

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Papua New Guinea Situation Report 22



24 May 2020

*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.*

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ Papua New Guinea has **eight cases of COVID-19**, to date: six cases were mild and have fully recovered; two were moderate cases, admitted to hospital and recovered, one of which was repatriated.
- ❑ On 17 May, NDoH released the **First 100 Days of Health Sector Preparedness and Response Report** to inform the people of PNG about the collective efforts put by the Government and partners to respond to the threat of COVID-19; identify key challenges faced; and start to chart the way forward beyond the 100 days.
- ❑ On 17 May, SOE Controller issued National Emergency Order No 37 regarding COVID-19 Surveillance and Testing: National case definition for COVID-19 and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI); confirmation by PCR test only; all PHAs, Port Moresby General Hospital and private hospitals to submit daily reports to Emergency Controller by 6pm; if any cluster of respiratory illness or influenza like illness cases reported, swab between 5-10 cases for the cluster for testing within 24 hours; and each PHA shall swab minimum of 5 patients with influenza like illness symptoms per week.
- ❑ On 18 May, NDoH led by A/Health Secretary Dr Paison Dakulala and WHO convened a virtual meeting with the CEOs of the Provincial Health Authorities, to discuss the ongoing health sector preparedness and response for COVID-19. Key discussions centred on enhanced surveillance and testing requirements as per the SOE National Emergency Order.
- ❑ On 18 May, NDoH established an “Epidemiological Intelligence Working Group” for NOC surveillance operation, co-chaired by NDoH and WHO; and consisting of members from NDoH, WHO, CPHL, ADB, Pacific HR and IMR. The main objective of this working group is to establish a coordinated and collaborative approach to collection, analysis and interpretation of COVID-19 surveillance data to inform COVID-19 response and decision making.
- ❑ On 19 May, SOE Controller David Manning issued a stern warning to citizens undergoing 14-days quarantine at various designated quarantine facility to strictly observe the quarantine protocols or face the consequences.
- ❑ On 21 May, Prime Minister Hon. James Marape announced that the government will begin to build modern world class provincial hospitals in the 22 provinces and one major upgraded world class referral hospital in Port Moresby beginning 2021 till 2050, in time for celebration of 50 years of independence.
- ❑ On 21 May, SOE Controller David Manning convened a meeting with the Provincial Administrators and briefed on the ongoing initiatives for COVID-19 preparedness and response.

GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The numbers are based on WHO Situation Report as of 23 May 2020.

**Globally: 5 103 006 confirmed cases
333 401 deaths**

**Western Pacific Region:
172 696 confirmed cases
6 844 deaths**

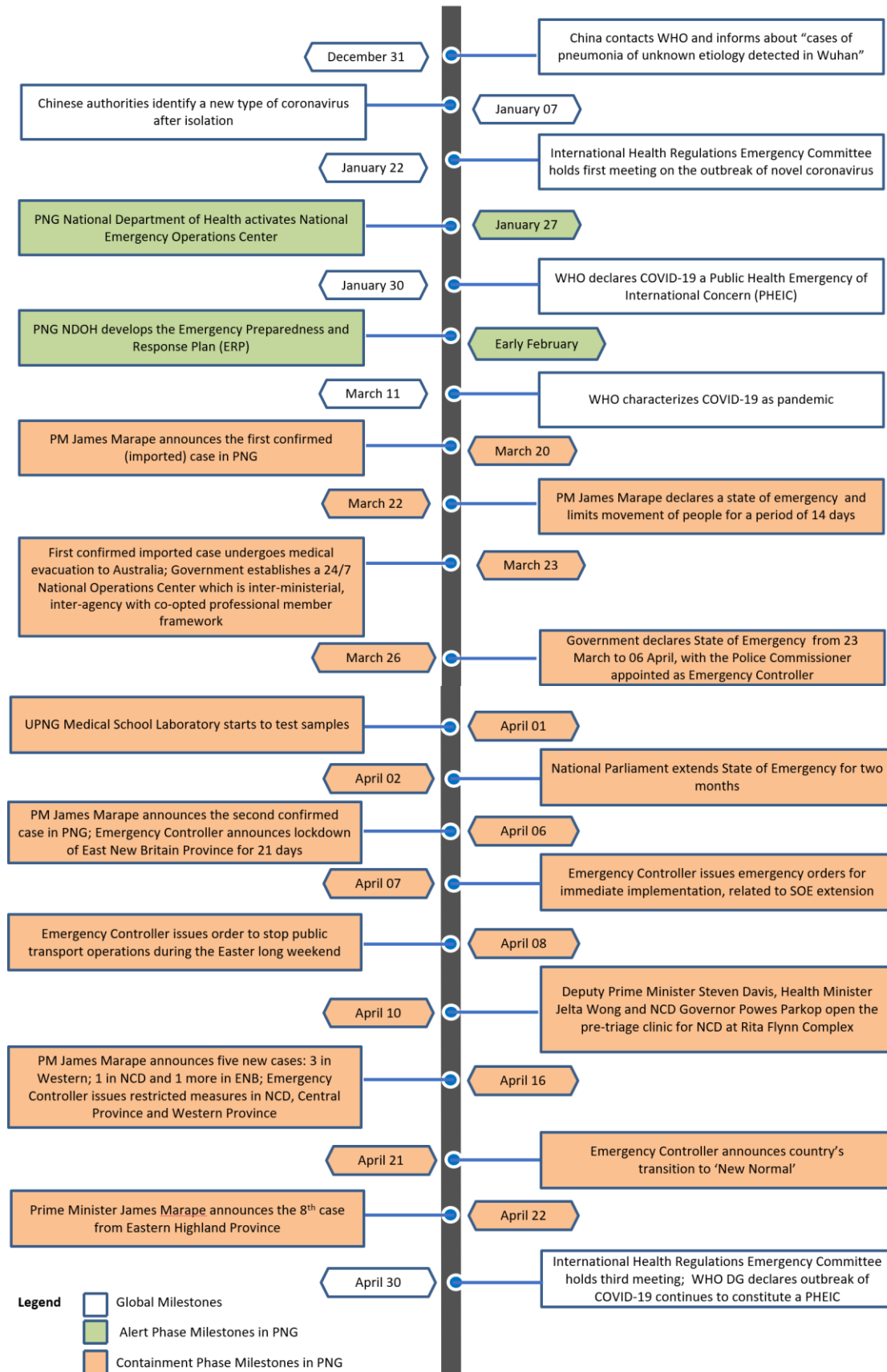
Countries/territories/areas affected: 216

