

## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 236

### *Establishing a National Avian Influenza (H5N1) Advisory and Coordination Team*

**WHEREAS**, avian influenza (H5N1)(“Avian Influenza”) is a contagious disease among many species of domesticated and wild birds and may cause sickness and deaths in birds; and

**WHEREAS**, there have been recent outbreaks of Avian Influenza amongst birds in Asian and European countries and these continue to spread; and

**WHEREAS**, Avian Influenza viruses do not usually infect humans, but there is concern that mutations in the virus or genetic re-assortment may cause the virus to become easy to spread from person-to-person; and

**WHEREAS**, human infections with Avian Influenza virus may cause severe illness including atypical pneumonia and death; and

**WHEREAS**, human infections with Avian Influenza virus have been reported in neighboring Asian countries including Indonesia; and

**WHEREAS**, most of these cases have occurred from contact with infected poultry or contaminated surfaces and some cases of human-to-human transmission have occurred; and

**WHEREAS**, Avian Influenza is also spread by migratory birds and could come from Indonesia, our closest neighbor country with known cases of Avian Influenza; and

**WHEREAS**, Palau has developed a national Pandemic Flu Plan to prepare for and respond to a global pandemic of Avian Influenza.

**NOW THEREFORE**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the Republic of Palau, pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the Republic, it is hereby Ordered that a National Avian Influenza Advisory and Coordination Team is created, to support the relevant government agencies to implement the Pandemic Flu Plan, including coordination of national prevention and control measures, as follows:

**Section 1. Duties and Responsibilities.** The National Avian Influenza Advisory and Coordination Team (“Team”) shall have the following duties and responsibilities.

- a) To coordinate the implementation of the Palau Pandemic Flu Plan between all nominated agencies;
- b) To advocate that all essential service organizations prepare contingency plans for the expected impact of a flu pandemic;
- c) To review and improve surveillance (of domestic and migratory birds, and

people) methodology by contributing agencies and facilitate contingency planning at the national level;

d) To provide status updates for local and national new media as appropriate;

e) To determine appropriate prevention activities (including, but not limited to biosecurity for poultry farms, quarantine restrictions, public education and stockpiling of resources) based upon the guidance in the Pandemic Flu Plan and advice from international organizations such as the World Health Organization and to implement these prevention activities through represented agencies;

f) Once Avian Influenza is detected, to act immediately (through agencies nominated in the Palau Pandemic Flu Plan) to implement control and containment measures (including human and animal quarantine measures, restriction of public gatherings, school closures and destruction of birds and livestock;)

g) To resolve discrepancies in interpretation or implementation of the Plan between agencies.

**Section 2. Membership.** The Team shall have the following members.

- Minister of Health or his designee who shall serve as Chairperson
- Liaison officer (representative) Office of President
- Director, Bureau of Public Health\*
- Director, Bureau of Hospital and Clinical Services\*
- Representative from Palau Environmental Quality Protection Board
- Representative from the Ministry of Education
- Director, Bureau of Agriculture, MRD
- Executive Director from Governors Association
- Director, Bureau of Public Safety

*\*These members may be replaced by a liaison officer from the Ministry of Health Incident Command Center once the Public Health and Belau National Hospital Emergency Operation Plans have been activated.*

**Section 3. Administrative Support.** The Ministry of Health shall provide administrative support to the Team. The Team may request assistance from relevant agencies of the National Government, including personnel, supplies, and equipment, as necessary.

**Section 4. Meetings.** The Team shall schedule its own meetings, but the first meeting shall be held on November 25, 2005, in the Office of the President at 10:00 a.m.

**Section 5. Reporting.** The Team shall report to the President once every two weeks during Phases 1 - 4 (according to the WHO risk classification system) and weekly during Phases 5 and 6. If an outbreak is declared in Palau (animal or human cases) the Team will report (via a

Liaison Officer) to the President every 2 days.

**Section 6. Term.** The Team shall remain in existence until terminated by the President.

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF*, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this  
18<sup>th</sup> day of November 2005, at Meyuns, State of Koror, Republic of Palau.

/s/

---

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.  
President of the Republic of Palau