



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

Situation Summary and Highlights

- As of 12 December, PNG has officially reported a cumulative total of 35,956 confirmed cases of COVID-19 including 587 confirmed deaths.
- 6 new COVID cases reported including 1 known deaths in the past 24 hours.
- Delta cases were reported, increasing the cumulative number of delta cases in country to 599.
- Over 216,547 people are fully vaccinated, representing 11.6% of the government’s 20% target for 2021 Phase I COVID-19 vaccinations. Over 282,964 people have been vaccinated with at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Cluster Updates & Priorities

Surveillance:

- 6 new cases and 0 known deaths today, running total number of cases at 35,962 and confirmed deaths at 587 this week.
- 17% of the newly reported cases were in the last 24 hours while 83% were in the last 6 days.
- Continue work on strengthening provincial and national level routine surveillance, to ensure reporting is able to provide a timely reflection of current COVID activity, trends and also support in providing technical advice.
- Priority is to current priority is to continue to ensure surveillance systems and reporting mechanisms are in place to be able to detect changes in case activity during and after the festive season, and in the context of the globally emerging Omicron VOC.

Table 1. Reported COVID-19 cases in PNG¹ (13 Dec 2021)

| Province | New Cases | Deaths | Cumulative Delta Variant | Cumulative Total |
|--------------|-----------|----------|--------------------------|------------------|
| NCD | 1 | | 196 | 9308 |
| Western | | | 43 | 3610 |
| WH | 1 | | 4 | 2722 |
| Morobe | 1 | | 79 | 2490 |
| EH | | | 22 | 2155 |
| ENB | 1 | | 28 | 2192 |
| Madang | | | 4 | 1267 |
| WNB | | | 32 | 1227 |
| MB | | | 3 | 1212 |
| Simbu | | | 14 | 1058 |
| Enga | 1 | | 4 | 1046 |
| SH | 1 | | | 1039 |
| WS | | | 15 | 905 |
| Central | | | 7 | 820 |
| ARoB | | | 67 | 774 |
| Hela | | | 31 | 760 |
| NI | | | 11 | 801 |
| ES | | | 16 | 688 |
| Manus | | | 11 | 626 |
| Jiwaka | | | 10 | 475 |
| Northern | | | 2 | 421 |
| Gulf | | | | 366 |
| TOTAL | 6 | 0 | 599 | 35962 |

¹ As of 13/12/2021, 12:00 pm, PNG time

Table 2. COVID-19 GLOBAL AND REGIONAL UPDATE^{2b}

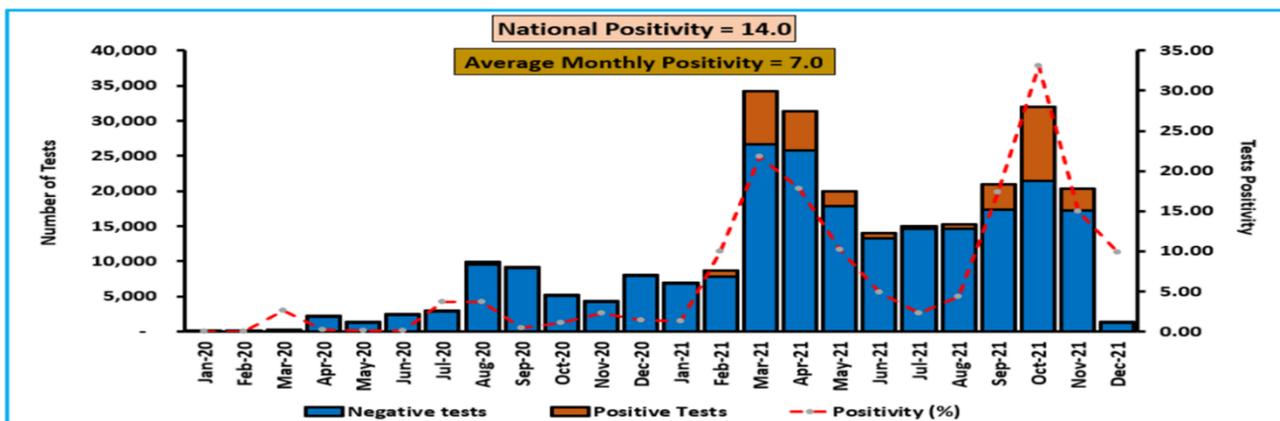
| | Confirmed Cases | Deaths |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Global | 270 438 252 | 5 322 070 |
| Western Pacific | 10 609 920 | 148 106 |

² WHO COVID-19 Dashboard as of 12/12/2021, 22:45 CEST

Figure 1: Surveillance snapshot 12 December 2021

- From all 6 reported cases;
 - 83.33% were in the last 6 days,
 - 16.67% were in the last 24 hours
- No death reported today

Figure 1. Epidemiological curve of total COVID-19 cases in Papua New Guinea as of 12th December 2021



Clinical Management and Infection Prevention Control:

