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, out of which 1 case was repatriated

❑ Following the announcement by the SOE Controller David Manning on 21 April regarding PNG's transition into the “new normal” way of life into the context of COVID-19, several restrictions under the SOE were relaxed, guided by public health principles, together with economic and societal considerations.

❑ On 24 April, SOE Controller revoked National Emergency Order No. 22 and issued Order No 25 with effect from 25 April regarding the international and domestic travel:
  - Reiterated the relaxed restrictions on all domestic flights, except for Western and Sandaun Province; and
  - Continued restrictions on all incoming international flights, with enhanced compliance for quarantine: (1) For PNG Citizens and Permanent Residents returning to PNG by aircraft, there are designated hotels for quarantine in Port Moresby at the individual’s cost, in addition to the designated facility provided by the Government’s; (2) All non-PNG Citizens and non-Permanent Residents returning to PNG by aircraft must be quarantined at a designated hotel in Port Moresby at the individual’s cost; and (3) Foreign diplomats travelling on diplomatic travel document or diplomatic passport must self-quarantine at an appropriate residence, non-adherence shall be declared a persona non grata.

❑ On 29 April, SOE Controller issued the National Emergency Orders No 27: East New Britain (ENB); No 28: NCD and No 29: Western Province regarding the provincial restrictions with immediate effect: prohibited all public gatherings including religious gatherings; customary gatherings are limited to 4 persons; adherence to social distancing and safe and hygienic practices; and restrictions on the sale, purchase and consumption of alcohol. For ENB and Western Province, no person shall be allowed outside of their dwelling place between 10pm and 5am, unless exempted. No curfew in NCD and Central Provinces; continued closure of gambling activities, night clubs and pubs; venues selling tickets to patrons to be spectators of sports, musical or cultural activities; restrictions on public transport limited to 5 less than the vehicle licensed capacity; licensed taxi to operate with only 2 passengers.
CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

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

- **December 31**: Chinese authorities identify a new type of coronavirus after isolation
- **January 07**: International Health Regulations Emergency Committee holds first meeting on the outbreak of novel coronavirus
- **January 22**: PNG National Department of Health activates National Emergency Operations Center
- **January 27**: WHO declares COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)
- **February**: WHO characterizes COVID-19 as pandemic
- **March 11**: Prime Minister James Marape announces the first confirmed (imported) case in PNG
- **March 20**: Prime Minister James Marape declares a state of emergency and limits movement of people for a period of 34 days
- **March 22**: First confirmed imported case undergoes medical evacuation to Australia
- **March 24**: Government establishes a 24/7 National Operations Center which is inter-ministerial, inter-agency with co-opted professional member framework
- **March 26**: James Medical School Laboratory starts to test samples
- **April 01**: Government declares State of Emergency from 23 March to 30 April, with the Police Commissioner appointed as emergency controller
- **April 02**: Prime Minister James Marape announces the second confirmed case in PNG
- **April 06**: National Parliament extends state of emergency for two months
- **April 07**: Emergency Controller issues lockdown of East New Britain Province for 21 days
- **April 08**: Emergency Controller issues emergency orders for immediate implementation, related to GOE extension
- **April 10**: Emergency Controller issues order to stop public transport operations during the Easter long weekend
- **April 10**: Prime Minister James Marape announces five new cases: 3 in Western, 1 in NCD and 1 more in NGB
- **April 16**: Emergency Controller issues restricted measures in NCD, Eastern Highlands and Western Province
- **April 21**: SOE announced PNG's transition to 'New Normal'
- **April 23**: Prime Minister James Marape announces 8th case: Eastern Highlands Province

Legend:
- Global Milestones
- Alert Phase Milestones in PNG
- Containment Phase Milestones in PNG
SURVEILLANCE AND POINTS OF ENTRY

- As of 1 May, a total of 30,473 inbound passengers were screened at the Jacksons International Airport and seaport in Port Moresby. A total of 7,507 were identified as ‘persons of interest’ who are being monitored regularly by the Surveillance Team.

- Of the 7,507 persons of interest, 7,438 (99%) have completed the 14-day follow-up period, while 69 are still on active monitoring. Majority of those monitored are in Port Moresby.

