

19 June 2020

**CIRCULAR NO.42/2020**

TO : ALL MEMBERS


**SEVEN NEW NATIONAL PANDEMIC MEASURES**

Following on from EFPNG Circular #41-2020, we inform that the Controller of COVID-19 Pandemic and Commissioner of Police David Manning has issued seven (7) new National Pandemic Measures coming into effect on 17 June 2020.

We attach copies of the measures herewith for your information.

The Federation will continue to circulate important and useful information to its members as and when it becomes available.

Yours sincerely



**Florence L. Willie (Ms)**  
**Executive Director**



**INDEPENDANT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA**  
**NATIONAL PANDEMIC ACT 2020**

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**OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER**

**NO.1 INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC TRAVEL 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. A port of entry stated in Column One in Schedule One, being a port of entry into Papua New Guinea ('PNG') from another country is:
  - a. a First Port of Entry for aircrafts or vessels coming from another country into PNG as stated in Column Two for the time period of the Declaration of a Pandemic under the Act; and
  - b. a quarantine station for the performance of quarantine by any authorised person on any vessel, person, animal, plant or goods coming from another country into PNG;
  - c. designated as a Point of Entry for the purposes of Article 20(1) of the *International Health Regulations (2005)*.
2. No vehicle, vessel or aircraft coming into PNG from another country, shall have entry at a Port of Entry in PNG which is not declared a First Port of Entry per Paragraph 1 of these Measures.
3. No person(s) shall cause a vehicle, vessel or aircraft to arrive at a port of entry in Papua New Guinea which is not a declared First Port of Entry under Paragraph 1 of these Measures.
4. No person, including PNG Citizens and Permanent Residents are allowed to enter PNG, except by aircraft.
5. Traditional border crossing arrangements are hereby suspended and there is a prohibition on travel of any persons travelling from the Republic of Indonesia, Australia, the Federated



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- States of Micronesia, or the Solomon Islands into Papua New Guinea by these traditional border crossings.
6. No person is permitted to board an aircraft bound for PNG unless provided an exemption in writing by the Controller or his delegate.
  7. All PNG Citizens and Permanent Residents returning to PNG by aircraft must be quarantined at a:
    - a. designated facility in Port Moresby listed in Schedule 2, at the Government's cost; or
    - b. designated hotel in Port Moresby listed in Schedule 3, at the individual's cost.
  8. All non-PNG Citizens and non-Permanent Residents returning to PNG by aircraft must be quarantined at a designated hotel in Port Moresby listed in Schedule 3, at the individual's cost.
  9. Foreign diplomats travelling on a diplomatic travel document or diplomatic passport are exempted from the requirements in paragraph 8, but must self-isolate at an appropriate residence for 14 days.
  10. For the purposes of paragraph 9, failure to adhere to self-isolation for 14 days is not an offence under the *National Pandemic Act 2020*.
  11. For the purposes of paragraph 9, an individual who fails to adhere to self-isolation for 14 days shall be declared a persona non grata according to Article 9 of the *Vienna Convention on the Diplomatic Relations*.
  12. The Controller may exempt a person from paragraph 7, or 8, exempted persons shall self-isolate at a location directed by the Controller for 14 days.
  13. Upon arrival at the designate place in Schedules 2 or 3, or as designated per paragraph 9 or 12, a person must reside and remain in that place, self-quarantined and segregated from other persons, for the period beginning on the day of arrival and ending at midnight on the fourteenth day after arrival into PNG.



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14. Any person currently in quarantine imposed under the National Emergency must remain in quarantine until they have spent 14 days in quarantine, ending at midnight on the fourteenth day after arrival into PNG.
15. A couple or family shall be quarantined together should they enter PNG on the same flight.
16. Persons may leave a designated place prior 14 days:
  - a. for the purposes of obtaining emergency medical care;
  - b. with authorisation of the Controller for seeking non-emergency medical care or medical supplies;
  - c. in an emergency situation; or
  - d. for any reason approved in advance by the Controller or his delegate.
17. A person arriving into PNG on any aircraft is taken not to arrive in PNG for the purpose of these Measures if the person does not leave the plane or the immediate vicinity of the aircraft for the purposes of conducting pre-flight inspections and refueling.
18. A person arriving into PNG on any vessel is taken not to arrive in PNG for the purpose of these Measures if the person does not leave the vessel.
19. For the purposes of paragraph 7, 8, 12, 13 and 14, an individual who fails to adhere to quarantine for 14 days shall be deemed to have committed an offence under the *National Pandemic Act 2020*.
20. Authorised Officers shall ensure appropriate levels of surveillance and border monitoring systems are in place throughout the country for international travel and in particular at the traditional border crossing areas.



