



National Emergency Order No.37

COVID-19 Surveillance & Testing

I, Commissioner David Manning, Emergency Controller, by virtue of the Emergency (General Provisions) (COVID 19) Act 2020 (Act), hereby issue the following emergency orders for immediate implementation:

1. The following terms are defined in Schedule 1 of this Order:

National case definition for COVID-19; and

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 Emergency Controller or his delegate, including:

- a. case investigation forms for all suspected COVID-19 cases per paragraph 2 of this Order;



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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);
 - 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 Emergency 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 this Emergency Order, the delegate of the Emergency Controller is Ms. Rosheila Dagina, Surveillance Lead.
9. This Emergency Order comes into effect immediately and shall apply until the end of the National Emergency.

David Manning MBE, DPS QPM
Emergency Controller



DATE: 17/5/20



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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.