



Department of Foreign Affairs Federated States of Micronesia

DFA/LSR-157-14

May 30, 2014

The Department of Foreign Affairs of the Federated States of Micronesia presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America in the FSM and has the honor to forward the enclosed letter from Dr. Vita Skilling, Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Affairs, to Dr. Tom Frieden, Director of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Department has the further honor to request the Embassy's assistance in ensuring that the letter reaches its destination.

The Department of Foreign Affairs of the Federated States of Micronesia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America in the FSM the assurances of its highest consideration.

Palikir, Pohnpei

Enclosure





DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
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May 29, 2014

Tom Frieden, MD, MPH
Director,
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd, NE
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Frieden:

Greetings from the Federated States of Micronesia!

During the second week of May 2014, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Department of Health and Social Affairs has identified 10 laboratory-confirmed measles cases in Kosrae State, one of the four states in the FSM. This is the first documented measles outbreak in Kosrae in over a decade.

Preliminary Kosrae Department of Health Services and FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs investigation has identified numerous additional suspect cases throughout the island. Initial control measures have included isolation of hospitalized cases, initiation of a mass catch-up vaccination campaign, and public messaging regarding measles preventing transmission.

The FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs is requesting CDC epidemiologic and laboratory assistance in the investigation and response to this measles outbreak. Objectives of the investigation include to identify risk factors for measles transmission and to inform additional control and prevention measures to reduce measles transmission and mitigate morbidity. We also request if assistance in the area of clinical guidelines and treatment protocols can also be provided. The data collected will guide targeting of additional control measures by the response team that includes FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs.

I thank you in advance for your support and favorable consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vita A. Skilling".

Dr. Vita A. Skilling
Secretary