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**Domestic Travel Restrictions General**

21. No roadblocks are to be established by any person, including authorised officers, except for those Directed by the Controller.

**Domestic Travel to Other Provinces**

22. All flights domestically in Papua New Guinea must comply with the following requirements:

- a. hygiene and social distancing restriction as issued by the controller; and
- b. all passengers must complete an Air Passenger Travel Form.

23. Subject to paragraph 22, unless otherwise restricted by the Controller by written Direction, flights within PNG shall not be restricted.

24. Travel by foot, vehicle and vessel between Provinces, unless otherwise restricted by the Controller by written Direction, shall not be restricted.



25. Non-compliance with the directions of an Authorised Officer in accordance with preceding paragraphs shall be punishable in accordance with the Act.

26. Any Authorised Officer(s) appointed by the Controller pursuant to the Act, shall carry out and enforce these Measures accordingly.

27. These Measures comes into effect on 17 June 2020 and shall apply until the end of the Declaration of a Pandemic under the Act.

Signed:

Date:

  17/6/20

DAVID MANNING, MBE, DPS, QPM



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CONTROLLER

**Schedule 1 Port of Entry**

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<b>Column 1</b>	<b>Column 2</b>
Jacksons Airport	Aircraft
Motukea Port, Port Moresby	Vessel
PNG Ports, Rabaul	Vessel
PNG Ports, Morobe	Vessel
PNG Ports, Madang	Vessel

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**Schedule 2 – Government Designated Facility**

Ponderosa Hotel

Hideaway Hotel

Lamana Hotel

**Schedule 3 – Designated Hotel**

Holiday Inn Hotel

Ela Beach Hotel

Grand Papua Hotel

Laguna Hotel

Hilton Hotel

Stanley Hotel

Lamana Hotel

Airways Hotel



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**OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER**  
**NO.2 PROVINCIAL COORDINATION 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. All Measures issued under the National Pandemic Act apply to all provinces in Papua New Guinea unless otherwise specified in the Measures.
2. All Provincial Administrators (including acting Provincial Administrators) appointed as Authorized Officers pursuant to the Act, will be responsible for the implementation of the Measures in the respective provinces. In the case of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, the Chief Secretary of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville Government shall be responsible for the implementation of these Measures.
3. In the case of a province that does not have any Provincial Administrators (whether substantively appointed or appointed in an acting capacity), then the Controller shall appoint a person he considers can perform the responsibilities under these Measures, until a substantive or acting appointment of a Provincial Administrator is made pursuant to the *Organic Law on Provincial and Local-level Governments and the Public Services (Management) Act 1995*.
4. A Provincial Advisory Committee shall be set up within each Province. The membership in each Committee shall be:
  - a. Chairperson - Provincial Administrator;
  - b. Provincial Police Commander;
  - c. Chief Executive Officer of the Provincial Health Authority;
  - d. Chief Executive Officers of the District Development Authorities;
  - e. Other persons who the Provincial Administrator considers necessary for the purposes of the Committee;





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- f. Church Representative;
  - g. Provincial Business Council Representative or if no such representative exists then as appointed by the Controller; and
  - h. Other non-voting members may be coopted by the Taskforce.
5. Provincial Administrators will ensure that a Provincial Response Plan is developed consistent with the National Response Plan. The Plan is to outline:
- a. The key actions for implementation in the province, and
  - b. The allocation of core responsibilities.
6. Provincial Control Centre shall be set up within each Provincial Government. The Provincial Control Centres shall be managed by a Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce, and will facilitate the implementation of Measures to ensure full adherence in the provinces. The Provincial Control Centre shall be supported by local law enforcement, health authorities, and other relevant bodies, who shall be Authorized Officers appointed pursuant to the Act.
7. The Provincial Control Centre shall be responsible for the enforcement of measures contained in these Measures, public awareness, and shall report on all matters set out in paragraph 5.
8. The Provincial Administrator must report to the Controller, daily by 5pm, on the following:
- a. all suspected cases of COVID-19;
  - b. all cases showing COVID-19 symptoms, and the measures that have been taken by the relevant health authorities and medical experts;
  - c. the implementation of these Measures in the provinces;
  - d. instances of non-compliance with the these Measures;
  - e. the implementation of other measures undertaken in the provinces;