- There have been 2402 persons investigated by the Rapid Response Team: 8 tested positive for COVID-19, 2102 tested negative while 292 samples are still pending result.

- As of 1 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 1 May 2020)

- 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

- On 9 April, NDoH with the technical support of WHO trained 52 trainers on surveillance, clinical management and infection prevention and control. The trainers are from National Department of Health, Port Moresby General Hospital, Central Provincial and National Capital District Health Authorities and partner NGOs such as World Vision.

- On 23 April, NDoH with the technical support of WHO conducted the first ‘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.

- On 27-29 April, WHO supported the second ‘Virtual Training on COVID-19 Response’ for 28 healthcare workers from Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB). The participants were doctors, nursing officers, midwives, HEOs, lab staff and volunteers from various health facilities including Buka general hospital, Arawa district hospital and health centers. WHO STOP consultant on the ground and WHO CO staff facilitated sessions on clinical management, IPC, surveillance and risk communication. An epidemiologist from WHO Western Pacific Regional Office facilitated the session on rapid response team.

- On 2-3 May, a team from NDoH conducted a 2-day training on IPC, surveillance and risk communication for 20 healthcare workers in West Sepik. The participants were OICs of health centres, district health managers, and clinicians in the hospital.

- All provinces are ramping up 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.

- 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 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The 4th edition of the Communications Plan for COVID-19 (covering both risk communication and community engagement) has been circulated to all provinces, partners and development agencies. The Communication Plan is also available online in this link: PNG COVID-19 Communications Plan (4th Edition). The Communications Plan is a product of collective efforts from all the organizations led by NDOH, with support from WHO, UNICEF and partners under Health, Protection, WASH and Education clusters.

- A COVID-19 MESSAGE BANK with a compilation of key messages for various sectors and audiences is also available. As the country transitions to “new normal”, the message bank also includes other social issues beyond health, such as human rights, protection, prevention of violence against women and children.

- Awareness and community engagement activities continue using multiple platforms (radio, TV, newspapers, social media and community activities with distancing measures), both at the national, provincial and district levels. Key messages developed by NDOH-WHO continue to focus on prevention practices, physical distancing, dealing with fear, stigma and discrimination, and protection of health workers.

- Key messages for this week focused on solidarity highlighting the community support to quarantined villages in East New Britain, physical distancing, responsible use of antibiotics, continuing immunization services, seeking help for people experiencing violence and managing stress.

- Training on communication and community engagement is part of the response training package being rolled out to provinces using online platform. This week’s online training was provided to Autonomous Region of Bougainville held on 28 April 2020.

- Daily TV and radio messages on COVID-19 through a program Hour of Hope is simultaneously telecast at the national level and in all provinces. WHO works with the Council of Churches and uses a religious framework for messaging (to promote behaviour change, manage fear, deal with stigma and discrimination). The daily telecast is in lieu of the church services that were cancelled as part of SOE.

- Education and health sectors, church partners and NGOs are working together to develop communication materials for the schools – especially in the context of the new normal.

- 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.

- St John Ambulance continues to provide support in the management and operation of the hotline 1800-200. Talking points and Q&A has been updated, in partnership with WHO, to include frequently asked topics from the public.
Solidarity, not stigma, in the time of COVID-19 pandemic: When six villages in East New Britain were put on quarantine after the identification of a person with COVID-19, neighbouring community members supported them. People brought their harvest of vegetables and delivered food supply and other needs. This is an example of looking after each other in the time of pandemic.

Central Province: An advocacy on handwashing while maintaining physical distancing
(Photo credit: Australian High Commission in PNG)

East New Britain: A story on communities supporting quarantined villages has become one of the most popular social media stories. It is one good example of promoting solidarity, not stigma, in the time of COVID-19 pandemic
(Photo credit: Kalolaine Uechtritz of ENB)

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.

On 21 April 2020, the SOE Controller David Manning announced PNG’s transition into the “new normal” way of life in the context of COVID-19. Several restrictions under the SOE were relaxed, guided by public health principles, together with economic and societal considerations.

