



**EMBASSY OF THE
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**NOTICE TO CITIZENS
Of the Federated States of Micronesia
Residing in the United States**

(For Immediate Release on COVID-19)

August 11, 2020

**FSM Citizens Group in the U.S. conducting a Coronavirus (COVID-19) Survey through its
FSM Task Force USA: FSM Embassy supports the work of the Task Force**

The Embassy of the Federated States of Micronesia in Washington D.C., is supporting the work of the *FSM Task Force USA*, an ad hoc group of voluntary citizens created at the grassroots level whose initiative is aimed at bringing to attention the plight of fellow citizens coping with the adverse impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Numerous credible reports and news outlets in the United States mainland, Hawaii, Guam, and other U.S. jurisdictions have cited data and information pointing out that Pacific Islanders in the U.S. (including citizens of the FSM) are vulnerable groups of residents disproportionately affected by COVID-19. In monitoring the pandemic in the U.S., the Embassy is also aware that the coronavirus has sadly claimed the lives of many of our loved ones, most of whom are now buried and laid to rest here in the United States.

The health and safety of our citizens in the U.S. must be paramount at all times during these challenging times.

In support of the work of the task force, the Embassy is strongly encouraging citizens abroad (mainland, Hawaii, Guam, CNMI, and other U.S. jurisdictions) to visit the official website of the Task Force at <https://fsmtaskforceusa.com/> and fill out the survey so as to give the Task Force a fuller understanding of citizens' plight due to the pandemic and for the Task Force to subsequently identify appropriate interventions where it is direly needed.

The Embassy takes this opportunity to continue its appeal to citizens of the FSM throughout the United States mainland, Hawaii, Guam, CNMI and all U.S. jurisdictions, to heed the guidelines of the appropriate health and local authorities', in particular and most especially CDC's guidelines on COVID-19. The Embassy encourages citizens to wear a mask when in public, practice social distancing based on guidelines, maintain cleanliness, disinfecting, and proper hygiene, avoid unnecessary travels, and stay clear of large crowds and gatherings where the chances of contracting the virus increases.

Should citizens have questions, please feel at ease to contact the Task Force at stacy.ruegilin@gmail.com and joe.enlet@gov.fm or the Embassy at (202)223-4383.