Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

11:59pm, 9 April until 6am, 14 April 2020.

mild and moderate COVID-19 cases.

provinces of the country.

Papua New Guinea Situation Report 16



12 April 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

This Health Situation Report on coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is issued by the PNG National Department of Health (NDoH) **ONCE a WEEK**. This Report is not comprehensive and covers information that we have as of reporting date.

Papua New Guinea has two cases (one imported and one local) of COVID-19 , to date.	GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS The numbers are based on WHO Situation
The second case is a 40-year-woman from East New Britain Province with no travel history. The patient has been isolated. A rapid response team was deployed to the village for contact tracing. As of 8 April, a total of 37 contacts were identified and samples were collected for testing. The entire province was also put on a lock down for the next 21 days.	Report as of 11 April 2020. Globally: 1,610,909 confirmed cases 99,690 deaths Western Pacific Region: 118,549 confirmed cases 4,017 deaths
The National Parliament of PNG extended the State of Emergency (SOE) for two months starting 2 April 2020. The SOE Controller David Manning issued the following emergency orders on 7 April 2020 for immediate implementation:	Countries/territories/areas affected: 213 Papua New Guinea: 2 cases of COVID-19
continued restrictions on all incoming international flights; limited/restricted domestic fl cancellation of churches and mass gatherings durin 2020.	-
On 7 April, Papua New Guinea, joined the rest of Day honouring the contribution of the nurses, mandemic response, putting their own health at ris	idwives and health workers in the COVID-19
On 8 April, Controller of the Emergency for COVI	D-19 issued an emergency order to all public

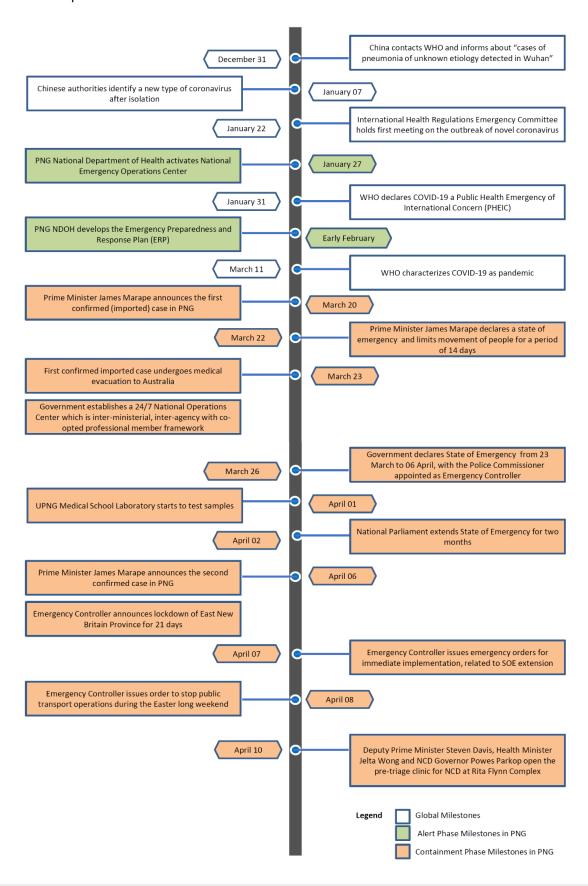
transport operators to stop operating within PNG during the Easter long weekend: i.e. from

On 10 April, Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Steven Davis, Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS Hon. Jelta Wong and Governor of the National Capital District (NCD) Hon. Powes Parkop officially opened the pre-triage clinic for NCD at Rita Flynn Complex. The clinic with 76 beds is prepared to treat

☐ COVID Hotline **1800200** continues to be operational, receiving about 2,000 calls per day from all

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

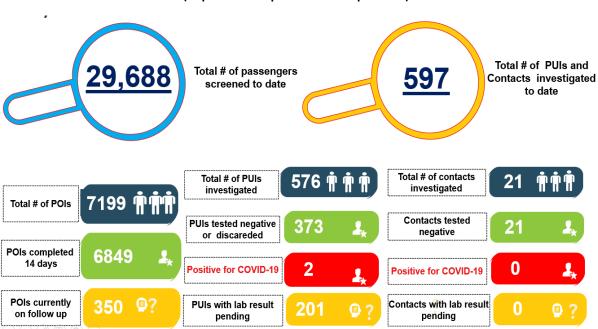
Below is a timeline highlighting important global events and milestones in PNG during the various phases of response to COVID-19.