On 22 April, SOE Controller announced that the Universities and tertiary education resume on 27 April, Monday, and Primary and secondary schools resume on 4 May 2020. All COVID-19 health protocols are to be strictly observed.

On 22 April, Minister for Education Hon Joseph Yopyyopy issued a Media Statement regarding the ‘Reopening and Recovery of lessons during COVID-19 period’ with clear instructions on approaches to recover the missed academic sessions; and adopting the ‘New Normal’ awareness messages and actions published by WHO, UNICEF and IFRC.
On 29 April, SOE Controller David Manning and Secretary for Department of Personnel Management Taies Sansan issued a joint circular regarding the ‘Ongoing implementation of the COVID-19 Emergency Orders and New Normal work arrangements’ with an instruction for Public service employees to resume normal duties with effect from 4 May, Monday; ensuring proper ‘new normal’ safe workplace arrangements are consistent with the Health, Safety and Hygienic procedures.

A technical team under the National Operations Centre in collaboration with NDoH and economic sectors, with the support from WHO, is currently drafting the policy on the transition to the ‘New Normal’ for submission to NEC.

A full information package on the COVID-19 prevention and control as a “new normal” in the time of pandemic is being prepared by NDOH, with support from WHO.

A joint meeting by the NDOH, WHO, UNICEF and PNG-Australia Policing Partnership was held on 30 April 2020 to discuss updates on work related to communication, community engagement and non-pharmaceutical interventions, especially on the transition to the new normal.

LOGISTICS and SUPPLIES

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 uplifted,
Chinese government donated 1000 disposable clothing and 500 gloves.
On 2 May, the logistics team received 6000 UTM’s and 10% of the upfront PPE donated by Australian Government.
On 2 May, the logistics team received 8 PCR Reagent Enzyme kits (500 reactions each), 8 RNA Extraction kits for IMR and 36 SARS-COV-2 Gene Xper cartridges for CPHL donated by WHO.
It is expected to receive 90,000 surgical masks and 7200 protective suits donated by Jack Ma through Pacific Humanitarian Pathway (awaiting AWB/ETA).
UNICEF is exploring to supply 15,000 GenXpert cartridges through their supply division, awaiting arrival date due to issues with high demand and prolonged lead time.
55 tents for pre-triage screening has been procured and distributed to the Provinces.
**UTM Distribution List and Dispatch status**

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Jackson Airport: Arrival of 6000 UTMs donated by Australian Government

Jackson Airport: Arrival of Gene Xpert Cartridges donated by WHO

Jackson Airport: Arrival of 10% of the upfront PPE donated by Australian Government
Cumulative Provincial Stocks distribution for the month of April 2020

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Total Distribution from 01-27 April

- 29,450.00
- 480,850.00
- 5,240.00
- 1,737.00
- 4,800.00
- 200.00
UPDATE FROM THE PROVINCES

NEW GUINEA ISLANDS REGION

Autonomous Region of Bougainville

- On 27-29 April, WHO supported the second ‘Virtual Training on COVID-19 Response’ for 28 healthcare workers from Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB). The participants were doctors, nursing officers, midwives, HEOs, lab staff and volunteers from various health facilities including Buka general hospital, Arawa district hospital and health centres. WHO STOP consultant on the ground and WHO CO staff facilitated sessions on clinical management, IPC, surveillance and risk communication. An epidemiologist from WHO Western Pacific Regional Office facilitated the session on rapid response team.

- Surveillance mostly involved screening at Ports of Entry at the Buka Airport and Buka Wharves. Other POEs at Arawa and Buin are also being monitored by relevant agencies (Customs Immigration and Quarantine, NACs). A surveillance team comprising of designated doctors, Health Environmental Officers, Immigration has been the focal group in supervising POEs. The same group has also been attending to notified POIs in the community, meaning this group have been performing RRT and Surveillance duties at the same time. A dedicated RRT will be identified based on need. The Surveillance team initiated the monitoring of the implementation of ILI/SARI at the health centres.

- 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. A Cough Register has also been set up and all “coughs” are being registered with trends monitored regularly for signs of any unusual patterns in influenza-like illnesses. This pre-triage station is planned to be enhanced with more open setup, using tents depending on availability of facilities.

- 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.