**Papua New Guinea: 8 confirmed cases
(all recovered)**

**East New Britain: 2 confirmed cases
Morobe: 1 confirmed case (repatriated)
NCD: 1 confirmed case
Western Province: 3 confirmed case
Eastern Highlands: 1 confirmed case**

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

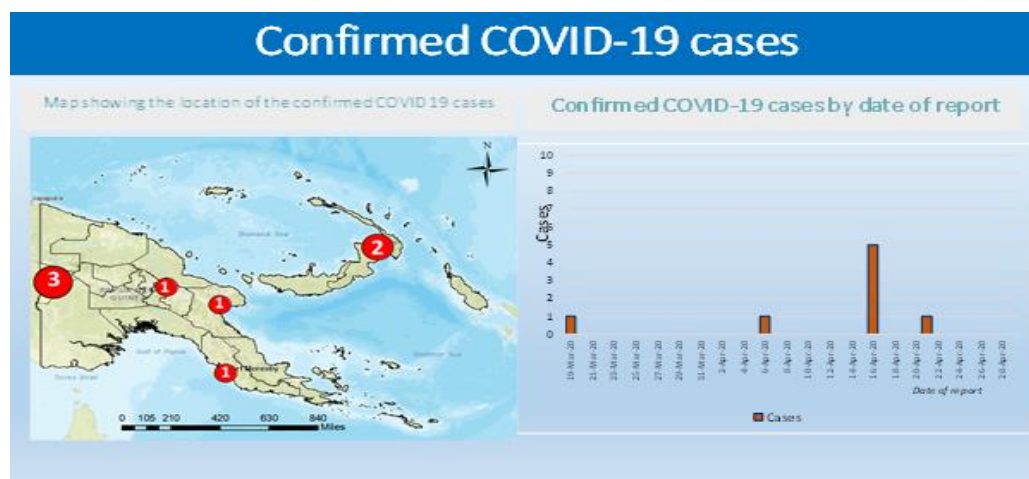
Below is a timeline highlighting important global events and milestones in PNG during the various phases of response to COVID-19.



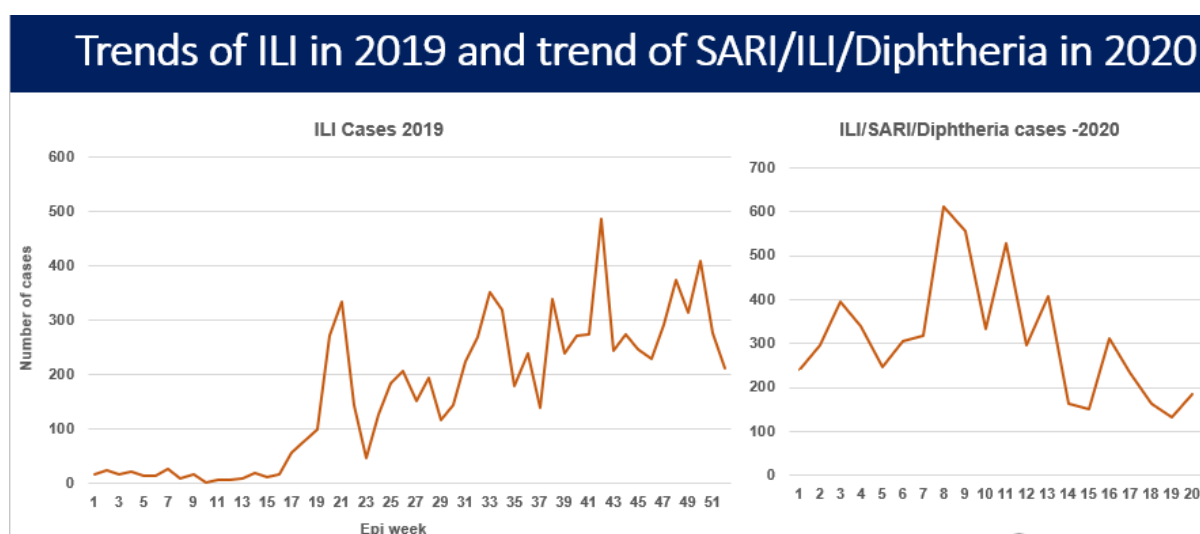
SURVEILLANCE AND POINTS OF ENTRY

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- ❑ As of 22 May, a total of **31,361** inbound passengers were screened at the Jacksons International Airport and seaport in Port Moresby. A total of **8,517** travellers were screened and identified to be monitored regularly by the Surveillance Team.
- ❑ Of the **8,517** travellers under monitoring, 8,003 (94%) have completed the 14-day follow-up period, while 495 are still on active monitoring. Majority of those monitored are in Port Moresby.
- ❑ There have been 3799 samples tested: 8 tested positive for COVID-19, 3791 tested negative.
- ❑ As of 22 May, 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 22 May 2020)



- ❑ NDOH with the technical support from WHO is working with the provinces/PHAs to strengthen the existing surveillance system for monitoring the number of Influenza like illnesses and sub-acute respiratory illness. Shown below is the epidemic curves for 2020 compared to same period in 2019



- ❑ The COVID-19 Hotline **1800200** receives an average of 2,000 calls per day from all provinces of the country.

