



**PAPUA NEW GUINEA
JOINT AGENCY TASK FORCE
NATIONAL OPERATIONS CENTRE 19
(JATFNOC19)**



**STATE OF EMERGENCY
OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER**

CONTROLS AND GUIDELINES TO SUPPORT SAFER OPERATION OF MARKETS

I, Commissioner David Manning, Emergency Controller, by virtue of the *Emergency (General Provisions) (COVID 19) Act 2020 (Act)*, hereby issue the following direction deemed necessary to ensure safer operation of markets during covid 19.

PURPOSE

The following mandatory controls and recommended guidelines for safer market operations are proposed to assist in the prevention and reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19. Keeping markets open will assist with food security across the country and maintain income in rural areas.

In line with any directive from the SoE Controller to allow for markets to resume trading, relevant authorities and persons operating markets are required to comply with the following mandatory conditions. Failure to comply will result in market closure.

MANDATORY CONTROLS

Markets are advised of the following mandatory controls:

1. All markets must operate in adherence to physical distancing requirements and safe and hygienic practices.
2. All markets must be accessible and safe for all market participants including people with disability, women, children, older people and vulnerable people.
3. Potable water (mains supply or tank) must be available for handwashing, washing of fresh produce and market cleaning.
4. Every point of entry and exit must be controlled.
5. Markets must designate separate entry and exit points if none currently exist, in order to control numbers of people in the market and hand washing at entry and exit.
6. At every point of entry there must be hand washing facilities with soap and hand sanitizer. Temporary hand washing stations must be established if none currently exist.
7. All persons entering the market must have their hands sanitized or wash their hands with soap for at least 20 seconds.



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8. Persons who are sick, have flu, cold or fever must not enter the market. Persons refused entry must be treated respectfully and directed to return home and to seek medical advice.
9. Physical distancing practices must be implemented. These include:
 - I. Limiting the numbers of vendors and customers in the market at any point in time in order to maintain physical distancing of 1.5m between each person
 - II. Vendor stalls must be clearly marked with at least 2 metres separating each stall
10. Hygiene practices must be implemented. This includes:
 - I. All rubbish must be removed and properly disposed of daily
 - II. Markets must be cleaned and disinfected daily
 - III. Buai chewing spitting, smoking and eating are prohibited within the Market site
 - IV. Areas for the sale of fresh produce, fresh fish, meat, cooked food must be separated.
 - V. Toilets, where they exist, must also have hand sanitiser and/or washing facilities attached.
11. Covid-19 awareness communications materials must be displayed prominently at all entry points and within the market site.
12. Monitoring of markets by the relevant authority (Provincial authority, District authority, or local level landowners), must be undertaken to ensure these mandatory controls are applied and the recommended measures outlined in the guidelines are being implemented.

RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are recommended to compliment the mandatory controls and to minimise the risk of the spread of Covid 19. The guidelines do not provide detailed advice on improving the safe operation of markets or improving safe food handling and hygiene practices at markets. For more comprehensive information refer to *Additional Information and Resources* list below.

Physical Distancing

The number of people in the market at any point in time should allow for enough spacing (at least 1.5 metres) between people. Limiting the number of people in the market site at any point in time requires monitoring inside the market site and controlling the flow of foot traffic at entry and exit points.

Temporary fencing and signage may be required to guide the flow of foot traffic through controlled entry and exit points.

Temperature checking of all persons entering the market can assist in identifying one of the symptoms of covid-19.

Market Vendor Spacing



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Market authorities are required to outline appropriate spacing to allow a minimum of 2 metres between each stall.

To accommodate physical distancing requirements, consider:

- I. rotation of vendors eligible to utilise the Market facility. For example: vendor A and vendor B eligible to trade on alternate days or dedicated shifts for women vendors or half the vendors coming in the morning and then the other half coming in the afternoon. Consider allocating vendors eligible trading days or shifts in line with transport considerations.
- II. prioritising the sale of fresh produce and food and temporarily restricting trade of non-fresh food items.
- III. providing a separate dedicated area for wholesale operations at markets
- IV. establishing separate entry and exit points for Vendors and Customers

Market Trading Hours

As per the applicable local market hours conditional upon meeting the mandatory controls for safe access for all market participants and safe hygiene practices. Consider the following:

- I. Trading hours should allow for early arrival, wash down and setup for Vendors and a later entry time for customers. Note: Vendors should be encouraged to arrive early to allow for Market authorities/coordinators to supervise seating/stall arrangements compliant with physical distancing.
- II. Closing time should allow for thorough cleaning, disinfecting and market closure procedures with consideration for the safety of the cleaning and shut down staff.
- III. Consider providing a dedicated shopping opportunity for vulnerable people, especially older persons (the most vulnerable to Covid-19), people with disability, women and children. For example, one day a week of dedicated market access to vulnerable people only or dedicate the first hour or two of trading each day/alternate days to vulnerable people.