SURVEILLANCE AND POINTS OF ENTRY

- As of 11 April, a total of **29,688** inbound passengers were screened at the Jacksons International Airport and seaport in Port Moresby. A total of **7,199** were identified as 'persons of interest' who are being monitored regularly by the Surveillance Team.
- Of the **7,199** persons of interest, 6,849 (95%) have completed the 14-day follow-up period, while 350 are still on active monitoring. Majority of those monitored are in Port Moresby.
- ☐ There have been **597** persons investigated by the Rapid Response Team: 2 tested positive for COVID-19, 394 tested negative while 201 samples are still pending result.
- As of 11 April, the updates from the surveillance, points of entry and laboratory clusters are summarized below.

PNG Surveillance: Points of Entry Update (airport and seaports as of 11 April 2020)



- ☐ The current testing capacity at IMR is at 300 tests per day. On 1 April, the University of PNG Medical School Laboratory started testing aimed at improving the capacity to test additional 200 samples a day.
- ☐ The COVID-19 Hotline **1800200** receives an average of 2,000 calls per day from all provinces of the country. To date, there have been more than 35,000 calls made through the hotline.
- □ People with cold and flu symptoms are continuously being advised to call the tollfree number 1800 2000 to report. If they meet the case definition of COVID-19, the Rapid Response Team will go their location and have them screened and tested.



Rapid Response Teams collecting samples

CLINICAL MANAGEMENT and INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

On 9 April, NDoH with the technical support of WHO conducted a training of trainers on infection prevention and control, clinical management and surveillance for the regional coordinators. These trained staff will be deployed to the provinces to train the provincial focal points.



Regional Coordinators undergoing training on Infection Prevention and control, clinical management and surveillance

On 7 April, Papua New Guinea, joined the rest of the world to commemorate the 'World Health Day, honouring the contribution of the nurses, midwives and health workers recognizing their vital role in COVID-19 pandemic response, putting their own health at risk to protect the broader community.

WORLD HEALTH DAY 2020 (7 April) Theme: Support Nurses and Midwives

World Health Assembly May 2019, designated 2020 as the 'International Year of the Nurse and Midwife', coinciding the 200 years since the birth of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.

This World Health Day, Papua New Guinea, as in the rest of the world, we honored the contribution of the nurses, midwives and health workers recognizing their vital role in keeping the world healthy. They are at the frontlines of COVID-19 pandemic response, putting their own health at risk to protect the broader community.



World Health Day: 7 April 2020

- All provinces are ramping up the establishment of pre-triaging areas. In the National Capital District (NCD), the Rita Flynn Complex as a Pre-Triaging Clinic is operational.
- ☐ On 10 April 2020, the Rita Flynn Complex at the National Capital District (NCD) was inaugurated. The facility has 76 beds available and is being expanded to accommodate 100 beds. It can be further extended to up to 1,000 beds in the worst case scenario.