CLINICAL MANAGEMENT and INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- ❑ A team of officials from NDoH and WHO continues to roll out the comprehensive training on clinical management, IPC, surveillance, rapid response and risk communication; either virtually or face-face, as per the convenience of logistic arrangements:
 - On 2-3 May, a team from NDoH conducted a 2-day training for 20 healthcare workers in West Sepik. The participants were OICs of health centres, district health managers, and clinicians in the hospital.
 - On 5-6 May, a team from NDoH conducted a 2-day training for 32 healthcare workers in Kiunga, North Fly District, Western Province. The participants were OICs of health centres, surveillance officers and clinicians
 - On 6-7 May, WHO supported the 'Virtual Training on COVID-19 Response' for 31 healthcare workers in Madang. Upon the request from the Provincial Health Authority, clinicians have been trained more in depth on clinical management of COVID-19 patients with focus on triage and early recognition of patients with severe acute respiratory infections, clinical syndromes such as acute respiratory distress syndrome, sepsis, oxygen therapy.
 - On 21-22 May, a team from NDoH and WHO conducted a 2-day training for 20 healthcare workers in Lae, Morobe Province. The participants were health care workers from districts and Angau hospital.
 - On 23-24, a team from NDoH and WHO are conducting a 2-day training for healthcare workers in Bulolo in Morobe Province
- ❑ On 4 May, Hon Jelta Wong, Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS issued a Ministerial Circular to the PHA Boards reminding the importance of continued delivery of all the essential healthcare services to the communities despite COVID-19 pandemic to prevent another disease outbreak and deaths from preventable conditions.

- ❑ All provinces are ramping up their efforts for COVID-19 preparedness and response, including the establishment of pre-triaging areas and isolation facilities. *[For details: Refer Updates from the Provinces Section]*
- ❑ 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.

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY AND ENGAGEMENT

- ❑ The PNG Communications Plan for COVID-19 (covering both risk communication and community engagement) continues to guide the communication response and public messaging on COVID-19, reinforcing the prevention messages and guarding against complacency.
- ❑ Provincial teams continue to conduct mass awareness activities on COVID-19 using local radio and community dialogue and meetings.
- ❑ Education and health sectors, church partners and NGOs are working together to develop communication materials for the schools – especially in the context of school resumption.
- ❑ Teams are currently deployed to the provinces to conduct trainings on key elements of the response, including communication and community engagement.
- ❑ NDOH in partnership with the Department of Information, Communication and Technology have been conducting a weekly program on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The programs run from 8:30pm – 10pm three times weekly. The program is hosted by the Minister for Information, Communication and Technology Hon Timothy Masiu, NDOH by Dr Daoni Esorom – Acting Executive Manager- Public Health Division and hosted by NBC Mr Peter Sindra.
- ❑ For 10 days, NCD PHA trained 230 community, youth, women's leaders on basic health information about COVID-19 and the importance of taking ownership of their own health through behavioural change strategies. One important information disseminated during the training was about child protection and the rights of children during crisis and outbreaks. The training was led by NCD Health Promotion Team, with support from NDoH, WHO, UNICEF and World Vision.



NON-PHARMACEUTICAL INTERVENTIONS (PUBLIC HEALTH SOCIAL MEASURES): TRANSITION TO “NEW-NORMAL”

- ☐ Non-pharmaceutical interventions (or public health social measures) is one of the key pillars of the PNG COVID-19 pandemic preparedness and response plan. The implementation of the social measures was facilitated with the declaration of the State of Emergency (SOE) that took effect on 22 March, initially for 14 days, and now extended until 2 June.
- ☐ In line with the announcement by the SOE Controller David Manning regarding the PNG's transition into the “new normal” way of life in the context of COVID-19 on 21 April, several restrictions under the SOE were relaxed, guided by public health principles, together with economic and societal considerations.
- ☐ One of the challenges in the enforcement of the health measures under the new normal is the limited facility for hygiene practices such as insufficient hand washing facilities in key areas.
- ☐ A policy paper on the new normal is being prepared.

LOGISTICS and SUPPLIES

- ☐ As part of the PNG COVID-19 Emergency Response between GoPNG, The World Bank and the United Nations for Project Services (UNOPS), the ‘Request for Quotation’ (RFQ) has been initiated for procurement of the following: GeneZpert machines with 4 module and laptops, 2 PCR machines, and 12 bio cabinets, as of 17 May. Additional meetings were held between NDoH to finalize technical specifications for: 10 high combustable incinerators to destroy 50 kg/hr medical waste; mobile laboratory with full equipment; 25,000 generic COVID-19 test kits and reagents compatible with PCR machines; and transportation of specimens and viral mediums.
- ☐ On 13 May, SOE Controller issued designated Inspector Kuaino as the new Logistics Cell Lead and is tasked with ensuring a single fully functional Logistics Cell. The role of the Logistics will be to support the SOE Controller and liaise with other functions and stakeholders through the procurement and maintenance of resources, facilities, services and materials.
- ☐ Personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies have been dispatched to the provinces.
- ☐ WHO and UNICEF providing technical support to the National Operations Centre and in providing coordination for PPE procurement and distribution to frontline workers nationally.
- ☐ Supplementary distributions of gowns to all 22 provinces were delivered.
- ☐ It is expected to receive 90,000 surgical masks and 7200 protective suits donated by Jack Ma through Pacific Humanitarian Pathway (awaiting AWB/ETA).

UPDATE FROM THE PROVINCES

NEW GUINEA ISLANDS REGION

Autonomous Region of Bougainville

- ☐ **Surveillance** mostly involved screening at Ports of Entry at the Buka Airport and Buka Wharves.
- ☐ A **pre-triage** (Cough Triage) has been set up at Buka Hospital for the outpatients. All patients with cough are directed to the cough Triage for review/screening.
- ☐ The current Pathology labs at Buka Hospital and Arawa District Hospitals do not have bio safety cabinets although both hospitals do run Gene Xperts. Buka Hospital has identified a previously designated laboratory- container (but never used) near the Acute COVID-19 ward that can be used to hold the Gene Xpert machine for COVID-19 testing if Gene Xpert testing is implemented.
- ☐ The renovation of Buka Hospital Acute COVID-19 Ward will begin shortly and changes have been made with NDOH endorsements. This ward will cater for 4 beds, however, if there are more cases, bed settings will have to be adjusted to cater for more cases.
- ☐ The staff roster for the isolation ward at Buka Hospital is prepared in advance.
- ☐ Suhin Health Center is identified as an Isolation Point and it is currently undergoing renovations
- ☐ ARoB produced and distributed 35,485 IEC materials to 40 health facilities, covering 356,387 people. The IEC materials included posters on prevention, travellers' messages, messages for health care workers, schools and FAQs in both English and pidgin languages. Also issued 2x national ERPs and 2x SOPs for surveillance to each of the 40 HFs.

