

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Papua New Guinea Situation Report 14



28 March 2020

*This 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 reported **one imported case of COVID-19**. The announcement was made by Prime Minister James Marape on 20 March 2020. Consequently, PNG moved from Alert phase (green zone) to CONTAINMENT PHASE (orange zone).
- ❑ On 22 March, Prime Minister declared 'State of Emergency' (SOE) for 14 days for the entire country starting on 24 March 2020 with the following key measures:
 - Commissioner of Police will assume control assisted by a call out placed on military to ensure lawful order, control and response to SOE control measures.
 - Provincial Governors, Provincial Administrators, Provincial Police Commanders and Provincial Health Authorities as control points in the provinces.
 - Take stock of all entry into PNG after 7 March to ensure all are checked, tested and status of health affirmed.
 - Stop all incoming international flights and operation of all domestic flights.
 - No public transport and movement of people between the provinces, except for approved cargos, medical supplies and policy/military personnel.
 - All heads of departments and private companies are asked to let the non-essential staff to stay at home.
 - Education and Higher Education departments are asked to advance first term holiday starting 23 March.
 - Set-up multi sector agency task forces to report to the National Security Coordination Centre, which will be operation 24 hours for 7 days.
- ❑ After confirmation of the one imported case of COVID-19, the Surveillance team scaled up the Rapid Response Team and started contact tracing. Total of 110 travelers in 15 provinces have been identified as contacts for the confirmed case, including the domestic flights and are being monitored regularly.
- ❑ On 17 March, The World Bank announced \$14 billion package of fast-track financing to assist countries in their efforts to prevent, detect and respond to COVID-19. Currently, there is an ongoing discussion that PNG Government through Department of Treasury is exploring to access up to \$20m to fund the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19.

GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The numbers are based on WHO Situation Report as of 28 March 2020.

**Globally: 571,678 confirmed cases
26,494 deaths**

**Western Pacific Region:
101,462 confirmed cases
3,592 deaths**

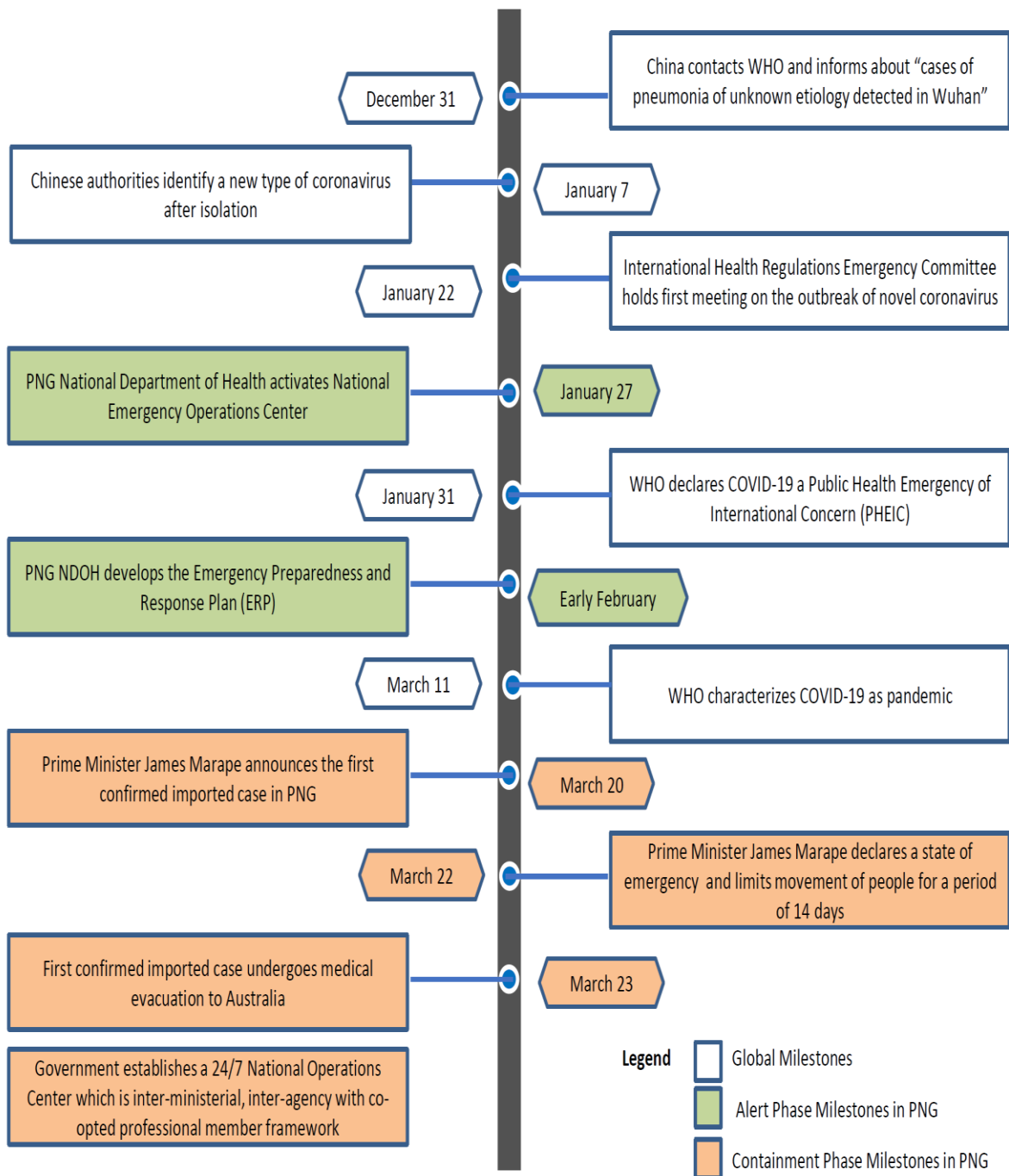
Countries/territories/areas affected: 202