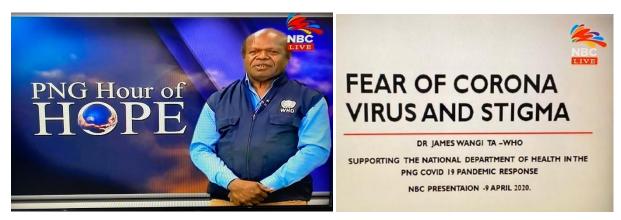
Rita Flynn Complex in the National Capital District

- ☐ Based on the PNG Health Service Profile, there are 741 health facilities with 5,400 hospital beds, more than 50 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds and 9147 health workers (medical doctors, Health Extension Officers, nurses and CHWs). Most provinces do not have quarantine facilities nor isolation wards. The number of functional ICU facilities is inadequate.
- PPEs for isolation wards across the country is being rolled out. However, the issue of PPE supplies for the nation remains to be a concern. The call for assistance from business houses, corporate entities, and our stakeholders to support still exists

COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MOBILIZATION

- ☐ A national communication plan focusing on risk communication and community engagement is being implemented and has guided the communications planning of the 22 provinces.
- A cross sectoral Risk Communication and Community Engagement plan addressing the impact of COVID-19 crisis on children and families has been developed to address public anxiety, build trust and facilitate community participation.
- □ National WASH Communication plan development has been supported and finalized. UNICEF is also collaborating in development of the communication plan for the WASH Cluster.
- ☐ Information, education and communication (IEC) materials on prevention messages (English, Tok Pisin, Motu and Enga) have been developed jointly by NDOH and WHO and have been made available online through the NDOH Facebook page. UNICEF printed 100,000 A2 format posters and distributed to 22 provinces to inform about the COVID-19 transmission routes, prevention and protection measures.

- ☐ All 22 provinces have heightened communication to the public and communities through regular messaging on provincial radio and mobile awareness campaigns.
- Radio broadcasts on NBC and FM100 continue with awareness messaging. Regular COVID-19 updates are regularly aired on television (NBC and eMTV).
- □ Following the limitation of social gathering under SOE, the PNG Council of Churches has launched a daily morning program on TV and radio (called Hour of Hope) to talk about the scriptures as an alternative to church services. Half of the program is on COVID-19 messaging, with WHO providing technical content and resource person. The program is aired all over the country.
- ☐ Stigma and discrimination is a major issue in the community following the announcement of the case in East New Britain. The PHA communications team is addressing them at the local level with while the churches are supporting in religious messaging to help the public manage fear and prevent stigma.



Awareness message on COVID-19: NBC TV (Live)

LOGISTICS and SUPPLIES

- ☐ Personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies have been dispatched to the provinces. UNICEF and WHO providing technical support to the NEOC and in providing coordination for PPE procurement and distribution to frontline workers nationally.
- □ UNICEF has procured and are ready for distribution throughout all provinces 500 WASH and Dignity Kits; while 2,380 litres of hand wash and hand sanitizer have been ordered -- delivery is awaited soon.
- □ 55 tents for pre-triage screening has been procured: 6 tents already set up in 5 locations in NCD (6 x 72 sqm), 24 will be distributed to all other province from Lae this week, and the remaining 25 to be delivered next week.
- ☐ More than 1200 items of tent equipment ordered (including chairs, tables, waste bins etc). Military and Police will be in charge of setting up the tents. Distribution of balance 8 x 72 sqm and 27 x 42 sqm are being compiled.

