



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

February 26th, 2025

SUBJECT: NAMDRIK ATOLL – HEALTH SITUATION MONITORING & PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

ISSUED BY: MINISTRY OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Situation Overview

The Ministry of Health & Human Services (MoHHS) is closely monitoring a health situation on Namdrik Atoll, where an increased number of gastroenteritis and influenza-like illness (ILI) cases have been reported. These illnesses are associated with muscle weakness, including difficulty breathing. COVID-19, Influenza A and B, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus have been ruled out as causes, and additional diagnostic tests are being conducted abroad to determine the specific pathogen responsible. As of now, two individuals have unfortunately passed away, and several others have been evacuated to Majuro for further medical treatment.

Public Health Recommendations

To safeguard health and prevent the spread of illness, MoHHS advises the public to follow these important steps:

1. Practice Proper Hygiene

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the restroom and before eating.

2. Seek Medical Care Immediately

- Anyone experiencing symptoms such as gastrointestinal distress, muscle weakness, or difficulty breathing should seek medical attention promptly.

3. Stay Hydrated

- Ensure adequate fluid intake to prevent dehydration, particularly for those with symptoms like diarrhea and vomiting.

4. **Monitor for Symptoms**

- Watch for signs of weakness or breathing difficulties. If symptoms worsen, seek medical help immediately.

5. **Water Safety**

- Given concerns about water quality, ensure access to clean, safe drinking water. The MoHHS is deploying specialists to evaluate and address water safety on Namdrik Atoll.

Current Response Actions

In response to this situation, MoHHS has deployed a medical team and a water specialist from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to Namdrik Atoll for a two-week period. The team will:

- Provide **medical support** to affected individuals.
- Conduct a **health investigation** to determine the source and cause of the illness.
- Assess **environmental factors**, including water quality.
- Implement **public health interventions**, focusing on improving water safety and sanitation.

MoHHS will continue to monitor the situation and will provide regular updates to keep the public informed.

Contact Information

For additional information or inquiries, please contact the Ministry of Health & Human Services at communications@rmihealth.org

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