

This Situation Report is jointly issued by PNG National Department of Health and World Health Organization once weekly. This Report is not comprehensive and covers information received as of reporting date.

Situation Summary and Highlights

- ❑ As of 3 January 2021 (12:00 pm), there have been 799 COVID-19 cases and nine COVID-19 deaths reported in Papua New Guinea. From the period of 28 December to 3 January, there have been 18 new cases: 8 from East New Britain, 7 from West New Britain, and 1 each from Western Province, Central Province, and New Ireland. The total number of provinces that have reported COVID-19 cases to date is sixteen.
- ❑ On 31st Dec 2020 the controller imposed 14-day restriction (lockdown) on West New Britain following spike in COVID-19 cases and a curfew from 10pm to 5am daily;
- ❑ NCC is being reviewed all 12 directives issued in 2020 to be updated and it will be issued this week;
- ❑ On 3rd Jan 2021, the controller has issued directives to Airline operators for flights into and out of West New Britain Province to resume flights into and out of the West New Britain Province to enable stranded passengers to return home within 5 days.

Table 1. COVID-19 IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA¹

	New Cases (28 December 2020 to 3 January 2021)	Cumulative Total
National Capital District	0	361
Western	1	211
West New Britain	7	140
East New Britain	8	21
Eastern Highlands	0	13
New Ireland	1	13
Central	1	10
Western Highlands	0	10
Morobe	0	6
East Sepik	0	3
Enga	0	3
Milne Bay	0	2
West Sepik	0	2
AROB	0	1
Hela	0	1
Southern Highlands	0	1
TOTAL	18	799

¹ As of 04/01/2021, 12:00 pm, PNG time

Table 2. COVID-19 GLOBAL AND REGIONAL UPDATE²

	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Global	83 322 449	1 831 412
Western Pacific	1 112 719	20 288

² WHO COVID-19 Dashboard as of 04/01/2021, 6:15 pm CET

National Transmission Assessment

3 – Large-scale community transmission

Despite low rates of testing nationally, there are cases with no epidemiological links reported in PNG, particularly in West New Britain, Western Province, and NCD. Nationally, PNG remains in Stage 3 – large scale community transmission. Between 28 December 2020 and 3 January 2021, 18 newly confirmed cases have been reported from five provinces (8 from East New Britain, 7 from West New Britain, and 1 each from Western Province, Central Province, and New Ireland). Sixteen out of 22 provinces, including the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, have reported one or more cases since March 2020. With ongoing delays to swabbing, receiving test results, and increased travel and mass gatherings over the holiday period, cases are expected to continue to increase over the next few weeks.

Epi Update COVID-19

Tests	Cases	Deaths	ICU Admissions
430	18	0	0
NAT Tests past 7 days	New cases past 7days	Deaths past 7days	ICU Admissions past 7 days
39922	799	9	9
Cumulative NAT Tests	Cumulative Cases	Cumulative Deaths	Cumulative ICU Admissions
0	16	3*	unknown*
Imported Cases in past 28 days	Cases in past 7 days with no link	Active Clusters in the past 7 days	Active clusters with >3 generations

*Case investigation ongoing

Epidemiology

Figure 1. Epidemiological Curve of COVID-19 Cases in Papua New Guinea, 15 March 2020 to 3 January 2021

