 120 minutes. [2] Palau Emergency Operations Center does not appear to have its own website. There is no further information on

the Ministry of Health website. [3]

[1] World Health Organization. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau 2019". [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 15 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "COVID-19 Situation Report" [http://www.palauhealth.org/2019nCoV\_SitRep/MOH-COVID-19%20Situation%20Report.pdf]. Accessed 15 January 2021.

[3] Palau Ministry of Health. [http://www.palauhealth.org/] Accessed 15 January 2021.

## 3.4 LINKING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SECURITY AUTHORITIES

### 3.4.1 Public health and security authorities are linked for rapid response during a biological event

#### 3.4.1a

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there public evidence that public health and national security authorities have carried out an exercise to respond to a potential deliberate biological event (i.e., bioterrorism attack)?

- Are there publicly available standard operating procedures, guidelines, memorandums of understanding (MOUs), or other agreements between the public health and security authorities to respond to a potential deliberate biological event (i.e., bioterrorism attack)?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no public evidence that Palau's public health and national security authorities have carried out an exercise to respond to a potential deliberate biological event, nor are there publicly available standard operating procedures, guidelines, or agreements between those entities regarding such events. In the newly released Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report in 2020 of the Republic of Palau, it is mentioned that there is no formal agreement between public health and security authorities, and it recommends to develop a robust interface between those entities for carrying out exercises to respond to a potential biological event. [1] There is no relevant information on the central government of Palau website. [2] There is no information on the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism website. [3,4]

[1] World Health Organization. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau 2019". [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 15 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/] Accessed 15 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx] Accessed 15 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/] Accessed 15 January 2021.

## 3.5 RISK COMMUNICATIONS

### 3.5.1 Public communication

#### 3.5.1b

**Does the risk communication plan (or other legislation, regulation or strategy document used to guide national public health response) outline how messages will reach populations and sectors with different communications needs (eg different languages, location within the country, media reach)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Palau has a risk communication plan in place, hence no evidence of the risk communication plan outlining how messages will reach populations and sectors with different communications needs. In the newly released Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report in 2020 of the Republic of Palau, there is mention of a risk communication plan in place and but it does not explain in detail how messages will reach different sectors of the population. [1] There is no relevant information on the central government of Palau website. [2] There is no information on the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism website. [3,4]

[1] World Health Organization. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau 2019". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 15 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 15 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 15 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>] Accessed 15 January 2021.

### 3.5.1 Risk communication planning

#### 3.5.1a

**Does the country have in place, either in the national public health emergency response plan or in other legislation, regulation, or strategy documents, a section detailing a risk communication plan that is specifically intended for use during a public health emergency?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Palau has a risk communication plan in place for use during a public health emergency. In the newly released Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report in 2020 of the Republic of Palau, there is mention of "MOH Risk Communication Plan 2013", which states the structures in place for risk communication, but there are no details regarding how the country plans to communicate with the public in the case of a public health emergency. [1] There is no evidence of any such plan on the public portal, including whether it has been updated since 2013. There is no relevant information of any such plan on the central government of Palau website. [2] There is no information on the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism website. [3,4]

[1] World Health Organization. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau 2019". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 15 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 15 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 15 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>] Accessed 15 January 2021.

### 3.5.1c

**Does the risk communication plan (or other legislation, regulation or strategy document used to guide national public health response) designate a specific position within the government to serve as the primary spokesperson to the public during a public health emergency?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Palau has a risk communication plan in place, and hence no evidence that the risk communication plan designates a specific position within the government to serve as the primary spokesperson to the public during a public health emergency. In the newly released Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report in 2020 of the Republic of Palau, there is mention of a risk communication plan in place, highlighting that there are approaches to provide information to public during a health emergency, without any detail, through credible spokespeople, but does not mention any specific position for that within the government. [1] There is no relevant information on the central government of Palau website. [2] There is no information on the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism website. [3,4]

[1] World Health Organization. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau 2019". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 15 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 15 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 15 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>] Accessed 15 January 2021.

## 3.5.2 Public communication

### 3.5.2a

**In the past year, is there evidence that the public health system has actively shared messages via online media platforms (e.g. social media, website) to inform the public about ongoing public health concerns and/or dispel rumors, misinformation or disinformation?**

Public health system regularly shares information on health concerns = 2, Public health system shares information only during active emergencies, but does not regularly utilize online media platforms = 1, Public health system does not regularly utilize online media platforms, either during emergencies or otherwise = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

There is sufficient evidence that Palau's public health system has actively shared messages via online media platforms (e.g. social media, website) to inform the public about ongoing public health concerns and/or dispel rumors, misinformation or

disinformation. The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Palau has regularly shared information regarding the Covid-19 outbreak on their Twitter and Facebook pages throughout the last year. [1,2] Besides COVID-19 related information, these social media handles regularly share information about public health concerns and government health initiatives. The Ministry of Health website has a separate tab for Covid-19 and shares situation reports at regular intervals. There are also dedicated tabs on Dengue information and ZIKA but no evidence of general public health related messages being shared can be found. [3]

[1] Republic of Palau Ministry of Health, Twitter. [<https://twitter.com/MOHPalau/status/1071989509355659265>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau Ministry of Health, Facebook. [<https://www.facebook.com/MOHPalau/posts/2054701381250744>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. [<http://www.palauhealth.org/default.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 3.5.2b

**Is there evidence that senior leaders (president or ministers) have shared misinformation or disinformation on infectious diseases in the past two years?**

No = 1, Yes = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is no evidence that senior leaders (president or ministers) have shared misinformation or disinformation on infectious diseases in the past two years. The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Palau has active social media presence on Twitter and Facebook and shares regular updates on infectious diseases. [1,2] There is no evidence of a social media account of the Minister of Health of Palau, but his statement on Covid-19 outbreak can be found on the Ministry of Health website. [3] A verified and active Twitter account of the President of the Republic of Palau is found online, but there is no evidence of any misinformation or disinformation. [4] No evidence of any senior leaders sharing misinformation or disinformation on infectious diseases in the past two years can be found on any international and national news outlets.