UPDATE FROM THE PROVINCES

NEW GUINEA ISLANDS REGION

Δ	R	O	B

	Several roadblocks and motorist patrols have been set up by police to ensure people are complying with physical distancing requirements and traffic rules: Ramazon/Sawmill Section of the Kokopau/Arawa Highway; Malsang; Buka/Kessa Highway; between Kuka and Kokopau; Wakunai/Arawa Highway; Butuin Town and surrounding communities. PMV boats were also monitored to ensure they were complying with the EO requirements to carry
_	only allowable number of passengers.
	The seas along the border of Bougainville/Solomon Island were continued to be monitored and patrolled by Joint Border Surveillance Team located at Kerekere.
	There are ongoing communication, social mobilization and awareness activities. There is expressed urgent need for tents for triage and isolation.
Eas	t New Britain
	Case investigation and contact tracing continues in the province following identification of the second case. Surge staff in three teams have been deployed to support the province in the reponse operations.
	The province is requesting training materials to be sent to provinces as they will not accept inbound travelers if not quarantined for 14 days. The province is concerned about 100% medical kits not distributed by logistic company to Pomio district (Telemu16).
	Nonga Hospital Laboratory is being prepared for PCR testing for COVID-19. PPE boxes have been sent. A full list of clinical items and equipment available in Nonga, St Mary and Butuwin.
	The West New Britain-East New Britain Trans-National Highway is being monitored. There are ongoing communication, social mobilization and awareness activities. There is expressed urgent need for tents for triage and isolation.
	The gesture of solidarity of the ENB in supporting the communities in quarantine has received a significant media attention as a good practice.
Ма	inus
	The Province is preparing for awareness activities to the outer Western Islands that have been having international tourist yachts visiting these islands.
	Immigration/Customs/Police need to tighten border patrols. This could also apply to logging ships in other provinces like ENB, WNB, NIP and AROB
	There are ongoing communication, social mobilization and awareness activities. There is expressed urgent need for tents for triage and isolation.
Ne	w Ireland
	As of 7 April, PCMC has come up with the following restrictions and orders: (1) complete lockdown of all small operating boats coming from Kokopo and Duke of York in East New Britain Province; (2) lockdown of Route 7 PMV buses operating the Namatanai to Kavieng route and vice versa; (3) Routes 1 - 6 to operate with some restrictions (i.e. 15 seater buses to carry no more than 10 passengers and 25 seater buses to carry no more than 15 passengers); (4) private vehicles allowed only with Vehicle Passes and no more than 5 passengers on board; (5) trucks carrying garden produce only (i.e. no betel nut) will be allowed; (6) all shops to operate from 6 am to 5pm; (7) ban on liquor for all small outlets after 5 pm except for clubs and hotels; (8) continuing ban on

betel nut chewing and smoking in public places; (9) public to adhere to social distancing; (10) lockdown of all flights coming into the province; (11) lockdown of all sea vessels coming into the

province; (12) all essential staff members to continue to work during lockdown period; and, (13) curfew to start on 10 April from 7pm 6am. Formal notices for the above restrictions will be issued on 8 April.

- New Ireland Provincial Health Authority received an amount of K200,000 for use in the COVID-19 response preparations.
- The Surveillance and Rapid Response Team has been activated in the province. As of 6 April, a total of 274 inbound passengers were screened at the Jacksons International Airport and seaport in Port Moresby. There were 92 passengers identified as 'persons of interest' as supplied by NEOC to Quarantine Team Leader; however, there are additional 12 POIs identified locally. Of all these, 12 (11.5%) have completed the 14-day follow-up period, while 92 are still on active monitoring. Only follow ups are done because the Province is yet to receive kits for sample collection.
- ☐ A temporary isolation facility will be set up at the Environmental Health Office.
- A triage system has been set up at the Kavieng Provincial Hospital. From 6 to 7 April, the total number screened at the triage is 272. A follow up training for Namatanai Hospital is scheduled on 9 April for set up of triage and delivery of triage materials.
- ☐ Training for Rapid Response Team in Kavieng Provincial Hospital was done on 8 April.
- ☐ COVID Hotlines are operational: (+675) 71711113 and (+675) 74742985.
- ☐ Limited stocks of PPEs are available in the province.
- ☐ Radio spots and guesting are aired on NBC Radio New Ireland
- ☐ Trainings on communication and social mobilization have been done: (1) Namatanai District with 120 participants; (2) Lemakot Health Center with 30 participants; (3) Bol Health Center with 50 participants; and, (4) Kavieng Urban Clinic with 7 participants.
- Awareness and advocacy activities were done: (1) Tubuana Primary School in Eratubu on 7 April; and, (2) Kabanut Village on 7 April.



