

Heart to Heart International sending team to Marshall Islands to respond to Coronavirus

Heart to Heart International deploying a medical team to Marshall Islands to prepare ahead of potential COVID-19 (Coronavirus) infections on the islands.

February 24, 2020 (Lenexa, KS) – Heart to Heart International (HHI) has been requested by the World Health Organization (WHO) to deploy to the Republic of the Marshall Islands to support COVID-19 planning, preparedness and training. The team will depart on Saturday, February 29.

HHI and WHO have been in communication about the possibility of a response to the COVID-19 virus after it was declared a “public health emergency of international concern” in January. In deploying a team to the Marshall Islands, the objective of the WHO and HHI will be to treat the current outbreak of dengue and influenza and establish procedures to contain any potential future outbreak of COVID-19.

“Areas of the world lacking in comprehensive medical infrastructure are most vulnerable to the potential spread of the virus,” Dr. Rick Randolph, Chief Medical Officer, HHI, said. “Heart to Heart International has extensive expertise in infection control and quarantine from its work in Liberia at the height of the Ebola epidemic as well as cholera outbreaks in Haiti. Using that expertise, we are able to instruct on and create appropriate procedures to help medical personnel on the island contain and manage any potential virus outbreak.”

Consisting of 1,156 small islands in the central Pacific, the Marshall Islands were administered by the United States after WWII until 1979. The United States continues to provide international defense and funding, and Marshall Islanders can freely travel to and work in the United States.

Interview opportunities will be available with HHI leadership and deploying team members on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, after 10am at Heart to Heart International Global Headquarters – 11550 Renner Blvd., Lenexa, KS 66219.

Donations are needed: hearttoheart.org or text HHICV to 41444

Headquartered in Lenexa, Kansas, Heart to Heart International (HHI) is a global humanitarian organization focused on improving access to health. Since its inception in 1992, HHI has delivered medical aid and supplies worth \$2 billion to more than 130 countries, including within the United States. HHI responds to natural disasters both domestically and internationally by supplying medical relief and mobilizing volunteers. The organization is a 4-star Charity Navigator charity, a BBB Accredited charity and is on the “Philanthropy 400.” To learn more, visit hearttoheart.org.

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