East New Britain

- ☐ Surveillance at the airport and seaport are continued.
- ☐ A cough triage bay established in 60% of health facilities.
- ☐ On 1 May, Butuwin isolation and quarantine units were commissioned and officially opened.
- ☐ The training on IPC, clinical management, surveillance and infection prevention and control was conducted by the visiting national team with assistance from WHO: roll out to 80% of health facilities.
- ☐ A total of 21 rural health surveillance officers are trained on COVID-19 response, including surveillance, ILI/SARI and IPC.
- ☐ A total of 32 Health facilities are open and operating.
- ☐ The PHA started awareness on stigma associated with COVID-19 in addition to the general awareness in Villages in close collaboration with village councillors.
- ☐ On 6-7 May, a team of 10 healthcare workers led by Surveillance cluster (J. Kais) went to Pomio district by ship and conducted training and awareness to healthcare workers from 10 health facilities from Pomio district. They also brought PPEs and about 100 UTM's for training purposes and for the use in the district. The team will be there for at least 5 days before returning to Kokopo.
- ☐ Asian business houses assisting with water basin and soap for handwashing in public areas like market, bus stops and outside shops.

Manus

- ☐ On 8 May, the Manus PHA commissioned the isolation unit: 12 rooms with beds, toilet and shower facilities, 1 common room and 2 storage rooms (40ft container relocated from refugee center).
- ☐ A 2-day training on infection control, triage referral pathway, use of PPE, Point-of-Entry surveillance and screening, specimen collection, risk communication and awareness, community engagement and waste management was conducted.
- ☐ To date, still no operational ambulance vehicle to transport confirmed cases and no sea ambulance.
- ☐ Manus PHA has trained RRTs. Routine weekly syndromic surveillance are being conducted for COVID-19, screenings to identify POIs and monitoring of POIs under quarantine.
- ☐ Manus PHA has trained personnel and appropriate materials available to carry out specimen collection, packing and shipment. Designated courier for shipping the specimens is TNT.
- ☐ The Emergency Department pre-screening procedures in place and a triage system, pre-triaging area and patient flowchart established.
- ☐ There are no provisions for psychosocial support for the health worker.

New Ireland

- ☐ New Ireland PHA proposed the construction of a 6-bed COVID-19 Isolation Ward, pending confirmation of the construction site
- ☐ ICU capacity very limited, and no isolation and quarantine facilities yet. A building being marked for Isolation unit with no capacity and requires renovation (not funds allocated yet).
- ☐ Conducted a survey with an objective to assess the effectiveness of awareness to determine the level of understanding the communities have on the mass awareness being rolled out on COVID-19 in the province. The survey found fair understanding of the disease but there is still confusion and fear about the disease. This could be due to different messages from not only health personnel but other sources and agencies/NGOs. There is a need for clear and similar messages and addressing peoples' fears and concerns including stigmatization.
- ☐ A total of 298 healthcare workers were trained triaging and patient referral pathways, clinical management, IPC and surveillance. in the last 1 month using funds from NDOH.
- ☐ ADI assisted with PPE, hand sanitizers, and assisted with awareness

West New Britain

- ☐ The provincial COVID-19 response team developed a triaging pathway.
- ☐ The infrastructure development for isolation unit is in progress.
- ☐ The next priorities are infrastructure development for quarantine facilities and triaging areas at the hospital and health facilities.
- ☐ For communication, the province set up a billboard at Hoskins airport; 15,000IEC material distributed in the provinces; ~76,441 people reached through community awareness and community participation; and material for banners purchased for printing COVID-19 prevention messages. A total of 99 shops visited, 81 has hand washing basins with soap provided and the remaining were encouraged to have these facilities.
- ☐ The PEOC hotline: 74464931 (Digicel)/ 9835682 (Landline).
- ☐ The health desks are set up and staffed at all ports of entries (airport & stevedoring)
- ☐ The training on PPE and Clinical management of COVID-19 for 240 frontline health care workers were conducted in 4 batches; and 1 for law enforcement (22 police).
- ☐ Concerns were raised regarding the PPEs for police personnel.

- ❑ Total of K800,000 (WNB Provincial Government: K 600,000 and NDoH: K200,000) was allocated for COVID-19 response in WNB.
- ❑ The business houses in the province donated IEC materials, PPEs, construction materials, rations and printed advocacy materials.
- ❑ The upcoming priorities are: school and shops hand washing facility inspection; mortuary to be cleared, fix incinerator, complete set up of the 2 triage facilities, training for Bali, Vitu, Kandrain, Glousesta and Kandrian, and training for all school teachers.
- ❑ There are several challenges in preparing for COVID-19 response: staff who are exposed to POIs are subject to stigmatization by neighbours and fellow staff members; armed hold-up on ambulance by thugs pretending to be patients; buai smuggling; security personnel abused by public for denying entry to hospital; funding and lack of support for Southcoast.

MOMASE REGION

Morobe:

- ❑ On 21-22 May, a team from NDoH and WHO facilitated a comprehensive 2-day training on clinical management, IPC, surveillance, rapid response and risk communication for 20 healthcare workers in Lae, Morobe Province. The participants were health care workers from districts and Angau hospital.
- ❑ On 23-24, a team from NDoH and WHO are facilitating a comprehensive 2-day training on clinical management, IPC, surveillance, rapid response and risk communication for healthcare workers in Bulolo in Morobe Province
- ❑ Morobe PHA conducted series of trainings on 'Infection Prevention and Control' for COVID-19 for various stakeholders in the province during the month of April: trucking company (Mapai transport, Traisa Transport and IPI transport); Ramu sugar; Morobe Provincial Administration; Morobe CIS; Susu mama; Angau Hospital; Lutheran Health Services and Wampar Health Center.
- ❑ Immunization is piggybacking on awareness. PEOC focus mainly on surveillance.
- ❑ Morobe received 460 UTMs (cumulative). There are five GeneXpert machines: 2 at Angau hospital, 1 at Bulolo, 1 at Haicost and 1 at Mutzing.
- ❑ Pre-triage facilities are set up at Buimo UC and Markham Road UC. All districts health facilities will be screening and serious cases to be referred to Sir Ignatius COVID-19 hospital.
- ❑ Quarantine facility is set up at 11 mile (MKW) unit type accommodation (12 units).