- On-going support in clinical management and IPC, risk communication messaging, vaccine awareness and biomedical assistance by international medical team (Team UK Med, Team Cadus and Team NZ-Med/Response Global) in East New Britain, Western Highlands and AROB PHAs respectively.
- Met with NCD PHA senior management to address IPC issues in NCD, referral pathways and home isolation monitoring. Accompanying single pager job aids and other PNG specific guidelines for clinical management and infection prevention and control (IPC) for COVID-19 can be obtained by contacting bpr@who.int.
- Conducted weekly meetings with the Correctional Services TWG to provide technical advice on Covid-19 clinical pathways and IPC requirements in prisons. Fortnightly prison's SITREP are also published by the Covid-19 Committee.
- A meeting was held with senior management of NCDPHA to present the findings of Gerehu Hospital IPC assessment. Steps to strengthen IPC needs within NCD PHA health facilities were also discussed. IPC guidelines can be further obtained at this link <https://www.health.gov.pg/subindex.php?news=3>. The whole list of IPC SOPs and guidelines can be obtained by contacting azzouzc@who.int.



Niupla Pasin (NP):

- Total of 21 event requests including 3 event assessments were received by Niupela Pasin team this week. All 21 requests were assessed and granted approval with advice on strong adherence plans on NPIs/public health, social measures (PHSM) including approved SOPs in place.
- Continue distribution of IEC materials to the provinces and followed up with provinces for their budget plans and provincial NP officers.

Logistics and Supplies:

- Debriefed with New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) on the distribution of the surge kits.
- SOH (stock on Hand) and pipeline updated after the final surge kits and cargos were sent to provinces.
- Received 600,000 masks, exemption letter submitted, and clearance process to be finalized this week.
- UNDP supported the NCC supply team in the setup of the 2 new offices and 2 ablution units.
- Worked on approved modification of the next Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) oxygen plant in East New Britain, due to the special saline environment and humidity. Continued work on PSA Plant in Port Moresby General Hospital.



Quarantine & Points of Entry:

- 81 international travellers under quarantine as of the 10th December 2021.
- There was two reported COVID19 cases of international travellers during this reporting period. Investigations done and travellers are in quarantine.

Table 3. Persons Screened by Point of Entry

| | | |
|--|--------|--------|
| Total Number of Travelers Screened before SOE (Until 22 March 2020) | 29,387 | |
| Total Number of Travelers Screened during SOE (23 March – 16 June 2020) | 3,788 | |
| Total Number of Travelers Screened after SOE (17 June 2020 – 11 December 2021) | Air | 34,090 |
| | Sea | 1,634 |
| | Land | 6 |

National Vaccination Rollout

- Over 216,547 people are fully vaccinated, representing 11.6% of the government's 20% target for 2021 Phase I COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Over 282,964 people have been vaccinated with at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Figure 3: Total doses administered by vaccine type

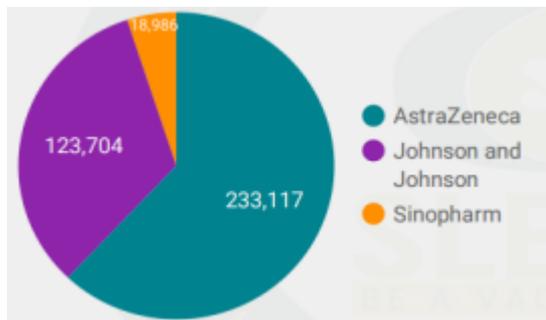
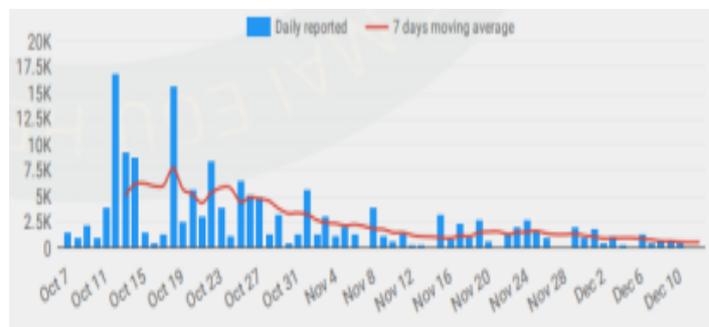


Figure 4: Daily reported number of doses administered



National and Provincial Health Update

- The Pandemic Response Coordination Group and the Health Operations Team continued to meet regularly at the National Control Centre.
- Full details of all containment measures can be found at www.covid19.info.gov.pg

Partner Coordination Activities

- The Health Cluster meeting was held on the 7th December. Please email osheaj@who.int if you or your organisation wishes to join the cluster meetings and present activities. These meetings are strategic and are used to align all partner activities.
- Currently, NCDPHA, WNBPHA and WPHA have expressed interest or are holding weekly partner coordination meetings via zoom. If PHA's wish to engage in similar meetings, please contact osheaj@who.int who can assist in facilitating this.
- Partners are also advised that there will be a shared drive created for direct updates for health cluster members to update each week. This will be shared post the Health Cluster meetings each fortnight.
- The next health cluster meeting will be held on the 25th January, 2022 at 1pm PNG Time.

For more information about this Situation Report, please contact:

Dr Daoni Esorom
Deputy Pandemic Controller
National Department of Health
Email: daoniesorom@gmail.com
Mobile: +675-7231 3983

Mr Jack O'Shea
Deputy Incident Manager
Health Cluster Coordinator, WHO
Email: osheaj@who.int