



26 July 2020

PNG announced highest coronavirus cases today

PAPUA New Guinea today confirmed a total of 23 new cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the highest reported so far in a day since the outbreak.

Deputy Controller of the National Pandemic Response, Dr Paison Dakulala following a meeting with the Controller and the Prime Minister Hon. James Marape tonight.

“These now brings to total **62** confirmed cases of COVID-19 patients in the country, an increase of 49 in just 10 days,” said Dr Dakulala.

Since the outbreak begun, PNG has screened and tested a total of 10, 000 people, out of which 62 have been confirmed with the disease.

PNG experienced a lull after reporting 8 cases during the State of Emergency, but after a month of lifting the SoE and allowing businesses, schools and normalcy to return, it had begun to see new increases.

“We are seeing community transmission and I am therefore urging everyone to be take our health messages very seriously.”

“You need to take responsibility of your health, your family, community and the country by wearing a mask, sanitising your hands or simply stay at home if you do nothing better to do,” said Dr Dakulala.

“The Rita Flynn isolation facility has a 72-bed capacity and when these 23 cases are all moved there, this will leave only 25 beds.”

The National Department of Health is working with the NCD Provincial Health Authority to address the accommodation for isolation and quarantine facilities as well as all other issues that need to be addressed in light of the rapid rise of the new cases.

Dr Dakulala appealed to health workers and every Papua New Guinean to remain calm and continue to ensure this virus does not continue to spread.

Meanwhile, the National Control Centre have advised of possible control measures to be implemented this week in the National Capital District.

Pandemic Controller, David Manning said domestic travel will be reduced to essential business from Tuesday, 28 July.

A curfew will also be imposed in NCD from 10pm to 5am.

Niupela Pasin



PAPUA NEW GUINEA
JOINT AGENCY TASK FORCE
NATIONAL CONTROL CENTRE FOR COVID-19
As established under the National Pandemic Act 2020



3rd Floor Morauta Haus, Waigani, National Capital District

Other measures on public transport and schools may be announced later in the week.

"The measures are necessary to contain the spread of the virus in the Nation's Capital as we see daily increases," said Mr Manning.

Approved for Release



Controller
Mr David Manning

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Dakulala".

Deputy Controller
Dr Paison Dakulala