[1] Republic of Palau Ministry of Health, Twitter. [<https://twitter.com/MOHPalau/status/1071989509355659265>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau Ministry of Health, Facebook. [<https://www.facebook.com/MOHPalau/posts/2054701381250744>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "MOH Statement". [<http://www.palauhealth.org/2019nCoV/MOH%20Statement%20on%20COVID-19-03302020.pdf>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] Twitter. "Tommy Remengesau, Jr". [<https://twitter.com/tommyremengesau?lang=en>]. Accessed 18 January 2021

## 3.6 ACCESS TO COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

### 3.6.1 Internet users

#### 3.6.1a

**Percentage of households with Internet**

Input number

**Current Year Score: 26.97**

2019

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

### 3.6.2 Mobile subscribers

#### 3.6.2a

Mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

Input number

Current Year Score: 134.41

2019

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

### 3.6.3 Female access to a mobile phone

#### 3.6.3a

Percentage point gap between males and females whose home has access to a mobile phone

Input number

Current Year Score: 2.87

2018-2019

Gallup; Economist Impact calculation

### 3.6.4 Female access to the Internet

#### 3.6.4a

Percentage point gap between males and females whose home has access to the Internet

Input number

Current Year Score: 4.44

2018-2019

Gallup; Economist Impact calculation

## 3.7 TRADE AND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

### 3.7.1 Trade restrictions

#### 3.7.1a

In the past year, has the country issued a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of medical goods (e.g. medicines, oxygen, medical supplies, PPE) due to an infectious disease outbreak?

Yes = 0, No = 1

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is no evidence that Palau has issued a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of medical goods (e.g. medicines, oxygen, medical supplies, PPE) due to an infectious disease outbreak in the past year. The Disease Outbreak News of the World Health Organisation (WHO) does not list any such restrictions. [1] There is no mention of restrictions on the export/import of medical goods in recent news articles due to risk posed by infectious disease outbreak. Neither the central government website nor the websites of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism have any further information. [2,3,4]

[1] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Disease Outbreak News: Palau".

[<https://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/country/plw/en/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>] Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 3.7.1b

**In the past year, has the country issued a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of non-medical goods (e.g. food, textiles, etc) due to an infectious disease outbreak?**

Yes = 0, No = 1

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is no evidence that Palau has issued a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of non-medical goods (e.g. food, textiles, etc) due to an infectious disease outbreak in the past year. The Disease Outbreak News of the World Health Organisation (WHO) does not list any such restrictions. [1] There is no mention of restrictions on the export/import of non-medical goods in recent news articles due to risk posed by infectious disease outbreak. Neither the central government website nor the websites of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism have any further information. [2,3,4]

[1] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Disease Outbreak News: Palau".

[<https://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/country/plw/en/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 3.7.2 Travel restrictions

#### 3.7.2a

In the past year, has the country implemented a ban, without international/bilateral support, on travelers arriving from a specific country or countries due to an infectious disease outbreak?

Yes = 0, No = 1

Current Year Score: 0

There is public evidence that Palau implemented a ban, without international/bilateral support, on travelers arriving from a specific country or countries due to an infectious disease outbreak in the past year. In the Health Alert document on Palau's Ministry of Health website, it is mentioned that foreign travelers from mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau are banned from entry into Palau due to the Covid-19 outbreak. [1] However, no relevant evidence can be found WHO Disease Outbreak News portal. [2]

[1] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Health Alert Travelers". [<http://www.palauhealth.org/2019nCoV/MOH%20EOC-Health%20Alert%20Travelers.pdf>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] World Health Organisation. "Disease Outbreak News". [<http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

## Category 4: Sufficient and robust health sector to treat the sick and protect health workers

### 4.1 HEALTH CAPACITY IN CLINICS, HOSPITALS, AND COMMUNITY CARE CENTERS

#### 4.1.1 Available human resources for the broader healthcare system

##### 4.1.1a

Doctors per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: 142.05

2014

WHO; national sources

##### 4.1.1b

Nurses and midwives per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: 726.26

2018

WHO; national sources

#### 4.1.1c

**Does the country have a health workforce strategy in place (which has been updated in the past five years) to identify fields where there is an insufficient workforce and strategies to address these shortcomings?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that Palau has a public workforce strategy in place (which has been updated in the past five years) to identify fields where there is an insufficient workforce and strategies to address these shortcomings. There is no specific mention of any such plan on the main Palau government website. [1] The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have any relevant information on their websites. [2,3] The Ministry of Education does not share any such strategy, nor does the Bureau of Labour and Human Resource. [4,5]

[1] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] Ministry of Education. [<http://www.palau.moe.net/>] Accessed 18 January 2021.

[5] Bureau of Labor and Human Resource. [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/bureau-of-labor-human-resource/>] Accessed 18 January 2021.

#### 4.1.2 Facilities capacity

##### 4.1.2a

**Hospital beds per 100,000 people**

Input number

**Current Year Score: 480**

2010

WHO/World Bank; national sources

##### 4.1.2b

**Does the country have the capacity to isolate patients with highly communicable diseases in a biocontainment patient care unit and/or patient isolation room/unit located within the country?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that Palau has the capacity to isolate patients with highly communicable diseases in a biocontainment patient care unit and/or patient isolation facility located within the country. There is no specific mention of any such facility on the main Palau government website. [1] The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have any relevant information on their websites. [2,3] Palau's national hospital, Belau National Hospital, does not have its own website.

[1] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 18 January 2021..

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>] Accessed 18 January 2021.

#### 4.1.2c

**Does the country meet one of the following criteria?**

**- Is there evidence that the country has demonstrated capacity to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years?**

**- Is there evidence that the country has developed, updated or tested a plan to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that Palau has demonstrated capacity to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years or it has developed, updated or tested a plan to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau, published on 21 July 2020, there is no evidence of a plan to expand isolation capacity or of a plan to expand isolation capacity. [1] The Palau Emergency Operations Center does not appear to have its own website. The Palau government published a standard operating procedures document for the Emergency Operations Centre in 2016, but does not mention anything about isolation capacity. [2] There is no further information on the Ministry of Health website. [3]

[1] World Health Organization. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau 2019". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 22 April 2021.

