

Papua New Guinea has no case of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) to date. Globally, the assessment of risk of spread and impact of COVID-19 is **very high**.

The country has developed an **Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19** that covers 10 key focus areas. The Plan outlines key actions at 4 phases: **ALERT, CONTAINMENT, MITIGATION and RECOVERY.**

COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Scenarios for PNG

Code	Scenario
ALERT	No case of COVID-19 in PNG (<i>Cases are reported outside of PNG</i>)
CONTAINMENT	Confirmed case of COVID-19 in PNG (<i>At least one case confirmed in PNG</i>)
MITIGATION	Community spread of COVID-19 (<i>Human-to-human transmission in clusters within the community</i>)
RECOVERY	Under control globally

Currently, PNG is on **code green – ALERT PHASE**. But we are preparing for a scenario that if the virus enters the country, containment of COVID-19 is the top priority. We are working to ensure we have measures to stop transmission and save lives.

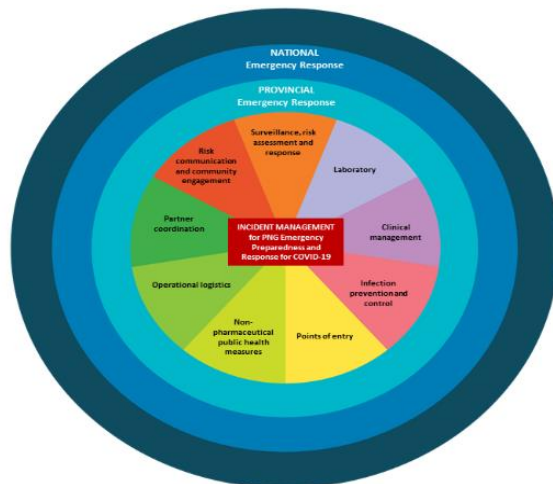
The plan we have is to be ready for the **“three Cs” scenarios** – first case, first cluster, first evidence of community transmission and for dealing with sustained community transmission.

A Ministerial Committee was organized to provide the strategic leadership and guidance while an Intersectoral Coordination Task Force coordinates the work of various government agencies and partners.

PNG’s current preparedness efforts are towards:

- managing our points of entry
- enhancing surveillance and early detection
- continuing the functionality of the laboratory to test for the virus
- preparing our health facilities for clinical care
- training our health workers on infection prevention and control
- purchasing and pre-positioning supplies and logistics such as PPE
- educating our public on basic prevention measures to reduce risk of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the national level has been activated since 27 January, with the team of experts managing the day-to-day operations. The provinces have also activated their Provincial EOCs and have been making preparations at the local level across 10 focus areas of the response (as below).



Update in Numbers



0 confirmed cases



10 samples tested
7 negative
3 pending



21,558 travelers screened at points of entry



522 flights screened



876 persons monitored (with travel history)



+675 71960813
Coronavirus hotline



8 beds ready as isolation ward



PPE provided to staff at points of entry, hospitals



Communication materials in English and Pidgin developed and distributed



3 EOC meetings in a week (Monday/Wednesday/Friday)



45.3 million approved
10 million available
3.3 million provided by NDOH funds.

Advice to the Public You can do your share in preparedness. Prevention starts with basic things you can do:

1. Clean your hands regularly with an alcohol-based hand rub, or wash them with soap and water.
2. Clean surfaces regularly with disinfectant – for example kitchen benches and work desks.
3. Cough or sneeze into your sleeve, or use a tissue. Dispose of the tissue immediately into a closed rubbish bin, and then wash your hands.
4. If you feel unwell, stay at home and avoid crowded places.
5. Do your share in the preparedness -- start with yourselves and within your families.

During emergencies, it is understandable to be worried and anxious.

The best action that we can do at this time is to educate ourselves about COVID-19. Make sure your information comes from reliable sources and do not share any rumors and misinformation. This is the time that we look after each other as one country.