Risk assessment: VERY HIGH (globally)

**Papua New Guinea:
1 imported case of COVID-19**

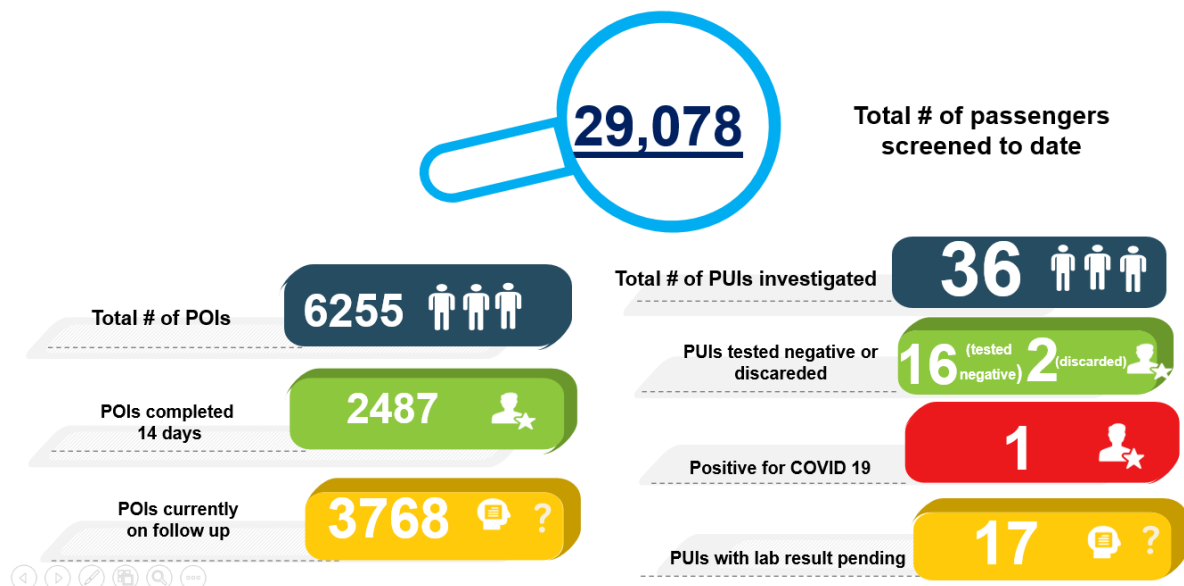
CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

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

- ❑ In PNG, a total of **29,078** inbound passengers were screened at the points of entry since at the Jacksons International Airport and seaport in Port Moresby by 25 March 2020. The health team has identified **6,255** 'persons of interest' and are being monitored regularly by the surveillance team.
- ❑ Of the **6,255** persons being monitored, 2,487 (39.8%) have completed the 14 days follow-up period, while **3,768** are still on active monitoring. Majority of those monitored are in Port Moresby.
- ❑ There have been **36 persons investigated** by the rapid response team. Samples were collected from 34 persons: 1 tested positive for COVID-19, 16 tested negative while 17 sample are still pending result. The other two persons did not meet the case definition; hence samples were not tested.
- ❑ As of 25 March, the updates from the surveillance, points of entry and laboratory clusters are summarized below.