East New Britain

- On 29 April, ENB SOE Controller/ Provincial Administrator issued a circular regarding the ‘Complete Lifting of Partial lock down on Kenebot Stage 2’ which was imposed on 16 April for 14 days to end on 30 April. Till date, there was no evidence of local transmission of COVID-19 within Kenabot estate based on the contact tracing reports from the RRTs, after the confirmation of the 2nd case in ENB.

- 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 cough triage bay established in 50% of health facilities.

- The business houses in the province supported with cash & kind: -St John ambulance, PNGIMR and Burnet Institute.
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 conducted awareness in Villages in close collaboration with village councillors.

**Manus**

Initially, the awareness campaign and surveillance for COVID-19 was carried out on the main island of Manus and nearby LLGs.

On 11-16 April, surveillance and awareness campaign for COVID-19 was conducted for the remote Western Islands (Nigoherm and Aua-Wuvulu LLGs) led by Manus Open MP Hon. Job Pomat and technical officers from the Manus PHA, Provincial Education Office, Law and Justice Sector and Immigrations and Customs. Feedback from the communities included concerns with the lack of communication with Lorengau and the relevant authorities particularly during times of emergencies. Hon. Mr. Job Pomat committed to improve and establish communication infrastructures and links between the Western Islands and Lorengau.

From 8 to 22 April, 18 flights landed in Manus (16 Air Niugini operated; 1 PNG Air operated; 1 HeviLift operated) and screened 443 passengers (Arrivals = 299 & Departures = 144). There were no POIs.

From 8 to 22 April, 3 vessels berthed at the Seaport (MV Lihir Express, MV Kiwai & MV Balimo Express) and screened 44 crew members. All were advised to remain onboard and departed after discharge. There were no POIs.

The inbound passengers from Western, East New Britain and Eastern Highlands Provinces and NCD are advised to be in quarantine starting of 22 April 2020.

Manus PHA received the allocated budget, K200,000 from the Government. Other funding support committed by the Manus PHA, Provincial Administration and indicated in the Manus ERP for COVID-19 are still pending.

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 a week ago.

Isolation and quarantine sites/facilities have now been identified and construction and renovations are being carried out.

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 Provincial Health Authority Project Management Unit is working on a preliminary design and construction costing for a 6-bed COVID-19 Isolation Ward at the New Ireland Provincial Hospital.

Temporary isolation will be set up at the Environmental Health Office, but this facility needs refurbishment. Costing has been submitted to the PEOC for review and funding deliberation.
Trainings on communication and social mobilization have been conducted, such as those held in Pukpuk HC, Eratubu and kabanut Villages, Ligga, Kavieng Police Station, Lamassa HC, Nasko and Kumin.

Received all PPEs and the 72sq ft tent along with chairs, tables and bins sent from NEOC.

Logging companies in Namatanai supported with fuel for the awareness and training teams’s visit to Namatanai district.

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; 15,000 IEC 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:
  - ADI: 50 Buckets/50 bleach 1.25 litre Tray / 10 Garbage bag 100 litre 5 Gabbage Bag Green 50 litre 10 Visqueen Roll orange 50-meter roll 1 Box Printed Material
  - NBPOL: 90,000 CUBIC METER GRAVEL BUILDERS MIX
  - LIAMO REEF RESORT: 5000 Copies of IEC Materials
  - Spirit of West: Food rations for PEOC & Gloves RMI 5 steel frame for COVID-19 Alert Message
  - KBSA: Gloves and Masks
- 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.

WNB: Conducting IPC Training on COVID-19
Surveillance at Kandrian
Excellent Participation by stakeholders. Awareness gaining momentum.
MOMASE REGION

Morobe:

- The Morobe Provincial Health Authority conducted series of trainings on ‘Infection Prevention and Control’ for COVID-19 for various stakeholders in the province:
  - On 14 April: IPC training and COVID-19 awareness to major trucking company employees (Mapai transport, Traisa Transport and IPI transport).
  - On 16 April: Ramu sugar staff and management.
  - On 19 April: Morobe Provincial Administration staff/employees.
  - On 21 April: identified staff for clinical case management.
  - On 22 April: Morobe CIS staff.
  - On 24 April: Susu mama staff.
  - On 27 April: Angau Hospital Clinical staff.
  - On 28 April: Lutheran Health Services staff, Morobe Province.
  - On 29 April: Wampar Health Center staff.