Morobe: Training on clinical management, IPC, surveillance, rapid response and risk communication in Lae



Morobe: Training on clinical management, IPC, surveillance, rapid response and risk communication in Bulolo district

- ❑ Sir Ignatius Kilagi Stadium is repurposed for COVID-19 hospital (18 bed capacity)
- ❑ For waste management, there is a 3 multi-chamber 50kg /cycle (2 very old in poor condition and 1 in good condition).
- ❑ Morobe PHA has identified healthcare workers from districts and unemployed ones for surge capacity.
- ❑ There are six tents to be used for pre-triage; 4000 pieces of surgical masks, 1500 pieces of N95/N96 mask, 5000 gloves and 200 goggles.



Morobe: Isolation facilities in Bulolo



Morobe: Training on IPC at Gagidu HC



Morobe: Awareness campaign on COVID-19 at Wau market before opening market



Morobe: Sample collection area located in Sir Ignatius stadium in Lae

Madang

- ☐ There are 320 UTM's and 3 GeneXpert machines in Madang: 2 at Modilon hospital and 1 at Gaubin.
- ☐ The pre-triaging tents will be set up at Yabong field, Laiwaden field, hospital helipad and Tusbab secondary.
- ☐ All suspect COVID-19 cases will be referred from the pre triaging tents. Yagaum Hospital will be used as a quarantined facility as well as isolation facilities with 18 bed capacity. There are 2 bed ICU and 5 ventilators.
- ☐ For waste management, there is one multi-chamber 50kg/cycle but non-functional.
- ☐ Madang PHA identified the students at the health training institutes for surge teams, if required.
- ☐ IEC materials distribution is ongoing with IM PEOC on live on tumbuna TV and toll free number 4340130.
- ☐ There is one tent for pre-triaging; 4000 pieces of surgical masks; 1500 pieces of N95/N96 mask; 5000 gloves and 200 goggles.
- ☐ Modilon Hospital repurposed and refurbished Ward 5 and installed 4 beds to keep the suspected cases sample collection.
- ☐ The isolation ward will be improved to a self-contained unit with toilet, shower, cooking area, laundry and clothes line, hand washing basin, temporary fencing to prevent entering this area.

East Sepik:

- ☐ East Sepik PHA is piggybacking immunization with awareness on COVID-19.
- ☐ There are 400 UTM's and 2 GeneXpert machines: 1 at Boram and 1 at Maprik.
- ☐ For pre-triage, there are tents set up at the districts and one for the hospital. Old TB clinic will be refurbished into an isolation facility. There is no ICU facility due to renovation of the current hospital.
- ☐ For waste management, there is one multi-chamber 50kg/cycle: functioning but very old heavily corroded.
- ☐ They printed IEC materials locally.
- ☐ There are seven tents for pre-triaging; 4000 pieces of surgical masks; 1500 pieces of N95/N96 masks; 10,000 gloves and 200 goggles.

West Sepik

- ☐ Initially 208 samples collected, all results were negative. Currently a total of 185+ specimens were collected from Kembiratoro, Kwek, Fonginum, Paningen, Kambriap, Biak 2, Hufi and Telefomin. Due to bad weather, national surveillance team could not fly into Tumolbil, Ibil or Bisulmin POE for sampling (in the Telefomin District).
- ☐ For pre-triage, Sandaun Provincial hospital cough triage should be operational next week. Wutung and Schotchio potential quarantine sites are being deliberated at the Sandaun Provincial Government (SPG) Provincial Operations Centre (POC) Committee.
- ☐ For **referral pathways**, guidelines on managing 'suspect COVID-19 case' have been shared with the districts and the district teams have met with their local ward members & councillors for community engagement and ownership.
- ☐ In rural facilities moderate - severely sick cases will be managed at the community or village designated clinical isolation unit (a church, a classroom or in the provided pre-triage tent). The isolation unit at SPH for clinical management is complete, awaiting medical equipment.
- ☐ There are three ventilators used in theatre managed by our three ASOs.
- ☐ West Sepik Province is still working exploring available facilities to be able to cater for prisoners that will be released from Jaya Pura. Tents will be used at the weather station to provide support accommodation to the prisoners that will be released from the prisoners from Jaya Pura and Indonesia.

- ❑ West Sepik PHA provides technical support to schools, institutions and business houses in preparation to work and live with the “new normal” life style by the social mobilization and risk communication team.
- ❑ The WSPHA PEHO and PHPO are members of the WSP POC Enforcement unit. The role of Enforcement Unit is to ensure compliance to the ‘new normal’ on social distancing, hygiene practices, as well as monitoring price hikes in shops, expired goods and so forth.
- ❑ Health risk communication is focused on reducing panic in the communities and avoid stigma of the POIs this involves preparing community on accepting a positive case and supporting neighbouring communities in the event of positive cases.
- ❑ The pre-triage tent for WSP is still in Morobe Province, yet to be airlifted to Vanimo. Thirteen cartons of PPE sent by NDOH arrived on the 12 May. Infrared thermometers purchased from operational funds from TLI arrived on the 10 May.
- ❑ There are six tents for pre-triaging; 4000 pieces of surgical masks; 1500 pieces of N95/N96 masks; 10,000 gloves and 200 goggles.
- ❑ **Challenges:** (1) Border villages are in dire need of basic essential items including: salt, sugar tea, omo, soap, bleach, cooking oil etc. There is a risk of people crossing the border to buy these items. SPG POC Committee are discussing how best to address border villages basic essential items. (2) Discussion on quarantine sites at Transmitter (old weather station), Wutung and Schotchiau with landlords to speed up access to facilities for quarantine of ‘suspect COVID-19 case’. (3) Follow-up on POC and NDoH to expedite the fund release to the Mission Health Partners. (3) Concerns regarding sustainability through community engagement.