[2] Government of the Republic of Palau/ "ROP National Emergency Operations Center: Standard Operating Procedures." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/ROP-NEOC.pdf>] Accessed 22 April 2021.

[3] Palau Ministry of Health. [<http://www.palauhealth.org/>] Accessed 22 April 2021.

## 4.2 SUPPLY CHAIN FOR HEALTH SYSTEM AND HEALTHCARE WORKERS

### 4.2.1 Routine health care and laboratory system supply

#### 4.2.1a

**Is there a national procurement protocol in place which can be utilized by the Ministries of Health and Agriculture for the acquisition of laboratory supplies (e.g. equipment, reagents and media) and medical supplies (e.g. equipment, PPE) for routine needs?**

Yes for both laboratory and medical supply needs = 2, Yes, but only for one = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that Palau has national procurement protocols in place which can be utilised by the Ministries of Health and Agriculture for the acquisition of laboratory supplies, and medical supplies for routine needs. No evidence of such protocols can be found on the Ministry of Health or Ministry of Agriculture websites. [1,2] Palau's national hospital, Belau National Hospital, does not have its own website. There is no evidence of other relevant media reports or academic studies.

[1] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Bureau of Agriculture". [<https://www.palaugov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/bureau-of-agriculture/>]. Accessed 18 January 2021.

### 4.2.2 Stockpiling for emergencies

#### 4.2.2a

**Does the country have a stockpile of medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, medical equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency?**

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is limited evidence about what the stockpile contains = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that Palau has a stockpile of medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, medical equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency but limited evidence on what it contains.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau, published on 21 July 2020, "Palau has a one-month stockpile of medical countermeasures for use during public health emergencies". However, there is no detailed specification on what the stockpile contains. Further, the same report mentions that "Palau has access to US Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), including for vaccines, PPE etc." [1]

There is no specific mention of any such plan on the main Palau government website. [2] The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have any relevant information on their websites. [3,4] Palau does not have a Ministry of Defence. The United States has agreed to be responsible for Palau's defence until 2044. [5]

[1] World Health Organization. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau 2019". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 20 April 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palaugov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 20 April 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 20 April 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palaugov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>] Accessed 20 April 2021.

[5] U.S. Department of State. "U.S. Relations with Palau." [<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/1840.htm>] Accessed 20 April 2021.

#### 4.2.2b

**Does the country have a stockpile of laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency?**

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is limited evidence about what the stockpile contains = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence to say whether Palau has a stockpile of laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency. There is no specific mention of any such plan on the main Palau government website.

[1] The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have any relevant information on their websites. [2,3] Palau does not have a Ministry of Defence. The United States has agreed to be responsible for Palau's defence until 2044. [4]

[1] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palaugov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 18 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 18 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palaugov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>] Accessed 18 January 2021.

[4] U.S. Department of State. "U.S. Relations with Palau." [<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/1840.htm>] Accessed 18 January 2021.

#### 4.2.2c

**Is there evidence that the country conducts or requires an annual review of the national stockpile to ensure the supply is sufficient for a public health emergency?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that Palau conducts or requires an annual review of the national stockpile to ensure the supply for a public health emergency. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau, published on 21 July 2020, "Palau has a one-month stockpile of medical countermeasures for use during public health emergencies". However, there is no information on the annual review of the stockpile to ensure that the supply is sufficient for a public health emergency. Further, the same report mentions that "Palau has access to US Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), including for vaccines, PPE etc". However, it is not clear if Palau does the annual review of those stockpiles. There is no specific mention of any such plan on the main Palau government website. [2] The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have any relevant information on their websites. [3,4] Palau does not have a Ministry of Defence. The United States has agreed to be responsible for Palau's defence until 2044. [5]

- [1] World Health Organization. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau 2019". [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 20 April 2021.
- [2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/] Accessed 20 April 2021.
- [3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx] Accessed 20 April 2021.
- [4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/] Accessed 20 April 2021.
- [5] U.S. Department of State. "U.S. Relations with Palau." [https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/1840.htm] Accessed 20 April 2021.

### 4.2.3 Manufacturing and procurement for emergencies

#### 4.2.3a

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there evidence of a plan/agreement to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity to produce medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency?
- Is there evidence of a plan/mechanism to procure medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that Palau has a plan/agreement to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity to produce medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, equipment, PPE) or procure medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency. There is no specific mention of any such plan on the main Palau government website. [1] The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have any relevant information on their websites. [2,3] Palau does not have a Ministry of Defence. The United States has agreed to be responsible for Palau's defence until 2044. [4] According to the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau, published on 21 July 2020, there is no evidence on production or procurement of medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency.

- [1] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/] Accessed 19 January 2021.
- [2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx] Accessed 19 January 2021.
- [3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/] Accessed 19 January 2021.
- [4] U.S. Department of State. "U.S. Relations with Palau." [https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/1840.htm]. Accessed 19 January 2021.
- [5] World Health Organization. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau 2019". [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 20 April 2021.

#### 4.2.3b

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there evidence of a plan/agreement to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity to produce laboratory supplies (e.g.

reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency?

- Is there evidence of a plan/mechanism to procure laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that Palau has a plan to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity to produce laboratory supplies for national use during a public health emergency. Also, there is no evidence of a plan to procure laboratory supplies for national use during a public health emergency. There is no specific mention of any such plan on the main Palau government website.

[1] The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have any relevant information on their websites. [2,3] Palau does not have a Ministry of Defence. The United States has agreed to be responsible for Palau's defence until 2044. [4] Palau's national hospital, Belau National Hospital, does not have its own website. There is no evidence of other relevant media reports or academic studies.

[1] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 19 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 19 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>] Accessed 19 January 2021.

[4] U.S. Department of State. "U.S. Relations with Palau." [<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/1840.htm>]. Accessed 19 January 2021.