Madang:

- On 28 April, basic information on COVID-19 awareness was conducted for the participants from log managers, district sectors program managers and volunteers of Middle Ramu District at the IPA building at the Madang provincial administration complex.
- The Modilon Hospital has initiated to set up the work station for screening (pre-triage) using few materials as the initial set up.
- 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-contain unit with toilet, shower, cooking area, laundry and clothes line, hand washing basin, temporary fencing to prevent entering this area.
- The health care workers need training in surveillance, infection prevention and control and clinical management for COVID-19 Response.

**West Sepik**

- On 2-3 May, a team from NDoH conducted a 2-day training on IPC, surveillance and risk communication for 20 healthcare workers in West Sepik. The participants were OICs of health centres, district health managers, and clinicians in the hospital.
- A one-day training was conducted for 40 officers from rural health facilities and SPH laboratory, who will be responsible for sample collection and packaging.
- The province initiated active social mobilization reaching out to communities within the Vanimo Urban LLG.
- A training to shop owners was also conducted to emphasize on social distancing and handwashing. Shops that met the requirements for social distancing and handwashing facilities were identified and cleared for opening to customers.
- A total of 10 health workers are deployed at 4 POEs (along Indonesian border) in Vanimo Green District: 2 at Nyaukono, 2 at Schotchio, 4 at Kwek and 2 at Kembratoro.
- The Province used helicopter to deploy teams at POEs and deliver medical supplies and camping logistics at the POEs in Vanimo Green District.
- The teams at the POEs accessible by road were provided with vehicles and fuel.
- Vanimo Green district is also facilitated to explore possible isolation unit preparation for the estimated 80 prisoners who have been held in jails in Jayapura that will be released to PNG. Negotiations with the Ward member and Village Leaders commenced 14/4/20 to allow the use of Schotchio abandoned Jumbo Tract Limited (JTL) Logging Company camp facilities; and was agreed.
- In BWO LLG, all ground POE ground preparation is in order, except for Wutung which need deployment of the team. Quarantine facilities and staff camping is yet to be sorted, following which health team will be deployed.
- The POEs have been established and health teams been deployed in Walsa LLG, Green River LLG, Amanab LLG and Yafar 3.
- Security personnel are deployed at the POEs along with the health workers at Schotchio, RPC Bewani, Schotchio, Kwek, Kembratoro and Riverine.
- There are several challenges faced by Vanimo Green district regarding the deployment of security teams at the some of the POEs: no security personals at Nyaukono, the contract with the hire car for RPC Bewani has now, and Yafar 3 POE does not have security deployment arrangements.
- There are also some challenges with road accessibility and communication with the POEs. The SOE Command instructed AFL and Border Int/DD Investment to clear up the road access to those points.
Sandaun Provincial Hospital has sorted out its **pre-triage** site for ILI screening. However, equipping it is bit slow due unavailability of some of basic supplies in Vanimo.

Baro CHP and Dapu UC have put up make shift ILI triage facility using make shift materials.

To the extent possible, any cases identified will be isolated and managed at the local setting that each district has been entrusted the responsibility to identify and set up. The serious confirmed cases of COVID-19 needing life support will be referred to the hospital for management in isolation ward setup.

Sites have been identified for isolation units in the 2 major health facilities within the Aitape Lumi District: Raihu District Hospital and Lumi Health Centre.

The provincial social mobilization team have been active in working with the security personals to disseminate information to the communities accessible by road. The main objective if the advocacy campaign is to prepare the people if there is a confirmed positive case within the community to avoid fear and stigmatization.

The team also conducted an advocacy for the CIS warders and inmates, police mobile squads and shops to orient them on COVID-19 and importance of social distancing.

IEC materials worth of K2000.00 have been printed and awaiting collection upon payment.

On-going risk communication Aitape Lumi District by conducting trainings and continued public awareness with emphasis on public health messaging at all levels: Personal hygiene (soap & water, Cough into flex elbow, do not touch your face); Social distancing (1.5 – 2 m in meetings, in public areas - bus stops, buses, shops, banks, ATMs, offices); when sick, stay at home and wear a mask when out in public.

