

Manning: Pandemic Measures Undergoing Review as PNG Continues to Re-open the Economy and Manage Response

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The Controller of PNG's COVID-19 response, David Manning, has advised the Nation that a review of all current Pandemic Measures is currently underway with revisions to be announced over the coming week.

Mr. Manning said the shape of the global COVID-19 Pandemic is evolving, and PNG must adapt to these changes while at the same time continuing to reopen the economy and return life back to normal as much as is possible.

"It is almost two years since COVID-19 was first detected in Papua New Guinea, and we have all learned a lot during this time in the way we manage our National response," Mr. Manning said.

"The Government has been careful to balance both the health and safety of our people and the economic security of our nation.

"The Prime Minister has reassured the Nation that in 2022 we will continue to reopen our country and our economy.

"We must continue to advance an environment where business can to grow and employ more people.

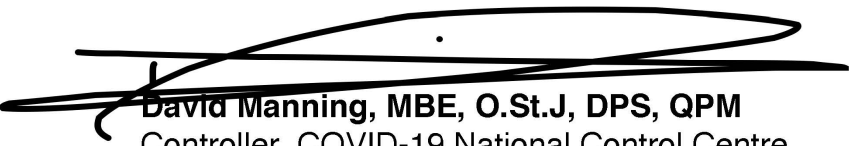
"As part of our evolving response, over the coming week every Pandemic Measure that is currently in place is undergoing a deep assessment and review.

"This covers all areas including travel and transportation, business and social measures, testing, vaccinations and quarantine measures.

"The direction given to me by the Prime Minister is clear, that now is not the time for increasing restrictions. Now is the time for the refinement of measures that facilitate our response to the OMICRON variant and any future emerging strain.

"There is no doubt that COVID-19 continues to pose a serious threat to our country and our way of life, and the Pandemic will pose new challenges during 2022 so we must be flexible.

"The reality is that we all have to live with COVID-19 for now, in Papua New Guinea and around the world, this is a fact of life and everyone has a part to play in reducing exposure and managing infections."



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