New Ireland: Pre-triage set up

West New Britain

- ☐ There are 7 samples sent for testing on 1 April and awaiting laboratory results.
- ☐ The Province has created 14-day Self-Quarantine Certificate.
- ☐ The West New Britain-East New Britain Trans-National Highway is being monitored.
- ☐ There are ongoing communication, social mobilization and awareness activities.
- ☐ There is expressed urgent need for tents for triage and isolation.

MOMASE REGION

Eas	t Sepik			
	There is a concern regarding a large part of the population who has been travelling to Indonesia to sell products (i.e. vanilla) and coming back with flu-like symptoms. Screening at port of entries, social mobilization and awareness in most cases done alongside			
	immunization, and sample collection are ongoing. Compilation of SOPs and clinical guidelines is being printed and made available as reference.			
Mo	dang			
	Building of the containment center (previously office space at Modilon General Hospital) with a holding capacity of 18 self-contained rooms has commenced with donation of PGK 260 000 from Yama Group of Companies.			
	Screening has been set up: (1) at the provincial hospital with two gazebo tents at Gate 3 with one-way entry and exit; and, (2) at the domestic airport with provisions for hand sanitizers.			
	All districts have either established their District COVID-19 Committees or have convened their first meeting.			
	Awareness campaigns are ongoing in all districts, and roadblocks have been set up and manned by security and health personnel.			
Мо	robe			
	Isolation and quarantine areas have been identified and are being prepared: (1) a 32-bed isolation facility in Lae with upcoming 32 more beds.; (2) a 5-bed clinical isolation facility at Angau Hospital; and, isolation facility at 11 Mile with donga-type accommodation.			
	Community awareness, including training of the police, military, councillors and UNITECH Volunteers, etc. has been conducted,			
	Information materials have been printed: 8000 pamphlets in Tok Pisin that have been sent to the districts; radio alerts; and advertisements on the TOLEC information channel.			
	Public advisories on physical distancing and management of people's movement have also been issued to the residents.			
We	est Sepik			
	All districts have either established their District COVID-19 Committees or have convened their first meeting.			
	In-house training on sample collection protocols was facilitated by Dr Josephine Turian and Dr Dean Hahenberi.			
	A total of 80 samples were collected and sent to PNG Institute for Medical Research as of 7 th April 2020; however, no samples have been collected yet from the 8 POIs in home isolation at the Aitape Lumi District due to lack of UTM.			
	Physical distancing is being enforced at the shops in Vanimo and IEC materials have been			
	distributed to all security personnel who have been deployed at the border villages.			
u	NDOH has supplied 40 goggles and 150 disposable isolation gowns, while the province has done its own procurement of PPEs, sanitizers (150 x 120 mL bottles) and 900 pairs of surgical masks.			
HIC	GHLANDS REGION			
Enga				
	An Inter-Sectoral Provincial Response Task Force on COVID-19 has been formed, and the coordination is done through the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC) for the health sector Response. Daily briefing is done between Police Commander and Director of Public Health.			

	The Task Force has strong support and leadership from the Provincial Administration and
	Provincial Government. The Honourable Governor Chief Sir Peter Ipatas is taking ownership and
	carrying out awareness programs and checking points of entry himself.
	Enga Provincial Emergency and Preparedness Plan been developed and costed.
	Working closely with the Security Personnel (PNGRC and PNGDF), the Task Force has set up check point at the borders (Hagen-Enga, Southern Highlands-Enga, Porgera).
	Surveillance at entry points is established and ongoing at the land border check points with
	Western Highlands (March 2020) and Southern Highlands (28 March 2020). Measures are
	implemented to screen people, goods and vehicle movement (surveillance medical checks).
	Southern Highlands and Enga PHAs have partnered to work together at the border.
	The response team is in place; however, training is pending until 2 nd week of April 2020. Enga
	does not have gazetted quarantine officers, but the province has adequate number of qualified
_	Environmental Health Officers that can be gazetted and certified.
	COVID-19 Hotlines have been established in EPHA Provincial Headquarters and in all (six) 6
_	Districts. The Provincial hotlines are: (+ 675) 72114043/ 71668503/ 70226048.
	PPEs have been received for use in training and at points of entry.
	Quarantine spaces have been identified in Wapenamanda and Kandep, but those for Wabag and
	other districts are yet to be identified. Isolation units and pre-triage sections are yet to be set up in Enga General Hospital and district hospitals.
П	Community education and awareness are aggressively being pursued by the Province. The need
	to form Intersectoral Communication and Education Team was identified. Local Government and
	Council Wards are taking ownership of awareness campaigns, such as in Ambum Council. Porgera
	Joint Venture is also embarking on massive community awareness on COVID-19 in Porgera District.
	A Training of Trainers commenced on 06 April and was completed on 09 April.
	PUI specimens were collected and have been sent to PNGIMR.
	thern Highlands
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Southern Highlands: DHO And Nipa team demonstrating IPC using 10 liters container with tap for hand washing.