West Sepik: Quarantine facilities at Old Weather Station

HIGHLANDS REGION

Enga

- ☐ Enga province has set up a command centre with its incident command group. The provincial emergency response taskforce is chaired by the provincial administrator.
- ☐ For **risk communication**, Enga has a public spokesperson, and a designated area for press release. IEC materials have been produced locally in A3 sizes and additional IEC materials for the districts from NDOH. The team meets weekly on every Mondays and have reliable communication systems via mobile and email. The team leader has developed a micro-plan for the catchment population and will be shared with the national communications lead. The spokespersons for the media, press release are; Chief Executive Officer Enga PHA, Director Public Health and the provincial police commander. Press release is usually held at the Provincial emergency operation centre.
- ☐ For **surveillance**, Enga has set up two points of entry (POE) and a 4-member surveillance team at each point of entry. Data base in place. The priority POEs are: Pogera, Wabag provincial town, Wapenamanda and Kandep. Still waiting for their test kits. Tests are done on people with influenza like illnesses or respiratory infection with fever. If passengers are found to be ill, tests are done immediately, and patients taken to triage and managed according to symptoms.
- ☐ Location for **Quarantine and isolation** centres identified and yet to be established. A **triage centre** was set up at Wabag hospital.
- ☐ All hospital services are operating normally.
- ☐ PPE received twice but needs more for the districts.
- ☐ The healthcare workers require a training in infection prevention and control.

Hela

- ☐ On 23 April, NDoH with the technical support of WHO conducted a 'Virtual Training on COVID-19 Response' for **five trainers** in Hela Provincial Health Authority. The virtual training covered surveillance, clinical management and infection prevention and control, and risk communication. The logistic support, including the training venue and internet facilities were provided by Oil Search Foundation office based in Hela. These trainers will train the health workers responsible for respective technical area in the province. Similar virtual trainings will be conducted for the provinces in the coming days.

Jiwaka

- ☐ All 28 reporting health facilities were ordered to set up cough triage, screen all cough cases separately, and report SARI urgently to PEOC on a daily basis.
- ☐ The facility set up for persons under investigation in Kindeng is now ready and in use.
- ☐ Other activities include: transport allocation for SARI patients with 1 full-time dedicated ambulance; preparation of isolation unit equipped with beds, oxygen and water supply; set up and operation of check point surveillance at the eastern and western parts of the Highlands Highway; IPC and PPE distribution to surveillance focal points and frontline health workers; and, IEC distribution (17 492 issued posters and brochures and 3 billboards) and advocacy (estimated reach of 20 000 population).

Simbu

- ☐ As of 26 April, a total of 325 healthcare workers were trained on IPC, risk communication, case management, surveillance and rapid response.
- ☐ All 36 health facilities will be reporting for ILI, SARI, COVID-19 and others respiratory related illness through established ODK link and supervisors by District disease control officers on daily basis.

Western Highlands

- ☐ The total budget required for WHPHA to achieve the goals including the ability to expand its capacity for COVID-19 response is estimated at K 3, 618,000.00, out of which K 420,000 is allocated
- ☐ Training of health care workers to manage COVID-19 is a priority for the province.
- ☐ The WHPHA Health promotion and Disease Prevention teams are leading the advocacy programme and have produced pamphlets and posters to ensure the message is continued when they have left the site.
- ☐ To maintain minimum disruption to the essential health services, clinical plans for O&G, Eye, Paediatric, Emergency Department/Adults are completed and the plans for Medicine and surgery are in draft form pending sign off.
- ☐ The isolation ward is being established in the chapel considering proximity to laundry and the incinerator. In addition to the current support from ICRC, additional resources are required to refurbish and furnish the isolation ward. It is also planned to build accommodation on the Hospital compound for staff working directly with COVID-19 patients to prevent infection.
- ☐ It is planned to procure 2 portable ventilators with monitors for the ICU.
- ☐ The construction of a quarantine shed is ongoing.
- ☐ For additional quarantine facilities: Tinsley Hospital and Tambul are proposed.

SOUTHERN REGION

Central

- ☐ On 1 May, Hon Sir Dr Puka Temu, Abau MP and a team from Central Province PHA and Rita Flynn visited Kupiano Hospital.
- ☐ On 1 May, Hon W. Samb, Goilala MP and a team from Central Province PHA including WHO consultant visited Waitape. The team delivered the IEC materials.
- ☐ On 4 May, Hon P. Isoaimo, Kairuku/Hiri MP and a team from Central Province PHA and Rita Flynn visited Bereina health centre.
- ☐ Nearly 50 villages in Sogeri and Mt Koiari in the Kokoda Track region have been visited by health patrols from the Central Provincial Health Authority and Kokoda Initiative to provide information sessions on #COVID19 and preventative measures. This includes training on the importance of basic hygiene, proper sanitation and social distancing to avoid the spread of COVID-19. The health patrol was supported by the PNG-Australia Partnership.
- ☐ CPHA Logistics Team delivered supplies: PPEs, Soaps, Information papers (WHO guidelines & Triage settings) to Hula, Kwikila, Boregaina, Upulima and Kupiano, Bereina, Veifa, Agevairu Porebada and Sogeri.
- ☐ A total of 12 Infra-red thermometers, 6 tents, 6 tables and 12 Chairs were bought for the CPHA COVID-19 Response team.
- ☐ The CPHA COVID-19 Response Team convened a series of meetings with Rita Flynn COVID-19 Emergency team on the response plan.
- ☐ Additional supplies were bought 6 cartons of gloves, 20 cartons of bar soaps for distribution.
- ☐ Quarantine and isolation facilities are identified in Kwikila and Bereina, awaiting the delivery of the tents donated by partners.
- ☐ Trainings for the RRTs were conducted by the trainer.

Gulf

- ☐ Repurposed the old TB ward to be used for isolation.
- ☐ The province has identified 3 quarantine sites: Kanabea, Kerema and Kikori, however, work has not started due to inadequate funding. One will be set up when the donated tents are received.
- ☐ The training for the RRT is a priority for the province.