From the province, logistics has been supported through Health Functional Grants and Hospital Operations funds.

PPEs received from NDOH are distributed.

In Vanimo Green district, each team at the POEs are given a week’s rations (basics); camping gears (pots, bush knives, lightings, batteries, Basic PPEs such as facemasks & gloves), hand sanitizers, and toiletries. Resupply of rations will be based on PROs assessment reports and reissued after a week. Personal emoluments process will begin as soon as all team’s personnel are deployed to sites and feedback received from PROs.

Moving forward, Vanimo Green district will be rearranging the COVID-19 Response Coordination; ensure essential Services are progressing; ensure ILI Triaging is established at all health facilities in the district to monitor patients coming into the clinic for possible POIs; establish communication with Local Community Leaders, Headmasters, Board of Management for the establishment of POE Screening sites, Quarantine Bay/Shelter and Treatment Centres for very sick COVID-19 case if detected; and work with the main Provincial Counter Covid-19 Coordination Committee in deploying Security personnel to the POEs. For Aitape Lumi district, the next priorities are training and recruitment of unemployed HEOs, nurses & other health care workers; assess, procure and provide basic urgently needed medical equipment and other supplies including medical supplies; procure a fully kited ambulance for covid-19 patients transportation including the rapid response team; continuous risk communication advocacies; fund isolation units for Raihu & Lumi; develop a contingency budget for HCW risk as assurance /security for HCW to manage cases; and ensure funds to manage COVID-19 cases.
HIGHLANDS REGION

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 to date.
- 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 COIVD-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

- Nearly 50 villages in Sogeri and Mt Koiai 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.
- 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 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 of the isolation ward with 8 beds which includes 1 delivery bed is almost completed. Now the priority is to furnish the isolation ward with beds, ventilators and other necessary equipment and drugs.
- Quarantine facilities been identified.
- RRT is established but need quality checks.