Southern Highlands: Awareness team from SHPHA team in Upper Mendi.



Southern Highlands: Provincial COVID-19 Response Team at Lalibu, 1 April 2020



Southern Highlands: Provincial COVID-19 team with Deputy Provincial Administrator Mr H. Happen in Dlpa District to establish District Taskforce on 1 April 2020



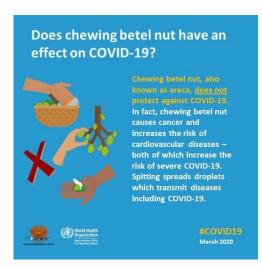
Western Highlands: Awareness session was held in Nibilyer District led by the Provincial Health Authority and Tambul Nibilyer District Development Authority, supported by WHO

SOUTHERN REGION

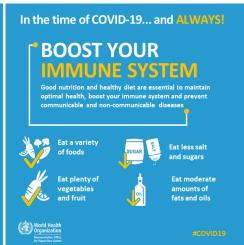
Milne Bay

☐ The Provincial EOC is scheduled to meet three times a week (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) with monitored daily briefs. District COVID-19 Taskforces have been established already in Kiriwina Goodenough, Esa'ala and Samarai Murua. ☐ Funding has been received from HSIP with usage specified for training and IPC, surveillance and rapid response, and risk communication. ☐ There are four teams doing awareness on CoVID-19 intending to complete a 23-day schedule: three from MBPHA; and, one from Milne Bay Administration. Some of the trainings conducted include: Goilanai (Urban Clinic) on 3 April; and, Hospital Isolation Ward on 6 April. ☐ A total of 3606 IEC materials were printed and distributed so far. More than 5000 materials are in the process of printing. ☐ The MBP COVID Hotline has been set up: 72820422. ☐ Alotau Urban Local Level Government (AULLG) through the Environmental Health Officer has already issued a circular instruction to all business houses to adopt a system of crowd control. Good progress has been made on round house isolation facility with some beds for patient care have already been moved. ☐ Logging camps have been visited by the RRT and the MBP Disaster and Emergency Team: (1) Sebutuya Galeo Logging Camp - quarantine and isolation orders lifted after PUI tested COVID-19 negative; relaxed also for Toudikwa transit place; (2) Galamodewa Camp - all cleared; (3) Gamadoudou/Ulabu Saban Logging - all foreigners well and, (4) Sabiribo Logging Camp - all well. ☐ With only 5 tests with universal transport media (UTM) left, NDoH is yet to supply additional UTM as well as transport kits and UN3373 Biological Substance Category B labels. ☐ Two (2) containers of PPE supplies for both routine use and COVID-19 were received on 4 April. Additional local purchases were done for some IPC items.

NEW MESSAGING ON BOOSTING IMMUNITY







New Materials on COVID-19



These advisories are available online. For any new information and updates, check out the links below:

NDOH Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/PNGNDOH/
WHO Papua New Guinea Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WHOPapuaNewGuinea/
WHO Website: https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/

For more information about this Situation Report, contact Dr Daoni Esorom
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