Milne Bay

- ❑ The construction and refurbishment of the COVID-19 Isolation 'round house' facility is in progress and will be ready by next week.
- ❑ The team is working on the strengthening of information management for ILI/SARI and surveillance at the health facilities. SOP/IPC to be done with Alotau DHS health centres on Tuesday. NPS and Testing to be implemented for SARI/ILI. Management of counselling and acceptance and stigmatising of SARI and ILI from Districts.
- ❑ A total of 200 UTM's received from NEOC; out of which 40 UTM's distributed to the districts by MV Curringa team as follows: 10 Bwagoia, 10 Losuia, 5 Guasopa, 5 Bolubolu, 5 Esa'ala and 5 for patrol.
- ❑ Preparedness for isolation facilities in the health centres are in progress but bit slow due to some unrealistic expectations.
- ❑ Limited supplies of PPEs sent out to health centres. Mask to be supplemented by cloth locally made for everyday use.
- ❑ As of 6 May, 564 travellers were screened and monitored, majority being from the airport. A total of 191 completed 14-days monitoring. Seven suspect COVID-19 cases were tested; one was tested negative and six are pending result.
- ❑ The health facilities surveillance system adjusted to capture ILIs, pna, and URTIs, as well as deaths.
- ❑ The MBPHA allocated 5 HF radios for COVID-19 response, 5 for hospital and installed one at Guasopa HC.
- ❑ Schools commenced with shift teaching sessions and maintaining 'social distancing' in desk arrangement. Masks (cloth masks, hand washing/sanitizers) with check points; toilets ratio, tippy taps being encouraged where insufficient water taps.
- ❑ MV Curringa loaded with 20 gasses for HC CCE and 10 drums of zoom to distribute to Bwagoia, Guasopa, Losuia, Bolubolu and Esa'ala.
- ❑ Issues with routine immunization vaccine disbursement from NDoH to Alotau and PNGA to Misima DVS.
- ❑ **Alotau District:** Alotau Member contributed K100,000 for MBPHA COVID-19 response, and MBPHA allocated 30 % for Training, 30% for IPC and 40% Risk Communication. Awareness done in most places. Basic hygiene supplies purchased by Alotau DHS being distributed to all 15 HCs viz laundry soap, bleach, protex soap, hand washing liquids, rubbish bins, hand towels, disposable gabbage bags, hand washing bowls, water bailer, water containers, mop heads, mop buckets, mop handles and bolts of material to sew cloth masks. Planned rapid response training and update on response for health centres next week. Increased number of ILIs noted at AUC and Alotau. Definitions improved and reporting to be improved.
- ❑ **Kiriwina Goodenough District:** Regular reports from Losuia for Kiriwina health facilities: Losuia, Omarakana and occasionally from Sinaketa; however, none from Kitava and Goodenough health facilities. Issues with Land Order with Police response current. Increased number of ILI reports noted from NEOC. Definitions improved and reminders with Surveillance team sees some improvement. Routine supplies for HC hygiene and sanitation distributed to all HCs.

National Capital District

- ☐ The facility at Rita Flynn Complex in NCD 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.

Oro

- ☐ Isolation facilities are under construction and almost completed. Now the priority is to furnish the isolation ward with all the necessary equipment and drugs.
- ☐ Quarantine area has been identified but no progress due to inadequate funding. Meanwhile, one will be set up when the donated tents are received.
- ☐ The training for the RRT is a priority for the province.

Western

- ☐ On 5-6 May, a team from NoDH conducted a 2-day training on clinical management, IPC, surveillance and risk communication for 32 healthcare workers in Kiunga, North Fly District, Western Province. The participants were OICs of health centres, surveillance officers and clinicians.
- ☐ Following the confirmation of the 3 cases, a team from the national level was deployed to the province to assist contact tracing and other preventative measures.
- ☐ Kiunga hospital is in containment phase; conducting preparedness and triaging on everybody entering hospital.
- ☐ North Fly District has identified the isolation and quarantine areas in Kiunga, and renovation work is ongoing.
- ☐ South Fly district administration provided funding for the ongoing major renovation of the buildings for triaging and isolation wards.
- ☐ Normal Surveillance is being carried out along the border villages between North and South Fly districts.
- ☐ Daru Hospital started screening and triaging patients.

Summary of the updates from the Provinces on COVID-19 Response Priority Areas:

Province	Isolation facilities	Quarantine facilities	Available HRH	Surveillance	Training on IPC, Clinical Management & RRT	Funding with sources
AROB	Suhin HC & Buka Hospital (6 beds)	Pre-triage but no confirmed quarantine facility (want tents if NDOH/partners can provide)	Doctors: 10 HEOs: 3 Nurses: 94 CHWs: 71	Travelers currently under monitoring: 0	Provincial conducted trainings while waiting for NDOH/WHO	NDOH: K200,000 DFAT: K840,000
East New Britain	Butuwin UC (8 beds)	Butuwin UC (8 beds) (isolation and quarantine are side by side at Butuwin-former HIV/AIDs buildings)	Doctors: 19 HEOs: 23 Nurses: 254 CHWs: 257	Travelers currently under monitoring: 0	Completed 2 batches of training	NDOH: K200,000 DFAT: K840,000