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

- 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:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Isolation facilities</th>
<th>Quarantine facilities</th>
<th>Available HRH</th>
<th>Surveillance</th>
<th>Training on IPC, Clinical Management &amp; RRT</th>
<th>Funding with sources</th>
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<tr>
<td>AROB</td>
<td>Suhin HC &amp; Buka Hospital (6 beds)</td>
<td>Pre-triage but no confirmed quarantine facility (want tents if NDOH/partners can provide)</td>
<td>Doctors: 10 HEOs: 3 Nurses: 94 CHWs: 71</td>
<td>Cumulative POIs: 21 (all completed 14-days quarantine)</td>
<td>Provincial conducted trainings while waiting for NDOH/WHO</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000 DFAT: K840,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>East New Britain</td>
<td>Butuwin UC (8 beds)</td>
<td>Butuwin UC (8 beds) (isolation and quarantine are side by side at Butuwin-former HIV/AIDS buildings)</td>
<td>Doctors: 19 HEOs: 23 Nurses: 254 CHWs: 257</td>
<td>Cumulative POIs: 126 (2 positive)</td>
<td>Completed 2 batches of training</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000 DFAT: K840,000</td>
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<td>Manus</td>
<td>40 foot container from Asylum seekers leftover taken to hospital ground-6 bed capacity) – A.Kwaramb and team to give clearance for use)</td>
<td>40 foot container taken to hospital ground-6 bed capacity – A.Kwaramb and team to give clearance for use)</td>
<td>Doctors: 17 HEOs: 13 Nurses: 89 CHWs: 74</td>
<td>Cumulative POIs: 14 (all completed 14-days quarantine)</td>
<td>Provincial conducted trainings while waiting for NDOH/WHO</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Ireland</td>
<td>Environmental Health Office (temporary), 6-bed isolation ward under construction</td>
<td>Pre-triage in Kavieng hospital. No quarantine facility also requesting for NDOH/partners to support with tent</td>
<td>Doctors: 17 HEOs: 28 Nurses: 160 CHWs: 124</td>
<td>Cumulative POIs: 316 (all completed 14-days quarantine)</td>
<td>Provincial conducted trainings while waiting for NDOH/WHO</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>West New Britain</td>
<td>Identified old TB ward for isolation, 6 bed capacity. Needs renovation and A. Kwaramb and team to approve</td>
<td>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)</td>
<td>Doctors: 14 HEOs: 23 Nurses: 170 CHWs: 245</td>
<td>Cumulative POIs: 49 (all completed 14-days quarantine)</td>
<td>Provincial conducted trainings while waiting for NDOH/WHO</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000 WNBPG: K600,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Sepik</td>
<td>Old TB clinic refurbished</td>
<td>Yet to be identified</td>
<td>Doctors: 17 HEOs: 21 Nurses: 158 CHWs: 243</td>
<td>Cumulative POIs: 58 (all completed 14-days quarantine)</td>
<td>In house training completed x 2</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000</td>
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NDoH: National Department of Health  
DFAT: Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 
WNBPG: West New Britain Provincial Government
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Isolation facilities</th>
<th>Quarantine facilities</th>
<th>Available HRH</th>
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<th>Training on IPC, Clinical Management &amp; RRT</th>
<th>Funding with sources</th>
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<tr>
<td>Madang</td>
<td>Yagaun hospital (18 beds)</td>
<td>Yet to be identified</td>
<td>Doctors: 21 HEOs: 28 Nurses: 223 CHWs: 390</td>
<td>Cumulative POIs: 124 (all completed 14-days quarantine)</td>
<td>No training conducted as yet</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morobe</td>
<td>Sir Ignatius Kilage stadium</td>
<td>11 mile – self contained rooms</td>
<td>Doctors: 48 HEOs: 11 Nurses: 119 CHWs: 143</td>
<td>Cumulative POIs: 387 (all completed 14-days quarantine)</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Sepik</td>
<td>Raihu Hospital and Lumi HC</td>
<td>Dapu HC Baro CHP</td>
<td>Doctors: 10 HEOs: 19 Nurses: 119 CHWs: 332</td>
<td>Cumulative POIs: 43 (all completed 14-days quarantine)</td>
<td>40 officers trained on sample collection &amp; packaging</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Highlands</td>
<td>Renovated and Completed but require beds etc</td>
<td>PHA has built one</td>
<td>Doctors: 28 HEOs: 15 Nurses: 222 CHWs: 371</td>
<td>Cumulative POI: 107 all completed 14-days quarantine)</td>
<td>Training on use of PPE and specimen collection</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enga</td>
<td>Pausa in Wapenamanda</td>
<td>None available</td>
<td>Doctors: 21 HEOs: 18 Nurses: 163 CHWs: 226</td>
<td>Cumulative POI: 82 all completed 14-days quarantine)</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hela</td>
<td>None available, proposed at a new site</td>
<td>None available</td>
<td>Doctors: 7 HEOs: 8 Nurses: 51 CHWs: 39</td>
<td>Cumulative POI: 103 all completed 14-days quarantine)</td>
<td>Conducted virtual Training (TOT) on Surveillance, IPC, Clinical management and Risk communication for 5 focal persons on 23 April</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jiwaka</td>
<td>Kindeng, Minj HC, Kol HC, Tabibuga HC</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Doctors: 1 HEOs: 8 Nurses: 146 CHWs: 102</td>
<td>Cumulative POI: 19 all completed 14-days quarantine)</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simbu</td>
<td>None available</td>
<td>None available</td>
<td>Doctors: 31 HEOs: 9 Nurses: 139 CHWs: 142</td>
<td>Cumulative POIs: 13 (all completed 14-days quarantine)</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Highlands</td>
<td>Munihu HC</td>
<td>Old Mendi airport hangar</td>
<td>Doctors: 18 HEOs: 10 Nurses: 152 CHWs: 195</td>
<td>Cumulative POIs: 70 (all completed 14-days quarantine)</td>
<td>X2 RRT, ToT training for districts</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Highlands</td>
<td>Chapel in the hospital</td>
<td>Identifying warehouse already, needs funding</td>
<td>Doctors: 22 HEOs: 13 Nurses: 217 CHWs: 293</td>
<td>Cumulative POIs: 115 (all completed 14-days quarantine)</td>
<td>RRT being finalized</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>Bereina HC and Kwikila Hospital</td>
<td></td>
<td>Doctors: 1 HEOs: 13 Nurses: 35 CHWs: 198</td>
<td>Cumulative POIs: 112 (all completed 14-days quarantine)</td>
<td>3 Trainers trained, Other officers identified for training</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Province</td>
<td>Isolation facilities</td>
<td>Quarantine facilities</td>
<td>Available HRH</td>
<td>Surveillance</td>
<td>Training on IPC, Clinical Management &amp; RRT</td>
<td>Funding with sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gulf</td>
<td>Old TB ward</td>
<td>Not yet needs funding, areas identified are Kanabea, Kerema and Kikori, awaiting tents to set up</td>
<td>Doctors: 6 HEOs: 8 Nurses: 48 CHWs: 88</td>
<td>Cumulative POIs: 15 (all completed 14-days quarantine)</td>
<td>Still needs training</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milne Bay</td>
<td>Alotau Hospital</td>
<td>Identified, yet to progress</td>
<td>Doctors: 20 HEOs: 29 Nurses: 264 CHWs: 493</td>
<td>Cumulative POIs: 47 (all completed 14-days quarantine)</td>
<td>RRT established</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCD</td>
<td>Rita Flynn Court (76 beds)</td>
<td>Rita Flynn</td>
<td>Doctors: 115 HEOs: 2 Nurses: 667 CHWs: 285</td>
<td>Cumulative POIs: 3777 (75 currently on follow-up)</td>
<td>49 Trainers trained</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oro</td>
<td>Ward under construction almost completed,</td>
<td>Identified using tents received</td>
<td>Doctors: 10 HEOs: 9 Nurses: 80 CHWs: 107</td>
<td>Cumulative POIs: 16 (all completed 14-days quarantine)</td>
<td>Needs training</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>TB Isolation ward at Daru Hospital</td>
<td>Location to be used pending</td>
<td>Doctors: 9 HEOs: 2 Nurses: 19 CHWs: 40</td>
<td>Cumulative POIs: 172 (5 currently on follow-up; 3 positive)</td>
<td>Training in North Fly done in Kiunga Middle Fly and South Fly training pending</td>
<td>NDoH: K200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Materials on COVID-19