## 4.3 MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES AND PERSONNEL DEPLOYMENT

### 4.3.1 System for dispensing medical countermeasures (MCM) during a public health emergency

#### 4.3.1a

Does the country have a plan, program, or guidelines in place for dispensing medical countermeasures (MCM) for national use during a public health emergency (i.e., antibiotics, vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Palau has a plan, program, or guidelines in place for dispensing medical countermeasures (MCM) for national use during a public health emergency. There is no specific mention of any such plan on the main Palau government website. [1] The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have any relevant information on their websites. [2,3] Palau does not have a Ministry of Defence. The United States has agreed to be responsible for Palau's defence until 2044. [4] However, there is some evidence to suggest that such a plan may exist. The Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report in 2020 of the Republic of Palau notes that in order for Palau to participate in the US Strategic National Stockpile program, it "must have plans and protocols to receive and distribute MCM medicine and medical supplies to local communities as quickly as possible." The JEE notes that Palau has submitted such a plan, but no further details of the plan can be found anywhere on the public portal. [5]

[1] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 19 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 19 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>] Accessed 19 January 2021.

[4] U.S. Department of State. "U.S. Relations with Palau." [<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/1840.htm>] Accessed 19 January 2021.

[5] World Health Organization. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau 2019". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 19 January 2021.

## 4.3.2 System for receiving foreign health personnel during a public health emergency

### 4.3.2a

**Is there a public plan in place to receive health personnel from other countries to respond to a public health emergency?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of a public plan in place to receive health personnel from other countries in the event of a public health emergency in Palau. There is no specific mention of any such plan on the main Palau government website. [1] The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism do not have any relevant information on their websites. [2,3]. However, in the newly released Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report in 2020 of the Republic of Palau, there is a recommendation to complete the national plan for receiving and sending health personnel during an emergency, but no evidence of a plan already in place can be found. [4]

[1] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 19 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 19 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>] Accessed 19 January 2021.

[4] World Health Organization. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau 2019". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 19 January 2021.

## 4.4 HEALTHCARE ACCESS

### 4.4.1 Access to healthcare

#### 4.4.1a

**Does the constitution explicitly guarantee citizens' right to medical care?**

Guaranteed free = 4, Guaranteed right = 3, Aspirational or subject to progressive realization = 2, Guaranteed for some groups, not universally = 1, No specific provision = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

2020

World Policy Analysis Center

#### 4.4.1b

Access to skilled birth attendants (% of population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 100

2016

WHO/World Bank/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

#### 4.4.1c

Out-of-pocket health expenditures per capita, purchasing power parity (PPP; current international \$)

Input number

Current Year Score: 274.79

2017

WHO Global Health Expenditure database

### 4.4.2 Paid medical leave

#### 4.4.2a

Are workers guaranteed paid sick leave?

Paid sick leave = 2, Unpaid sick leave = 1, No sick leave = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2020

World Policy Analysis Center

### 4.4.3 Healthcare worker access to healthcare

#### 4.4.3a

Has the government issued legislation, a policy, or a public statement committing to provide prioritized healthcare services to healthcare workers who become sick as a result of responding to a public health emergency?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that the Palau government issued legislation, a policy, or a public statement committing to provide prioritized healthcare services to healthcare workers who become sick as a result of responding to a public health emergency. There is no relevant information on the central government of Palau website. [1] There is no information on the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism website. [2,3] No such statements from

the Health Minister or the President can be found on the public portal.

[1] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 19 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 19 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>] Accessed 19 January 2021.

## 4.5 COMMUNICATIONS WITH HEALTHCARE WORKERS DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

### 4.5.1 Communication with healthcare workers

#### 4.5.1a

**Is there a system in place for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during a public health emergency?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of a system in place for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during a public health emergency. There is no relevant information on the central government of Palau website. [1] There is no information on the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism website. [2,3] According to the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau, published on 21 July 2020, there is no evidence of a system in place for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during a public health emergency.

[1] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 19 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 19 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>] Accessed 19 January 2021.

[4] World Health Organization. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau 2019". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 20 April 2021.

#### 4.5.1b

**Does the system for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during an emergency encompass healthcare workers in both the public and private sector?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that there is a system in place for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during a public health emergency in Palau. Thus, there is also no evidence of such a plan that involves both the public and the private sector. There is no relevant information on the central government of Palau website. [1] There is no information on

the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism website. [2,3] The World Health Organization's Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for Palau, published in 2020 doesn't have any evidence that there is a system in place for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during a public health emergency in Palau. Thus, there is also no evidence of such a plan that involves both the public and the private sector. [4]

[1] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[4] World Health Organization. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau 2019". [<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144>]. Accessed 20 April 2021.

## 4.6 INFECTION CONTROL PRACTICES AND AVAILABILITY OF EQUIPMENT

### 4.6.1 Healthcare associated infection (HCAI) prevention and control programs

#### 4.6.1a

**Is there evidence that the national public health system is monitoring for and tracking the number of healthcare associated infections (HCAI) that take place in healthcare facilities?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the national public health system is monitoring for and tracking the number of healthcare associated infections that take place in healthcare facilities in Palau. Further, there is no evidence that Palau has a tracking system for HCWs who contracted COVID-19 through their work. There is no relevant information on the central government of Palau website. [1] There is no information on the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism website. [2,3] Palau has a single national laboratory, located at the Belau National Hospital, but it does not have a website of its own and hence no relevant evidence can be found.