- ❑ On 19 March, Acting Health Secretary, Dr Paison Dakulala officially received the **hotline toll free number (1800200)** from Digicel CEO, Mr Colin Stone. This is the third hotline number in addition to the existing two hotline numbers: **+675 71960813** and **019**.
- ❑ On 18 March, two infrared cameras were installed: one at International airport arrival and one at domestic departure.



CLINICAL MANAGEMENT and INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- ❑ An isolation ward of 8 beds is ready at the Port Moresby General Hospital (PMGH). Nurses and doctors involved in the response have received training and have personal protective equipment (PPE) in stock. Other preparations still under way.
- ❑ PHAs are advised to contact regional coordinators to speed up the process. All Provincial PHAs are asked to align plans with the National Health Departments COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan.
- ❑ Based on preparedness checklist responses received as of 26 March, 12 provinces (55%) have identified pre-triaging areas and isolation facilities. It is indicated that there is Intensive Care Unit in 7 Provinces (32%) and only 4 Provinces (18%) have staff surge plans in place.
- ❑ Eleven provinces have trained their personnel on infection prevention and control (IPC)(50%). Ten provinces (45%) have indicated that they have waste management plans, but do not have all the appropriate materials and equipment for waste management, except for 9 Provinces (41%).
- ❑ On 19 March, Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS Hon. Jelta Wong received 500 sets of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from UNICEF Representative, David Mcloughlin. The PPEs were shipped from UNICEF's global supply hub in Copenhagen. The set includes 500 face shields, 1500 gowns, 1000 heavy duty rubber gloves, 20000 surgical gloves, 5000 surgical masks and 10,000 surgical caps. These PPEs will be used by the health worker caring for patients of COVID-19 at isolation wards.
- ❑ UNICEF is in the process of procuring 30 tents (72 square meters) which will be used as screening facilities at hospitals nationwide.
- ❑ On 25 March, Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS Hon. Jelta Wong received 50,000 face masks worth K120,000 and 15 non-contact infrared thermometers worth K7,000 from the Managing Director of the PNG Ports Corporation, Fego Kinafa at the National Operations Center.
- ❑ PPEs for isolation wards across the country is being rolled out. On 26 March, NDoH dispatched the available PPEs to 10 provinces: Morobe, West Sepik, Madang, East Sepik, Western, Milne Bay, East New Britain, Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Western Highlands and Eastern Highlands.
- ❑ United Nations in PNG is assisting in the construction of a multipurpose COVI-19 monitoring, testing and quarantine facility in NCD at Rita Flynn Complex.
- ❑ NDOH, with support from WHO, trained about 25 frontline health workers (doctors, nurses, infection prevention and control officers, medical staff and surveillance officers) from Port Moresby General Hospital, Gerehu Hospital, Laloki Psychiatric Hospital, National Capital District and Central PHAs and volunteer NGOs underwent additional training of trainers on hospital preparedness for COVID-19.
- ❑ **The issue of PPE supplies for the nation remain to be a concern.** The call for assistance from business houses, corporate entities, and our stakeholders to support still exists.



Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS Hon. Jelta Wong receiving face masks non-contact infrared thermometers from the Managing Director of the PNG Ports Corporation, Fego Kiniafa at the National Operations Center



Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS Hon. Jelta Wong receiving PPEs from UNICEF Representative, David Mcloughlin



