



Transcript

National Operations Centre COVID-19 Update

Update 6 of 2020

Presenter: Hon. Bryan Kramer – Minister for Police
Date: 26th March 2020 **Time:** 10:00am

First of all, I would like to confirm at this point in time, the Marape/Steven Government can confirm that there are no positive cases of COVID-19 PNG. The only positive case had been repatriated out of the country.

CONTRACT TRACING

Specific details of the contact tracing work will be provided later today.

SECURITY ISSUES

Emergency Controller will provide information on that later today.

DEFENCE FORCE DEPLOYEMENT

Emergency Controller will provide information on that later today.

COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT AT 10:00AM

To brief you on contact tracing and persons of interest, of the 29,078 passengers that came in since the 28th of January, they have monitored and tracked. From that total, the rapid response team identified 6,255 as persons of interest.

The criteria of a person becoming a person of interest at that time is all of the passengers that originated from High Risk countries like China, Taiwan, Italy and Spain. As the virus expanded throughout the globe, then anyone and everyone who flew into the country became a person of interest.

The persons of interest that were monitored successfully for 14 days was 2,166. Follow ups is 4,139. The numbers will be updated later today. As of 25th March 2020;

- Total persons of interest investigated was 32

- 16 tested negative
- 1 tested positive
- 13 lab test pending
- Persons of Interest
 - National Capital District – 2,317
 - Morobe – 246
 - New Ireland – 224
 - East New Britain – 90
 - West New Britain – 76 +38 = 114
 - Madang – 82
 - Hela – 68
 - Central – 72
 - Western Highlands – 55
 - Milne Bay – 37
 - East Sepik – 37
 - West Sepik – 30
 - Eastern Highlands – 66
 - Southern Highlands – 39
 - Manus – 11
 - Enga – 18
 - Jiwaka – 13
 - Northern – 11
 - Gulf – 8
 - Simbu – 8
 - Bougainville - 11
 - Unavailable – 700
 - Transit – 4

Again, this persons of interest that flew into the country since the 28th of January 2020. This are not persons of interest that demonstrated flu symptoms. We must be very clear on that.

You can see that the rapid response team and the task force have been diligently tracking, down to the province and following up after the 14 days they have come into the country. So those who came in the first two weeks of February and presented no symptoms, they are cleared.

Between all of those 29,078, one person of interest had the symptoms, was quarantined, tested and was confirmed positive. The rest did not demonstrate any serious symptoms; therefore, they are just being monitored as a precautionary measure. I still intend to provide the specific details of all the 77 passengers plus seven crew that were on the flight, as well the 13 passengers on the domestic flight.

Hopefully, lunch time today, we should receive the results from IMR, on those 15 that had direct contact with the index patient. To confirm the status of whether they test positive or not, since they had the first contact. When he was isolated, the company also isolated the 15 that came into contact with him.

If their test comes back negative, they will be released back into community, however if their test comeback positive, they will remain completely isolated and monitored.

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