[1] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

## 4.7 CAPACITY TO TEST AND APPROVE NEW MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES

### 4.7.1 Regulatory process for conducting clinical trials of unregistered interventions

#### 4.7.1a

**Is there a national requirement for ethical review (e.g., from an ethics committee or via Institutional Review Board approval) before beginning a clinical trial?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of a national requirement for ethical review (e.g., from an ethics committee or via Institutional Review Board approval) before beginning a clinical trial. In the document, Palau Pharmaceutical Country Profile, it is clearly mentioned that "there are no laws requiring the agreement by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) of the Clinical Trials to be performed". [1] There is no relevant information on the central government of Palau website. [2] There is no information on the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism website. [3,4]

[1] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau, World Health Organisation. 2012. "Palau Pharmaceutical Country Profile". [[https://www.who.int/medicines/areas/coordination/Palau\\_PSCP\\_NarrativeFeb18.pdf](https://www.who.int/medicines/areas/coordination/Palau_PSCP_NarrativeFeb18.pdf)]. Accessed 20 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

#### 4.7.1b

**Is there an expedited process for approving clinical trials for unregistered medical countermeasures (MCM) to treat ongoing epidemics?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of an expedited process for approving clinical trials for unregistered medical countermeasures to treat ongoing pandemics in Palau. There is no relevant information on the central government of Palau website. [1] There is no information on the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism website. [2,3]

[1] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

## 4.7.2 Regulatory process for approving medical countermeasures

### 4.7.2a

**Is there a government agency responsible for approving new medical countermeasures (MCM) for humans?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of a government agency responsible for approving new medical countermeasures for humans. There is no relevant information on the central government of Palau website. [1] There is no information on the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism website. [2,3]

[1] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

### 4.7.2b

**Is there an expedited process for approving medical countermeasures (MCM) for human use during public health emergencies?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of an expedited process for approving medical countermeasures for human use during public health emergencies in Palau. There is no relevant information on the central government of Palau website. [1] There is no information on the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism website. [2,3]

[1] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

## Category 5: Commitments to improving national capacity, financing plans to address gaps, and adhering to global norms

### 5.1 INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (IHR) REPORTING COMPLIANCE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

#### 5.1.1 Official IHR reporting

##### 5.1.1a

Has the country submitted IHR reports to the WHO for the previous calendar year?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2020

World Health Organization

#### 5.1.2 Integration of health into disaster risk reduction

##### 5.1.2a

Are epidemics and pandemics integrated into the national risk reduction strategy or is there a standalone national disaster risk reduction strategy for epidemics and pandemics?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that pandemics are integrated into Palau's National Disaster & Risk Management Framework 2010. [1] Palau published a pandemic influenza response plan in 2005, but the plan does not appear to have been updated, nor is it clear that the procedures outlined could be used in response to other types of disease outbreak. [2] There is no further information on the central government of Palau website. [3] There is no information on the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism website. [4,5]

[1] National Government of the Republic of Palau. "National Disaster and Risk Management Framework 2010."

[<https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5b42f19f4.pdf>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[2] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). Outbreak. "Republic of Palau Pandemic Influenza Response Plan".

[[https://www.pphsn.net/Outbreak/Influenza/Palau\\_Flu\\_Plan\\_Final\\_Draft\\_103105.pdf](https://www.pphsn.net/Outbreak/Influenza/Palau_Flu_Plan_Final_Draft_103105.pdf)]. Accessed 20 January 2021.

[3] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[4] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[5] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 20 January 2021.

## 5.2 CROSS-BORDER AGREEMENTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE

### 5.2.1 Cross-border agreements

#### 5.2.1a

**Does the country have cross-border agreements, protocols, or MOUs with neighboring countries, or as part of a regional group, with regards to public health emergencies?**

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in implementation = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Palau has cross-border agreements, protocols, or MOUs with neighboring countries, or as part of a regional group, with regards to public health emergencies. Palau is part of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network, which has an early warning system called PacNet for data sharing and communications between member countries regarding health emergencies, but there is no evidence that these networks have agreements to specifically mobilise resources or cooperate during public health emergencies. [1] There is no further information on the central government of Palau website. [2] There is no information on the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism website. [3,4]

[1] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). "Outbreak Reports."

[<https://www.pphsn.net/Outbreak/Reports/Intro.htm>]. Accessed 20 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 20 January 2021.

#### 5.2.1b

**Does the country have cross-border agreements, protocols, or MOUs with neighboring countries, or as part of a regional group, with regards to animal health emergencies?**

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in implementation = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Palau has cross-border agreements, protocols, or MOUs with neighboring countries, or as part of a regional group, with regards to animal health emergencies. Palau is part of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network, which has an early warning system called PacNet for data sharing and communications between member countries regarding health emergencies and it is not clear whether this extends to animal health emergencies. [1] There is no further information on the central government of Palau website. [2] There is no information on the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism website. [3,4]

[1] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). "Outbreak Reports."

[<https://www.pphsn.net/Outbreak/Reports/Intro.htm>]. Accessed 20 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/>]. Accessed 20 January 2021.

## 5.3 INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

### 5.3.1 Participation in international agreements

#### 5.3.1a

**Does the county have signatory and ratification (or same legal effect) status to the Biological Weapons Convention?**

Signed and ratified (or action having the same legal effect) = 2, Signed = 1, Non-compliant or not a member = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

#### 5.3.1b

**Has the country submitted confidence building measures for the Biological Weapons Convention in the past three years?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

#### 5.3.1c

**Has the state provided the required United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 report to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (1540 Committee)?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

#### 5.3.1d

**Extent of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 implementation related to legal frameworks and enforcement for countering biological weapons:**

Very good (60+ points) = 4, Good (45–59 points) = 3, Moderate (30–44 points) = 2, Weak (15–29 points) = 1, Very weak (0–14 points) or no matrix exists/country is not party to the BWC = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

### 5.3.2 Voluntary memberships

#### 5.3.2a

Does the country meet at least 2 of the following criteria?