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Province	Isolation facilities	Quarantine facilities	Available HRH	Surveillance	Training on IPC, Clinical Management & RRT	Funding with sources
Manus	40 foot container from Asylum seekers leftover taken to hospital ground-6 bed capacity) – A.Kwaramb and team to give clearance for use)	40 foot container taken to hospital ground-6 bed capacity) – A.Kwaramb and team to give clearance for use)	Doctors: 17 HEOs: 13 Nurses: 89 CHWs: 74	Travelers currently under monitoring: 0	Provincial conducted trainings while waiting for NDOH/WHO	NDoH: K200,000
New Ireland	6-bed isolation ward proposed for construction, pending confirmation of the site	Pre-triage in Kavieng hospital. No quarantine facility-also requesting for NDOH/partners to support with tent	Doctors: 17 HEOs: 28 Nurses: 160 CHWs: 124	Travelers currently under monitoring: 0	Provincial conducted trainings while waiting for NDOH/WHO	NDoH: K200,000
West New Britain	Identified old TB ward for isolation, 6 bed capacity. Needs renovation and A. Kwaramb and team to approve	Pre-triage set up at provincial Mutuvel stadium with quarantine possibility. Have 3x similar set-ups for tri-age (town urban clinic, Kimbe hospital and Mutuvel stadium)	Doctors: 14 HEOs: 23 Nurses: 170 CHWs: 245	Travelers currently under monitoring: 0	Provincial conducted trainings while waiting for NDOH/WHO teams	NDoH: K200,000 WNBPG: K600,000
East Sepik	Old TB clinic refurbished	Guest house (planned)	Doctors: 17 HEOs: 21 Nurses: 158 CHWs: 243	Travelers currently under monitoring: 0	In house training completed x 2	NDoH: K200,000 HHISP: 1,187,640 South Sea Tuna: K50,000 for PPEs
Madang	Yagaun hospital (18 beds)	Yagaun hospital	Doctors: 18 HEOs: 28 Nurses: 223 CHWs: 142	Travelers currently under monitoring: 0	No training conducted yet	NDoH: K200,000 HHISP: 1,187,640 Chinese Community: K20,000 MCC: K10,000 Yama Group: K250,000

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Morobe	Sir Ignatius Kilage stadium (18 beds)	11 mile (MKW) unit type accommodation (12 units)	Doctors: 35 HEOs: 11 Nurses: 443 CHWs:143	Travelers currently under monitoring: 0	Completed	NDoH: K200,000 HHISP: K2,146,820
West Sepik	Old weather station (12 rooms)	Old weather station owned by Catholic Diocese (13 bed house)	Doctors: 9 HEOs: 19 Nurses: 119 CHWs: 332	Travelers currently under monitoring: 0	40 officers trained on sample collection & packaging	NDoH: K200,000 HHISP: 1,179,480 Logging companies: K300,000
Eastern Highlands	Renovated and Completed but require beds etc	PHA has built one	Doctors: 28 HEOs: 15 Nurses: 222 CHWs: 371	Travelers currently under monitoring: 8	Training on use of PPE and specimen collection	NDoH: K200,000
Enga	Pausa in Wapenamanda	None available	Doctors: 21 HEOs: 41 Nurses: 291 CHWs: 385	Travelers currently under monitoring: 0		NDoH: K200,000
Hela	None available, proposed at a new site	None available, proposed at a new site, staff nursing quarter identified	Doctors: 7 HEOs: 8 Nurses: 51 CHWs: 39	Travelers currently under monitoring: 0	Conducted virtual Training (TOT) on Surveillance, IPC, Clinical management and Risk communication for 5 focal persons on 23 April	NDoH: K200,000
Jiwaka	Kindeng, Minj HC, Kol HC, Tabibuga HC	None	Doctors: 1 HEOs: 8 Nurses: 146 CHWs: 102	Travelers currently under monitoring: 0		NDoH: K200,000
Simbu	None available	None available	Doctors: 31 HEOs: 9 Nurses: 139 CHWs: 142	Travelers currently under monitoring: 0		NDoH: K200,000
Southern Highlands	Munihi HC	Old Mendi airport hangar	Doctors: 18 HEOs: 10 Nurses: 152 CHWs: 195	Travelers currently under monitoring: 0	X2 RRT, ToT training for districts	NDoH: K200,000
Western Highlands	Chapel in the hospital	Identifying warehouse already, needs funding	Doctors: 22 HEOs: 13 Nurses: 217 CHWs: 293	Travelers currently under monitoring: 13	RRT being finalized	NDoH: K200,000
Central	Bereina HC and Kwikila Hospital		Doctors: 1 HEOs: 13 Nurses: 35 CHWs: 198	Travelers currently under monitoring: 0	3 Trainers trained, Other officers identified for training	NDoH: K200,000

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Province	Isolation facilities	Quarantine facilities	Available HRH	Surveillance	Training on IPC, Clinical Management & RRT	Funding with sources
Gulf	Old TB ward	Not yet needs funding, areas identified are Kanabea, Kerema and Kikori, awaiting tents to set up	Doctors: 6 HEOs: 8 Nurses: 48 CHWs: 88	Travelers currently under monitoring: 0	Still needs training	NDoH: K200,000
Milne Bay	Alotau Hospital	Identified, yet to progress	Doctors: 20 HEOs: 29 Nurses: 264 CHWs: 493	Travelers currently under monitoring: 1	RRT established	NDoH: K200,000
NCD	Rita Flynn Court (76 beds)	Rita Flynn	Doctors: 115 HEOs: 2 Nurses: 667 CHWs: 285	Travelers currently under monitoring: 67	49 Trainers trained	NDoH: K200,000
Oro	Ward under construction almost completed,	Identified using tents received	Doctors: 10 HEOs: 9 Nurses: 80 CHWs: 107	Travelers currently under monitoring: 0	Needs training	NDoH: K200,000
Western	TB Isolation ward at Daru Hospital	Location to be used pending	Doctors: 9 HEOs: 2 Nurses: 19 CHWs: 40	Travelers currently under monitoring: 0	Training in North Fly done in Kiunga Middle Fly and South Fly training pending	NDoH: K200,000

New Materials on COVID-19

COVID-19 IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA: FIRST 100 DAYS OF HEALTH SECTOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

On 31 December 2019, China reported pneumonia of unknown cause detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province. A novel coronavirus was eventually identified, now called coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). A public health emergency of international concern was declared on 30 January and on 11 March 2020, WHO made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic.

PREPAREDNESS

27 January
National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) for COVID-19 response was activated at NDOH



Enhanced surveillance commenced; hotline operation started few days before the NEOC activation managed by NDOH teams

28 January
Health screening started at PNG's Jacksons International Airport and at major seaports in the country.
Institute of Medical Research has started testing; additional laboratory supplies have been ordered

29 January
Prime Minister James Marape received a briefing on COVID-19 response from Health Minister, NDOH Secretary and WHO



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

NDOH Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/PNGND_OH/

WHO Papua New Guinea Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WHOPapuaNewGuinea/>

WHO Website: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/>

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