



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 RT-PCR or Gene Xpert test is conducted that returns a negative result:
 - a. all 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 have a sample collected for the purposes of testing 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 health facilities must establish a screening service at the entrance point(s) and must screen all persons, including, patients, visitors, staff and contractors to identify suspected COVID-19 cases.
6. The purpose of the pre-triage facilities is to identify potential COVID-19 cases so they may be tested without delay and to prevent transmission to others.





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7. All health facilities set must ensure that all adult patients are masked prior to entering, individuals remain physically distanced, and must ensure that staff apply appropriate infection control measures.
8. In addition to suspect COVID-19 cases, all health facilities must collect specimens for COVID-19 testing from all fever $> 37.5C$, 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, the NCC Surveillance Team and the relevant Provincial Administrator, including:
 - a. case investigation forms for all suspected COVID-19 cases per paragraph 2 of this these Measures;
 - b. case investigation forms for all confirmed COVID-19 cases;
 - c. details of all deaths related to respiratory illness;
 - d. details of all death certificates or death reporting forms for all confirmed COVID-19 cases
 - e. details on the number of persons swabbed for COVID-19 testing; and
 - f. 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 and report the results





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to the Controller and the NCC surveillance team on a weekly basis, positive results must be reported within 24 hours, per Measure 7.3.

12. For the purpose of these Measures, the delegate of the Controller, is Dr Osborne Liko.

13. These Measures come into effect on 10 March 2021 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:



9th March 2021

DAVID MANNING, MBE, DPS, QPM
CONTROLLER



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Schedule 1 – Definitions

National case definition for COVID-19 is:

- a) a person with respiratory illness who has at least one of the following signs or symptoms:
- i. Fever of 37.5°C or above, or a history of fever;
 - ii. cough;
 - iii. shortness of breath;
 - iv. sore throat; or
 - v. loss of smell or taste.

Schedule 2 – Health Facilities

- All private urban health facilities; and
- All public health facilities classified as level 3 and above.