- Membership in Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA)
- Membership in the Alliance for Country Assessments for Global Health Security and IHR Implementation (JEE Alliance)
- Membership in the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP)
- Membership in the Australia Group (AG)
- Membership in the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI)

Needs to meet at least two of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure. , Yes for five = 1 , Yes for four = 1 , Yes for three = 1 , Yes for two = 1 , Yes for one = 0 , No for all = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

Global Health Security Agenda; JE Alliance; Global Partnership; Australia Group; PSI

## 5.4 JOINT EXTERNAL EVALUATION (JEE) AND PERFORMANCE OF VETERINARY SERVICES PATHWAY (PVS)

### 5.4.1 Completion and publication of a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) assessment and gap analysis

#### 5.4.1a

Has the country completed a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) or precursor external evaluation (e.g., GHSA pilot external assessment) and published a full public report in the last five years?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH); Global Health Security Agenda

#### 5.4.1b

Has the country completed and published, within the last five years, either a National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) to address gaps identified through the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) assessment or a national GHSA roadmap that sets milestones for achieving each of the GHSA targets?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH); Global Health Security Agenda

## 5.4.2 Completion and publication of a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) assessment and gap analysis

### 5.4.2a

Has the country completed and published a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) assessment in the last five years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

OIE PVS assessments

### 5.4.2b

Has the country completed and published a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) gap analysis in the last five years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

OIE PVS assessments

## 5.5 FINANCING

### 5.5.1 National financing for epidemic preparedness

#### 5.5.1a

Is there evidence that the country has allocated national funds to improve capacity to address epidemic threats within the past three years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that the country has allocated national funds to improve capacity to address epidemic threats within the past three years. In the newly released Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report in 2020 of the Republic of Palau, it is mentioned that a specific amount of emergency funding is secured and made available in the case of an epidemic threat under the US CDC Public Health Crisis Cooperative Agreement and also that no domestic contingency funding available for emergencies yet. [1] There is no relevant information on the central government of Palau website. [2] There is no information on the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism website. [3,4] Also, the Global Health Security Tracking Dashboard does, however, show that Palau has received funding from the World Health Organisation for zoonotic disease and antimicrobial resistance. It is not clear exactly when this funding was awarded, nor

whether it is to be used to build epidemic response capacity.[5]

[1] World Health Organization. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau 2019". [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 20 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[4] Republic of Palau National Government. "Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau." [https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/natural-resources/] Accessed 20 January 2021.

[5] Global Health Security Tracking Dashboard. "Palau". [https://tracking.ghscosting.org/#analysis/PW/r]. Accessed 20 January 2021.

## 5.5.2 Financing under Joint External Evaluation (JEE) and Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) reports and gap analyses

### 5.5.2a

Does the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report, National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS), and/or national GHSA roadmap allocate or describe specific funding from the national budget (covering a time-period either in the future or within the past five years) to address the identified gaps?

Yes = 1 , No/country has not conducted a JEE = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH); Global Health Security Agenda

### 5.5.2b

Does the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) gap analysis and/or PVS assessment allocate or describe specific funding from the national budget (covering a time-period either in the future or within the past five years) to address the identified gaps?

Yes = 1 , No/country has not conducted a PVS = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

OIE PVS assessments

## 5.5.3 Financing for emergency response

### 5.5.3a

Is there a publicly identified special emergency public financing mechanism and funds which the country can access in the face of a public health emergency (such as through a dedicated national reserve fund, an established agreement with the World Bank pandemic financing facility/other multilateral emergency funding mechanism, or other pathway identified through a public health or state of emergency act)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is some evidence that a publicly identified special emergency public financing mechanism and fund is available which Palau can access in the face of a public health emergency. In the newly released Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report in 2020 of the Republic of Palau, it is mentioned that a specific amount of emergency funding is secured and made available in the case of an epidemic threat under the US CDC Public Health Crisis Cooperative Agreement. [1] Palau is also a part of US CDC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement and receives funding in case of a public health emergency. [2] However, Palau is not listed as eligible to borrow from the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA). [3] Nor is Palau eligible to borrow from the World Bank's Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEF). [4] There is no other publicly available evidence that Palau has a dedicated national reserve fund. The Ministry of Health does not share relevant information on its website. [5]

[1] World Health Organization. 2020. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Palau 2019".

[https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240008144]. Accessed 21 January 2021.

[2] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Documents. "Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement (PHEP) Program". [https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/epf/docs/RepOfPalau.pdf]. Accessed 21 January 2021.

[3] International Development Association. "Borrowing Countries". [http://ida.worldbank.org/about/borrowing-countries]. Accessed 21 January 2021.

[4] Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility. December 2017. "Operational Brief for Eligible Countries".

[http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/119961516647620597/PEF-Operational-Brief-Dec-2017.pdf]. Accessed 21 January 2021.

[5] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx]. Accessed 21 January 2021.

## 5.5.4 Accountability for commitments made at the international stage for addressing epidemic threats

### 5.5.4a

Is there evidence that senior leaders (president or ministers), in the past three years, have made a public commitment either to:

- Support other countries to improve capacity to address epidemic threats by providing financing or support?
- Improve the country's domestic capacity to address epidemic threats by expanding financing or requesting support to improve capacity?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no public evidence of Palau's senior leaders making public commitments to support other countries or improve domestic capacity to address epidemic threats in the past three years. The government of Palau website and the Ministry of Health website do not share any relevant information. [1,2] There is no evidence of a social media account of the Minister of Health of Palau but a verified and active Twitter account of the President of the Republic of Palau is found online, but no relevant evidence can be found. [3] The Global Health Security Tracking Dashboard does, however, show that Palau has received funding from the World Health Organisation for zoonotic disease and antimicrobial resistance. It is not clear exactly when this funding was awarded, nor whether it is to be used to build epidemic response capacity.[4]

[1] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/] Accessed 21 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 21 January 2021.

[3] Twitter. "Tommy Remengesau, Jr". [<https://twitter.com/tommyremengesau?lang=en>]. Accessed 21 January 2021.

[4] Global Health Security Tracking Dashboard. "Palau". [<https://tracking.ghscosting.org/#analysis/PW/r>]. Accessed 21 January 2021.

### 5.5.4b

Is there evidence that the country has, in the past three years, either:

- Provided other countries with financing or technical support to improve capacity to address epidemic threats?
- Requested financing or technical support from donors to improve the country's domestic capacity to address epidemic threats?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is some evidence that in the past three years, Palau has requested financing or technical support from donors to improve the country's domestic capacity to address epidemic threats. However, there is no evidence that Palau has provided other countries with financing or technical support to improve capacity to address epidemic threats. The Global Health Security Tracking Dashboard shows that Palau has received funding from the World Health Organisation for zoonotic disease and antimicrobial resistance between 2014-2020, which would help in future capacity building against epidemic threats. [1] The government of Palau website and the Ministry of Health website do not share any further relevant information. [2,3]

[1] Global Health Security Tracking Dashboard. "Palau". [<https://tracking.ghscosting.org/#analysis/PW/r>]. Accessed 21 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 21 January 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 21 January 2021.