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- f. status of Provincial Emergency Plans and implementation status; and
  - g. all other matters relating to the Pandemic and the functions of the Controller as set out in the Act.
9. The Provincial Governments may continue to regulate matters not expressly contained in the Measures which would ordinarily be covered under provincial laws.
10. Provincial Governments must continue to observe safe health and hygiene practices as recommended by the NDoH and their PHA to prevent COVID-19.
11. Where measures have been taken prior to the issuance of the Measures, the relevant provincial authorities must ensure that these measures are brought in line with these Measures and Directions as directed by the Controller.
12. Provincial authorities may take additional measures, such as imposition of curfews or fines, to implement these Measures, only after the Controller has given his authorisation.
13. The Provincial Coordination Centre must ensure the necessary public awareness of the Measures, and that the appropriate COVID-19 Information Hotlines are established.
14. These Measures comes into effect on 17 June 2020 and shall apply until the end of the Declaration of a Pandemic under the Act.

Signed:

Date:

.....  
DAVID MANNING, MBE, DPS, QPM  
CONTROLLER



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**OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER**  
**NO.3 BURIAL OF DECEASED PERSONS 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 Controller, may upon request of Port Moresby General Hospital or a Provincial Health Authority, direct a mass grave to be dug for the internment of deceased persons and designate the location of this mass grave.
2. The Controller, may upon request of Port Moresby General Hospital or a Provincial Health Authority, direct deceased persons to be buried in a designated mass grave.
3. Bodies buried according to paragraph 2 of these Measures will be buried at the Government's expense.
4. Port Moresby General Hospital or the relevant Provincial Health Authority shall keep a record of the persons interred in a designated grave, taken from a morgue they are responsible for.
5. Upon request of Port Moresby General Hospital and Provincial Health Authority the Controller may requisition refrigerated shipping containers for the purpose of temporary interment of deceased persons.
6. Upon request of Port Moresby General Hospital and Provincial Health Authority the Controller may direct deceased persons to be interred temporarily in refrigerated shipping containers until such time as they are interred in a grave.



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7. Port Moresby General Hospital or the relevant Provincial Health Authority shall keep a record of the persons interred in a designated refrigerated shipping container taken from a morgue they are responsible for.
  
8. Bodies interred temporarily according to paragraph 6 of these Measures will be interred at the Government's expense.
  
9. These Measures comes into effect 16 June 2020 and shall apply until the end of the Declaration of a Pandemic under the Act.

Signed:

Date:

.....  
DAVID MANNING, MBE, DPS, QPM  
CONTROLLER



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**OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER**  
**NO.4 CUSTOMS DUTIES 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. All incoming medical supplies procured on behalf of the Government of Papua New Guinea to enable testing, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19, are hereby exempted from all customs duties and other import duties until the end of the Declaration of a Pandemic under the Act.
2. The medical supplies referred to in paragraph 1 are exempted from the provisions under the relevant tax legislation to the extent necessary to give effect to these Measures.
3. All medical supplies shall be given priority and released without delay.
4. These Measures comes into effect 17 June 2020 and shall apply until the end of the Declaration of a Pandemic under the Act.

Signed:

Date:

  
 17/6/20

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DAVID MANNING, MBE, DPS, QPM  
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**OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER**  
**NO.5 COVID-19 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. No COVID-19 testing equipment shall be used to test for COVID-19, except:
  - a. as listed in Schedule 1; and
  - b. as authorised by the Controller.
  
2. No person or organization may conduct COVID-19 testing, except:
  - a. as listed in Schedule 2; and
  - b. as authorised in writing by the Controller.
  
3. No COVID-19 test results shall be released by any person or organization without the express written authorisation of the Controller.
  