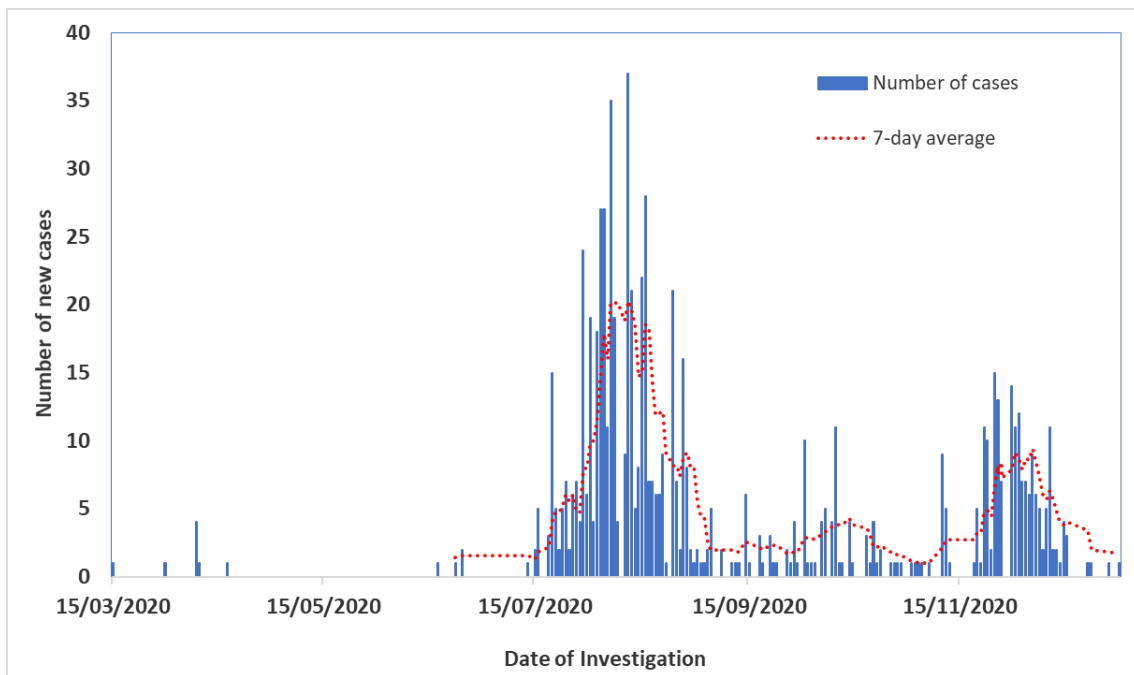
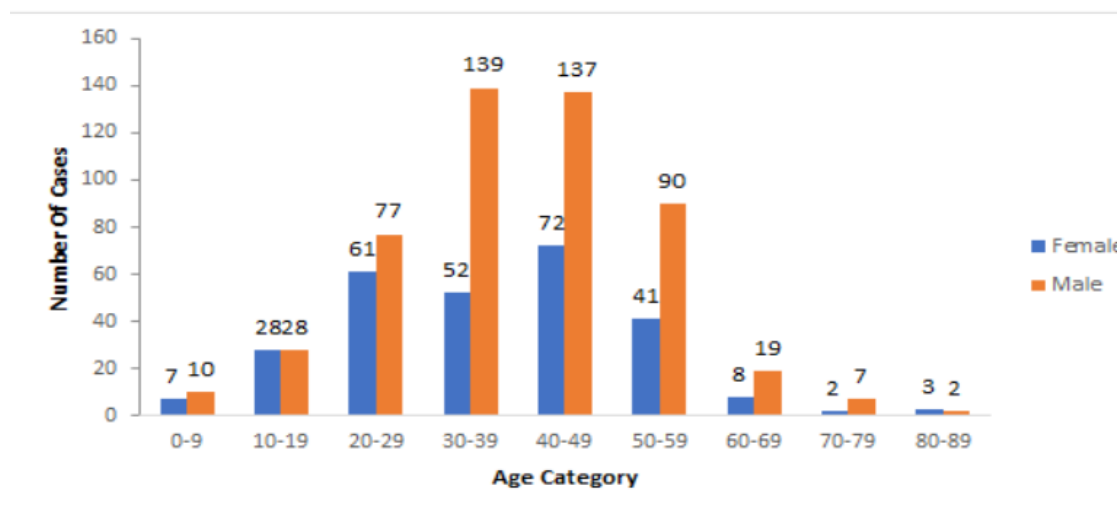


Figure 2. COVID-19 Cases by Age-Group and Sex in Papua New Guinea, 15 March 2020 to 3 January 2021



- For the period of 27 December to 3 January, the COVID-19 National Hotline received 2,400 calls. Of these, 28 (about 1.2%) were health-related calls. Fourteen (14) of these were referred to Rapid Response Team/PHA. As of 4 January, the hotline had received a total of 144,564 calls. Of these, 4,884 (3.4%) were health-related calls. A total of 1,642 calls were referred to Rapid Response Team/PHAs.
- Papua Province in Indonesia is continuously reporting COVID-19 cases in areas that border Sandaun and Western Provinces. While the border is officially closed, traditional border crossing continues, and the threat of case importation remains high. As of 3 January, Papua Province has reported a total of 6,027 confirmed cases and 100 deaths among people who confirmed to have COVID-19 by RT-PCR (data accessible at <https://dinkes.papubaratprov.go.id/>).

Table 3. Persons Screened by Point of Entry

Total Number of Travelers Screened before SOE (until 22 March)		29,387
Total Number of Travelers Screened during SOE (23 March – 16 June)		3,788
Total Number of Travelers Screened after SOE (17 June – 19 December)	Air	11,688
	Sea	671
	Land	6
	Total	12,355

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