### 5.5.4c

Is there evidence that the country has fulfilled its full contribution to the WHO within the past two years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

2021

Economist Impact analyst qualitative assessment based on official national sources, which vary by country

## 5.6 COMMITMENT TO SHARING OF GENETIC AND BIOLOGICAL DATA AND SPECIMENS

### 5.6.1 Commitment to sharing genetic data, clinical specimens, and/or isolated specimens (biological materials) in both emergency and nonemergency research

#### 5.6.1a

Is there a publicly available plan or policy for sharing genetic data, clinical specimens, and/or isolated specimens (biological materials) along with the associated epidemiological data with international organizations and/or other countries that goes beyond influenza?

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available plan or policy for sharing genetic data, epidemiological data, clinical specimens, or isolated specimens (biological materials) with international organisations and/or other countries that goes beyond influenza. Neither the central government of Palau website nor the Ministry of Health website share any relevant information. [1,2] There is no evidence of such a plan in media, academic studies, or other external documentation.

[1] Republic of Palau National Government. "Documents" [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/documents/>] Accessed 21 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>]. Accessed 21 January 2021.

#### 5.6.1b

Is there public evidence that the country has not shared samples in accordance with the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) framework in the past two years?

Yes = 0, No = 1

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is no public evidence that Palau has not shared samples in accordance with the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) framework in the past two years. There is no relevant information on the Ministry of Health website and there have not been any reports of Palau not sharing samples in either national or international media. [1] The latest External Evaluation of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Partnership Contribution, published in 2016, does not refer to Palau not sharing samples, nor does it list Palau as a priority country for improving the "national ability to detect, monitor and share novel influenza viruses". [2]

[1] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 21 January 2021.

[2] World Health Organisation (WHO). 2016. "External Evaluation of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Partnership Contribution—High-Level Implementation Plan 2013-2016". [[http://www.who.int/about/evaluation/pip\\_evaluation\\_report.pdf](http://www.who.int/about/evaluation/pip_evaluation_report.pdf)]. Accessed 21 January 2021.

### 5.6.1c

Is there public evidence that the country has not shared pandemic pathogen samples during an outbreak in the past two years?

Yes = 0, No = 1

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is no public evidence that Palau has not shared pandemic pathogen samples during an outbreak in the past two years. There is no reference to sharing pandemic pathogen data on the Ministry of Health website. [1] As of January 18, 2021, Palau's Ministry of Health website reports zero cases of Covid-19 in the country, and has no evidence of the country not sharing Covid-19 samples. [2] There have not been any reports of Palau not sharing samples in either national and international media, or in World Health Organisation sources. Relatedly, there are not reports in international media of pandemic pathogen outbreaks in Palau in the last two years.

[1] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "Reports" [<http://www.palauhealth.org/MOHpages/MOHReports1.aspx>] Accessed 21 January 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau. "COVID-19 Situation Report" [[http://www.palauhealth.org/2019nCoV\\_SitRep/MOH-COVID-19%20Situation%20Report.pdf](http://www.palauhealth.org/2019nCoV_SitRep/MOH-COVID-19%20Situation%20Report.pdf)]. Accessed 21 January 2021.

## Category 6: Overall risk environment and vulnerability to biological threats

### 6.1 POLITICAL AND SECURITY RISK

#### 6.1.1 Government effectiveness

##### 6.1.1a

Policy formation (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

**Current Year Score: 1**

2020

Economist Intelligence

##### 6.1.1b

Quality of bureaucracy (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

**Current Year Score: 1**

2020

Economist Intelligence

**6.1.1c**

Excessive bureaucracy/red tape (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 1

2020

Economist Intelligence

**6.1.1d**

Vested interests/cronyism (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 1

2020

Economist Intelligence

**6.1.1e**

Country score on Corruption Perception Index (0-100, where 100=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 74.17

2020

Transparency International

**6.1.1f**

Accountability of public officials (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 1

2020

Economist Intelligence

**6.1.1g**

Human rights risk (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 1

2020

Economist Intelligence

## 6.1.2 Orderly transfers of power

### 6.1.2a

**How clear, established, and accepted are constitutional mechanisms for the orderly transfer of power from one government to another?**

Very clear, established and accepted = 4, Clear, established and accepted = 3, One of the three criteria (clear, established, accepted) is missing = 2, Two of the three criteria (clear, established, accepted) are missing = 1, Not clear, not established, not accepted = 0

Current Year Score: 3

2021

Economist Intelligence

## 6.1.3 Risk of social unrest

### 6.1.3a

**What is the risk of disruptive social unrest?**

Very low: Social unrest is very unlikely = 4, Low: There is some prospect of social unrest, but disruption would be very limited = 3, Moderate: There is a considerable chance of social unrest, but disruption would be limited = 2, High: Major social unrest is likely, and would cause considerable disruption = 1, Very high: Large-scale social unrest on such a level as to seriously challenge government control of the country is very likely = 0

Current Year Score: 4

2021

Economist Intelligence

## 6.1.4 Illicit activities by non-state actors

### 6.1.4a

**How likely is it that domestic or foreign terrorists will attack with a frequency or severity that causes substantial disruption?**

No threat = 4, Low threat = 3, Moderate threat = 2, High threat = 1, Very high threat = 0

Current Year Score: 4

2021

Economist Intelligence

### 6.1.4b

What is the level of illicit arms flows within the country?

4 = Very high, 3 = High, 2 = Moderate, 1 = Low, 0 = Very low

Current Year Score: 0

2020

UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

### 6.1.4c

How high is the risk of organized criminal activity to the government or businesses in the country?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Intelligence

## 6.1.5 Armed conflict

### 6.1.5a

Is this country presently subject to an armed conflict, or is there at least a moderate risk of such conflict in the future?

