



Keep Your Loved Ones Safe from COVID-19 this Christmas

News Release – 22 December 2021

The Controller of the National COVID-19 Response, and Commission of Police, David Manning, has called on all Papua New Guineans to be vigilant and careful not to spread COVID-19 as they return home this Christmas.

Mr. Manning said the reality for the country, and the world, is that COVID-19 is now a fact of life and all people must exercise caution as they move around.

“This is the time of year when our people look forward to going home to our villages and communities around our country,” the Controller said.

“Many of us wait all year until December so we can see those who have given us all so much in our lives, to repay their kindness and love by being home with them.

“But this year we must all be careful when we go home so that we do not take COVID-19 with us and make our loved ones sick or worse.

“COVID-19 has already killed many Papua New Guineans, and made tens of thousands of our people sick.

“We, as a people, have done a lot better than people in other countries around the world where more than five million people have died.

“There is no stopping COVID-19 right now, it is sadly here to stay. But every man and woman in our country has the power in their hands to slow the spread of COVID-19 and the disease that it causes.

“If you have any cold symptoms it is your responsibility to step back from family and loved ones so that you do not make them sick also. Then you must go to a health clinic and get a test to see if you have COVID-19.

“You really do not want to be spreading sickness in your community.”

Controller Manning said his message was particularly important for people who are travelling home on public transport and every passenger must take precautions.

“The airlines know the rules for passenger safety and they will ensure that these are followed.

“The greatest risk is if you are travelling home over road, particularly if you are going on a PMV or other public transport.



“Even if you do not feel that you have any symptoms, it is very important that you wear a facemask while you are on a bus.

“The reason is that most people who get COVID-19 do not even know they have it for a few days, but during this time they are spreading COVID-19 to other people.

“So it is best to play it safe and wear a mask and protect those around you.”

Mr. Manning said everyone must learn to live with it for the years to come and stay alive.

“Just because we have to live with COVID-19 does not mean that give up, it is totally the opposite.

“We must continue to fight for the health of our loved ones and do everything we can to keep them safe.

“The National Control Centre will continue to maintain its core functions working day and night over Christmas and New Year to keep our people safe.

“But we call on all of our people around the Nation to join with us, to do the right thing, and keep you family and friends safe from COVID-19 this Christmas.

“I take this moment to wish every Papua New Guinean a most Blessed and safe Christmas.

“May this time bring you and your family joy and peace, and may you stay safe during this challenging time in our history as we face this global pandemic together.”

A large, bold, black handwritten signature.

David Manning, MBE, O.St.J, DPS, QPM
Controller, COVID-19 National Control Centre
Commissioner of Police