



INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

NATIONAL PANDEMIC ACT 2020

OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER

NO.8 COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE & TESTING MEASURES

I, Commissioner David Manning, Controller, by virtue of the powers conferred by Section 9 of the *National Pandemic Act 2020* and all other enabling powers, hereby issue the following measures:

1. The following terms are defined in Schedule 1 of these Measures:
 - a. National case definition for COVID-19; and
 - b. Severe Acute Respiratory Infection.
2. The following shall be considered suspected COVID-19 cases until a PCR test is conducted that returns a negative result:
 - a. all hospitalised/admitted cases of respiratory illness, including cases classified as pneumonia; and
 - b. all cases classified as Severe Acute Respiratory Infection; regardless of travel or case contact history.
3. Any person admitted to a hospital for the purposes of paragraph 2 must be tested for COVID-19 within 24 hours of being admitted.
4. Any patient admitted to a hospital for the purposes outlined in paragraph 2 must be managed using COVID-19 infection prevention and control protocols.
5. All facilities set out in Schedule 2 must establish a pre-triage service to identify and screen persons potentially infected by COVID-19.
6. The purpose of the pre-triage facilities is to prevent potential COVID-19 cases from entering health facilities based on fever and symptom check.
7. All facilities set out in Schedule 2 must ensure that any patient with respiratory symptoms are masked and physically distanced prior to entering, and must ensure that staff apply appropriate infection control measures.



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8. In addition to COVID suspect cases, all health facilities in the National Capital District (NCD), including Port Moresby General Hospital and private clinics, must collect specimens for COVID-19 testing from all fever $> 38^{\circ}\text{C}$, simple cough and inpatient pneumonia and outpatient pneumonia cases over 10 years of age.
9. All Provincial Health Authorities, Port Moresby General Hospital and all private hospitals must submit daily reports by 6pm to the Controller and the relevant Provincial Administrator, including:
 - a. case investigation forms for all suspected COVID-19 cases per paragraph 2 of this these Measures;
 - b. details of all deaths related to respiratory illness;
 - c. details on the number of persons swabbed for COVID-19 testing (including indication for testing); and
 - d. any other information directed to be provided.
10. Where a cluster of respiratory illness or influenza like illness cases are reported (through a health facility i.e. District Hospital/Health Centre or in a common setting i.e. a village, church, school, etc.), the relevant Provincial Health Authority must:
 - a. swab between 5-10 cases from the cluster for testing; and
 - b. report the cluster to the Controller or his delegate;within 24 hours from the identification of the cluster of cases.
11. Each Provincial Health Authority shall swab for the purposes of testing for COVID-19 a minimum of 5 patients with influenza like illness symptoms per week.
12. For the purpose of these Measures, the delegate of the Controller is Deputy-Controller Dr. Paison Dakulala.





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13. These Measures come into effect on 23 July 2020 and shall apply until the end of the Declaration of a Pandemic under the Act, or as varied or revoked by the Controller.

Signed:

Date:



22/7/20
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DAVID MANNING, MBE, DPS, OPM
CONTROLLER



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Schedule 1 – Definitions

National case definition for COVID-19 is:

- a) a person with acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g., cough, shortness of breath), AND a history of travel to or residence in a location reporting community transmission of COVID-19 disease during the 14 days prior to symptom onset; or
- b) a person with any acute respiratory illness AND having been in contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case (see definition of contact) in the last 14 days prior to symptom onset; or
- c) a person with severe acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g., cough, shortness of breath), requiring hospitalisation/admission, and in the absence of an alternative diagnosis that fully explains the clinical presentation.

Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) means;

an acute respiratory infection with:

- history of fever or measured fever of 38 C° or higher; and
- cough - with onset within the last seven days; and
- requires hospitalisation/admission.



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Schedule 2 – Health Facilities

- All private urban health facilities; and
- All public health facilities classified as level 3 and above.
- 6 Mile UC
- 9 Mile UC
- Bomana CIS UC
- Bomana Police College UC
- Gordons UC
- Jacksons Airbase UC
- Port Moresby General HO
- PNG Education Institute UC
- Susu Mamas
- Gerehu UC
- Morata UC
- Murray Barracks UC
- St Theresa UC
- Tokarara UC
- University UC
- PNG IPA UC
- St Pauls UC
- Marie Stopes UC
- Badili UC
- Kaugere 4 Square UC
- Kila Kila UC
- Lawes Road UC
- Pari UC
- PNGDF Taurama UC
- Ulamagi Nazarene UC
- Vabukori UC
- Salvation Army Koki UC