4. All persons or organisations that conduct any form of Covid-19 test must provide all tests results to the Controller within 24 hours of the result being known.
  
5. Non-compliance with these Measures shall be punishable in accordance with the Act.
  
6. Any Authorised Officer(s) appointed by the Controller pursuant to the Act, shall carry out and enforce these Measures accordingly.
  
7. This Measures comes into effect on 16 June 2020 and shall apply until the end of the Declaration of a Pandemic under the Act.

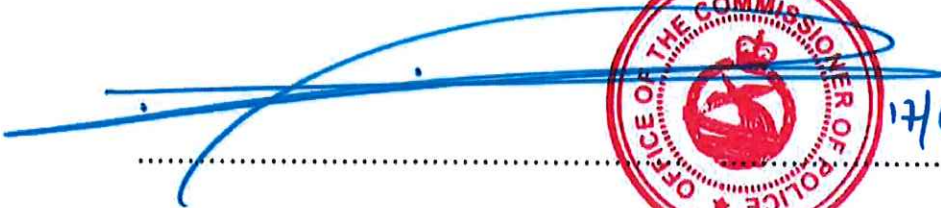



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Signed:

Date:

  
 17/6/20

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**Schedule 1 – COVID-19 Authorised Testing Equipment**

- Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction
- Gene Xpert
- Rapid Diagnostic Test

**Schedule 2 – Approved Persons and Organisations to Conduct COVID-19 Testing**

- National Department of Health
- Institute of Medical Research Papua New Guinea
- Provincial Health Authorities
- Port Moresby General Hospital
- St John Ambulance





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**OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER**  
**NO.6 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 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;



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- 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. For the purpose of these Measures, the delegate of the Controller is Ms. Rosheila Dagina, Surveillance Lead.
9. This Measure comes into effect on 17 June 2020 and shall apply until the end of the Declaration of a Pandemic under the Act.

Signed:

Date:

.....  
DAVID MANNING, MBE, DPS, QPM  
CONTROLLER





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**Schedule 1 – Definitions**

**National case definition for COVID-19 is:**

- a) a patient 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; and
- b) a patient 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; and
- c) a patient with severe acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g., cough, shortness of breath), requiring hospitalization/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 hospitalization/admission.



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**OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER**  
**NO.7 BUSINESS AND SOCIAL 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. No affiliated sporting codes shall train or participate in matches unless they have approval to do so from the PNG Sports Foundation.
2. PNG Sports Foundation shall be responsible for:
  - a. approving requests for affiliated bodies to resume training;
  - b. approving requests for affiliated sporting matches;
  - c. in consultation with the National Department of Health, setting protocols and guidelines for sporting clubs, teams and matches relating to COVID-19.
3. PNG Sports Foundation shall provide a weekly report by Friday 5pm to the Emergency Controller of any request submitted and the status of the request.
4. Local religious activities may continue to operate, but must adhere to the follow restrictions:
  - a. social distancing of at least 1.5 meters between each person;
  - b. all persons on entry and exist into the place of worship must wash their hands with soap or hand sanitiser; and
  - c. follow all other hygiene standards as issued by the Controller.
5. The following religious gatherings shall not occur:
  - a. Provincial church gatherings;
  - b. National church gatherings;
  - c. Crusades;
  - d. Conventions; and
  - e. Provincial or national outreach programs.
6. Licensed gambling venues may only operate on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.
7. Licensed nightclubs may only operate on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.
8. Licensed horse racing may only operate:



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- a. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays; and
  - b. only at venues listed in schedule 1.
9. An immediate ban is placed on gatherings of over 100 persons.
  10. Non-compliance with this order is unlawful and may be penalised under the Act or other applicable laws.
  11. Non-compliance with this measure should be reported to an authorised officer or the Provincial Police Commander.
  12. Any Authorised Officer(s) appointed by the Controller pursuant to the Act, shall carry out and enforce the measures accordingly.
  13. This measure comes into effect on 17 June 2020 and shall apply until the end of the Declaration of a pandemic under the Act

Signed:

Date:

.....  
DAVID MANNING, MBE, DPS, QPM  
CONTROLLER



17/6/20



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Schedule 1 – Horse Racing Venues

- Port Moresby
- Lae
- Mount Hagen