Construction of a multipurpose COVID-19 at Rita Flynn Complex

COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MOBILIZATION

- ☐ Information, education and communication (IEC) materials on prevention messages have been developed, with support from WHO, and been made available online through the NDOH Facebook page. Provinces have received the electronic versions of the IEC materials. Some of them have translated them into local language. Radio spots are also aired on NBC Radio, NBC TV and FM100. There are also ongoing radio guestings to discuss prevention of COVID-19.
- ☐ Toll free hotline numbers are set with Digicel and Bmoblie. Toll free 019; Digicel toll free 1800200 and hotline 71960813.
- ☐ A videoconference was hosted by WHO on 19 March 2020 with Health Development Partners on how they can leverage their partners in the provinces and the communities for communication and awareness-raising activities.
- ☐ DFAT-Australia facilitated a meeting with PNG Church Partners on 20 March to collectively work on efforts to support PNG in the communication and prevention activities. Communication materials and messages were provided to church partners.
- ☐ On 23 March, WHO supported social mobilization and community engagement activities for COVID-19 targeting representatives from the Churches and retail pharmacy sector (i.e. City Pharmacy Limited).
- ☐ Weekly media conference is held every Thursday. Ad hoc media interviews are responded to by the communications team.
- ☐ Engagement with traditional media or the main stream media is ongoing with Post Courier taking the lead in advertorial and editorial information.
- ☐ A week-long school awareness and hygiene promotion, part of the preparedness plan for COVID-19, was led by NDoH Health Promotion branch, with support from UNICEF. The campaign reached out to around 85,000 students in 82 elementary, primary, secondary, national high and technical schools in Moresby North-East electorate, Moresby South and Moresby North-west.
- ☐ UNICEF trained 23 emergency focal points and key staff in the social welfare sector of the government on critical psychosocial needs in context of infectious disease outbreaks such as COVID-19 with particular focus on children and families.
- ☐ Based on preparedness checklist responses received as of 26 March, 12 provinces (55%) have indicated that they have communications plan in place, while 10 provinces have available IEC materials (45%). Eighteen provinces have initiated social mobilization and awareness campaigns on prevention (82%). Ten provinces (45%) have trained spokesperson. Some provinces have also conducted social mobilization activities (in markets, schools and public places).
- ☐ Information materials on COVID-19 prevention (English and Tok Pisin) jointly developed by NDOH and WHO are being printed with support from UNICEF and the Government of Japan. These materials will be shipped to the provinces in the coming days. Motu and Enga versions are also available online.
- ☐ Key messages advising people on the rational use of mask, and how to use them if they are needed were circulated after observing increased use of mask following the SOE declaration.



East New Britain: Health workers awareness and radio program on COVID-19



Social mobilization for COVID-19: City Pharmacy staff



Madang: Awareness on COVID-19 to Police and Madang Technical College



Social mobilization and community engagement for COVID-19:
Representatives from the Churches

ADVISORY TO THE PUBLIC

COVID-19 Know The Facts

COVID-19 spreads primarily from person to person



Droplets released when someone sick sneezes or coughs can land on the mouths or noses of people nearby

Close contact with someone sick – like hugging or shaking hands



COVID-19 spreads primarily from person to person But it can also be left on objects and surfaces



So if you touch something contaminated and then touch your face or another's face, you might all fall ill.



Clean your hands often



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth



Avoid close contact with someone who is sick

Cough or sneeze in your bent elbow – not your hands!



Limit social gatherings and time spent in crowded places



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces



Call COVID-19
Hotline: 1800200



Save gut long sik COVID-19

Yu ken kisim sik COVID-19 long ol narapela lain



Taim ol i kus na maus wara bilong ol i pundaun igo insait long maus o nus bilong yu

Na taim yu stap klostu, holim han o holim pas wantaim ol husait i gat sik COVID-19



Yu ken kisim sik COVID-19 taim yu holim ol samting we maus wara bilong siklain i pundaun antap



**Rinim COVID-19
Hotline: 1800200**



unicef
for every child

World Health Organization
Representative Office
for Papua New Guinea



Stretpela taim bilong werim pesmask



1



Sapos yu nogat sik, yu no nid long yusim o werim pesmask. Werim pesmask sapos yu gat kus, sotwin o skin hot, o sapos yu lukautim ol manmeri husat i gat kus, sotwin na skinhot.

2



Werim pesmask olgeta taim sapos yu gat kus o sapos yu wok long kus planti.

3



Pesmask em yet bai no nap banisim sik COVID-19. Sapos yu nid long werim pesmask, yu mas tingim yet long wasim han olgeta taim wantaim sop na wara.

4



Sapos yu werim pesmask, yu mas save gut long stretpela rot bilong werim na rot bilong tromoi i go. Bihain long yu werim, tromoi gut i go long pipia dram na karamapim dram gut



Stretpela rot bilong yusim na werim pesmask



1



Wasim han blo yu wantaim sop na wara pastaim long yu holim pesmask na werim

2



Taim yu werim pesmask, yu mas karamapim gut nus na maus bilong yu, pesmask mas pas gut long pes bilong yu. Noken holim pesmask taim em stap long pes bilong yu, sapos yu holim, wasim han wantaim sop na wara

3



Taim yu lukim o pilim olsem pesmask em i wet, yu mas rausim na tromoi gut igo long pipia dram. I gat sampla pesmask we ol i mekim blo yusim wanpla taim tasol. Taim yu yusim ol dispela kain pesmask, yu mas tromoi gut igo, tambu tru long wasim na yusim ken

4



Taim yu laik rausim pesmask long pes bilong yu, rausim long tupla rop we i pas long baksait long het bilong yu, bihain holim long tupla rop yet na tromoi pesmask igo long pipia dram na karamapim gut. Bihain long yu tromoi, wasim han wantaim sop na wara

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/>

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