A HOW-TO GUIDE FOR PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Shaking hands and hugging are common greetings but now is the time to try out some of these:

- Wave
- Bow
- Nod

Keep a distance of at least 1m from others and #BreakTheChain of #COVID19 transmission.

VACCINES PROTECT US AGAINST HARMFUL DISEASES

They use your body’s natural defenses to protect against infections

They train your immune system to create antibodies

And this prevents us from getting sick.

#VaccinesWork For All

AMR and COVID-19

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when microorganisms (such as bacteria and viruses) change after being exposed to antimicrobial drugs. These changes can mean they become resistant to the drugs used to treat them. There are different types of antimicrobials which work against different types of microorganisms, e.g. antibacterials or antibiotics against bacteria, antivirals against viruses, antifungals against fungi, etc. Antimicrobial Resistance is caused by the persistent misuse and misuse of antibiotics in human and animal health.

Antibiotics don’t treat or prevent viruses, including the one that causes COVID-19!

Correct diagnosis is key!

When might COVID-19 patients be given antibiotics?

Some patients with COVID-19 may develop co-bacterial infections. If this is the case, then health workers may prescribe antibiotics to treat the secondary bacterial infection in those patients.

Never self-medicate with antibiotics!

It’s important to listen to the advice of doctors. If you feel unwell, seek out medical help and don’t try to diagnose yourself and self-medicate with antibiotics. Remember – only take antibiotics if you have been prescribed them.

Practise good hygiene at all times!

Hand hygiene is crucial in times of COVID-19. Practice good hand hygiene at home and in a health care setting by regularly washing your hands. Sneezing and coughing into a bent elbow, or a tissue which should be thrown into a closed bin. These are some of the most effective ways of reducing the spread of many infections, including antibiotic-resistant organisms.

#COVID19 #Coronavirus #AMR #antibioticresistance
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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