Hygiene Practices

Clean water must always be available for hand washing, produce wash down and cleaning. Where mains water supply is not available tank storage of potable water should be provided.

Soap must be available at all hand washing facilities. Hand wash stations and/or hand sanitiser must be established at market entry points and should be established as a priority at toilets (where they exist).

Fresh produce should be washed prior to entering the market. Hand washing and wash down of fresh produce should be kept separated.

Both hand washing facilities and separate fresh produce wash stations should be established at vendor entry points.

Construction of temporary hand wash and produce wash down facilities should consider water supply and adequate drainage.



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The physical layout of the market should aim to prevent contamination and promote adherence to good hygiene practices. Fresh produce, fresh fish, meat and cooked food should be sold in separated dedicated areas.

Ideally, vendors should be trained in safe preparation and handling of cooked food. Food purchased in the market cannot be eaten in the market.

To improve food safety and reduce the public health risks, promote cooling of all raw meats, fish and poultry through refrigeration, storage on ice, preferably below 5°C, or at least protection from sunlight and heat.

Do not leave cooked food at room temperature for more than 2 hours. Cooked food should be refrigerated promptly (below 5°C).

Vendors should be encouraged to handle money hygienically. One option is for vendors to keep buckets of water with detergent/disinfectant to keep the money in so that it is cleaned upon receipt and when giving cash change to customers.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Rubbish removal and proper disposal must happen daily and should happen more frequently during the trading day if possible and as required.

Bins should be provided across the markets and market monitors should ensure rubbish is disposed of properly.

End of day cleaning steps should include 1. Rubbish removal, 2. Wash down of surfaces (with hot soapy water if possible), 3. Sanitising with disinfectant with a focus on all food contact surfaces and areas of high use.

Cleaning and disinfecting must be undertaken daily and more frequently if possible.

Raising Covid 19 awareness

Markets are key hubs for community interaction, participation and information sharing. Markets provide opportunities for broad dissemination of public health messaging to raise awareness of Covid 19 and influence behaviours to reduce the risk of Covid 19 transmission.

Markets are encouraged to utilise all available means for communication of GoPNG approved Covid 19 awareness messaging. This may include for example the use of loud hailers, public announcement systems, radio broadcasting, banners, posters, signage, leaflets.

Market Monitoring & Coordination

To ensure safe access to markets for all vendors and customers, in particular women, children, people with disability and vulnerable people the following should be considered:

- i. Involvement of vendors in monitoring will strengthen compliance with these controls. Vendors need to understand the importance of the controls and agree compliance.



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- II. Increased security presence and market coordination presence throughout the trading day with a focus on the early morning pre-opening period for Vendors, opening time for customers and closing times.
- III. Security, coordination and monitoring should be conducted with respect for human rights and in a non-violent manner.
- IV. Secure storage of all hygiene products and equipment e.g. soap, sanitisers and cleaning products and equipment etc.
- V. Increased monitoring of markets from the relevant Provincial or District authorities to identify and manage key risks of market operations.
- VI. Transport constraints and opportunities to ensure safe access to and from the markets for Vendors and Customers
- VII. With additional security in markets, women can be more vulnerable to sexual harassment and abuse. Therefore, there should be training of security guards in respectful working relationships with vendors and customers and promotion of the 1-Tok Kaunselin help line for referrals to police or gender-based violence service support.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

For further information about operating safe, healthy and effective Markets contact UN Women on 321 9855.


Covid -19 awareness communication materials are available for download at <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/index.php/covid-19-awareness/> or contact contactus@covid19.info.gov.pg

For health information call the Covid 19 Hotline on +675 7196 0813 or 1800 200

For counselling and support call the 1-Tok Kaunselin Help Line on: 7150 8000

Additional resources:

UN Women, 'Guidelines for the prevention of COVID-19 infection in marketplaces' 2020
World Health Organisation, 'A Guide to Healthy Food Markets' 2006
Codex Alimentarius – standards, guidelines and other recommendations
World Health Organisation, 'Essential safety requirements for street-vended food'


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Emergency Controller
Cc: **A/DCP Administration**
A/DCP Operations
First Assistant Secretary

DATE: 3 June 2020