No armed conflict exists = 4, Yes; sporadic conflict = 3, Yes; incursional conflict = 2, Yes, low-level insurgency = 1, Yes; territorial conflict = 0

Current Year Score: 4

2021

Economist Intelligence

## 6.1.6 Government territorial control

### 6.1.6a

Does the government's authority extend over the full territory of the country?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Intelligence

## 6.1.7 International tensions

### 6.1.7a

Is there a threat that international disputes/tensions could have a negative effect?

No threat = 4, Low threat = 3, Moderate threat = 2, High threat = 1, Very high threat = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Economist Intelligence

## 6.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

### 6.2.1 Literacy

#### 6.2.1a

Adult literacy rate, population 15+ years, both sexes (%)

Input number

Current Year Score: 96.6

2015

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);  
The Economist Intelligence Unit

### 6.2.2 Gender equality

#### 6.2.2a

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Gender Inequality Index score

Input number

Current Year Score: 0.67

2018

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); The Economist Intelligence Unit

### 6.2.3 Social inclusion

#### 6.2.3a

Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90 a day (2011 PPP) (% of population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 0.23

2008-2018

World Bank; Economist Impact

### 6.2.3b

#### Share of employment in the informal sector

Greater than 50% = 2, Between 25-50% = 1, Less than 25% = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is some evidence found on the Development Asia website, that only 2% employed people are part of informal sector according to the 2012 Census, but they only include subsistence agriculture in their analysis of informal sector. [1] There is labour market statistics available on Palau's government website, but no mention of the share of employment in the informal sector. [2] The Palau country page on the World Bank's website does not contain any data for the share of employment in the informal sector. [3] No relevant data can be found on Palau on ILO's website. [4]

[1] Development Asia. "Strategies for Transforming Businesses from Informal to Formal". [<https://development.asia/policy-brief/strategies-transforming-businesses-informal-formal>]. Accessed 21 January 2021.

[2] Republic of Palau National Government. "Labour Market Statistics". [<https://www.palau.gov.pw/executive-branch/ministries/finance/budgetandplanning/labor-market-statistics/>]. Accessed 21 January 2021.

[3] The World Bank. "Palau". [<https://data.worldbank.org/country/palau?view=chart>]. Accessed 21 January 2021.

[4] International Labour Organisation. "Country Profiles". [<https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/country-profiles/>]. Accessed 21 January 2021.

### 6.2.3c

#### Coverage of social insurance programs (% of population)

Scored in quartiles (0-3, where 3=best)

**Current Year Score: 2**

2016, or latest available

World Bank; Economist Impact calculations

## 6.2.4 Public confidence in government

### 6.2.4a

#### Level of confidence in public institutions

Input number

**Current Year Score: 1**

2021

Economist Intelligence Democracy Index

## 6.2.5 Local media and reporting

### 6.2.5a

Is media coverage robust? Is there open and free discussion of public issues, with a reasonable diversity of opinions?

Input number

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Intelligence Democracy Index

## 6.2.6 Inequality

### 6.2.6a

Gini coefficient

Scored 0-1, where 0=best

Current Year Score: 0.26

Latest available.

World Bank; Economist Impact calculations

## 6.3 INFRASTRUCTURE ADEQUACY

### 6.3.1 Adequacy of road network

#### 6.3.1a

What is the risk that the road network will prove inadequate to meet needs?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Economist Intelligence

### 6.3.2 Adequacy of airports

#### 6.3.2a

What is the risk that air transport will prove inadequate to meet needs?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Intelligence

### 6.3.3 Adequacy of power network

#### 6.3.3a

What is the risk that power shortages could be disruptive?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Economist Intelligence

## 6.4 ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

### 6.4.1 Urbanization

#### 6.4.1a

Urban population (% of total population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 80.47

2019

World Bank

### 6.4.2 Land use

#### 6.4.2a

Percentage point change in forest area between 2006–2016

Input number

Current Year Score: 1.93

2008-2018

World Bank; Economist Impact

### 6.4.3 Natural disaster risk

#### 6.4.3a

What is the risk that the economy will suffer a major disruption owing to a natural disaster?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Intelligence

## 6.5 PUBLIC HEALTH VULNERABILITIES

### 6.5.1 Access to quality healthcare

#### 6.5.1a

Total life expectancy (years)

Input number

Current Year Score: 73.6

2018

United Nations; World Bank, UNICEF; Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME); Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)  
World Factbook

#### 6.5.1b

Age-standardized NCD mortality rate (per 100 000 population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 666.23

2019

WHO

#### 6.5.1c

Population ages 65 and above (% of total population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 9.45

2019

World Bank

#### 6.5.1d

Prevalence of current tobacco use (% of adults)

Input number

Current Year Score: 23.7

2018

World Bank

### **6.5.1e**

**Prevalence of obesity among adults**

Input number

**Current Year Score: 55.3**

2016

WHO

## **6.5.2 Access to potable water and sanitation**

### **6.5.2a**

**Percentage of homes with access to at least basic water infrastructure**

Input number

**Current Year Score: 99**

2017

UNICEF; Economist Impact

### **6.5.2b**

**Percentage of homes with access to at least basic sanitation facilities**

Input number

**Current Year Score: 99**

2017

UNICEF; Economist Impact

## **6.5.3 Public healthcare spending levels per capita**

### **6.5.3a**

**Domestic general government health expenditure per capita, PPP (current international \$)**

Input number

**Current Year Score: 1184.98**

2018

WHO Global Health Expenditure database

## 6.5.4 Trust in medical and health advice

### 6.5.4a

#### Trust medical and health advice from the government

Share of population that trust medical and health advice from the government , More than 80% = 2, Between 60-80%, or no data available = 1, Less than 60% = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

2018

Wellcome Trust Global Monitor 2018

### 6.5.4b

#### Trust medical and health advice from medical workers

Share of population that trust medical and health advice from health professionals , More than 80% = 2, Between 60-80%, or no data available = 1, Less than 60% = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

2018

Wellcome Trust Global Monitor 2018