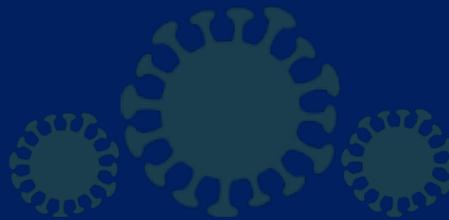




# COVID-19

## National Capital District Provincial Response Plan



PREPARED BY:

The COVID-19 NCD PROVINCIAL TASK FORCE

SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2020



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## BACKGROUND

The National Capital District of Port Moresby is taking immediate, significant and decisive action to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. The Covid-19 NCD Provincial Response Plan is a working document outlining measures to be taken by the National Capital District Commission. All measures and preparations are in line with the National Government Response Plan. The strategies in this document will be adopted by the National Governments State of Emergency Plan.

The Covid-19 NCD Provincial Response Plan will address seven areas:

1. Health
2. Education & Awareness
3. Security
4. Economy
5. Public Transport
6. Logistics and Procurement
7. Vulnerable People

To implement this plan, the NCD Task Force has consulted all stakeholders in the city representing the NCDC, NDOH, PHA, POMGH, RPNGC, POMCCI, St. John's Ambulance, MP's for Moresby South, North East, NEC, MKA Chairman, Eda Ranu, PNG Power, Telikom, PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum, PNG Sports Foundation and others, to ensure that the Provincial goals and are achieved.

Essential services both public and private in the city like water, power and telecommunications both public and private will run as usual. There will be no disruptions to essential services.





## GOALS

The goals of the Covid-19 NCD Provincial Response Plan are to:

- Contain the virus and maintain high levels of normalcy for city residents;
- Provide the best care to those who are infected, including adequate isolation, for high risk and vulnerable people; and,
- Protect health workers and frontline response personal.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Covid-19 NCD Provincial Response Plan is expected to result in:

- The adequate dissemination of information and awareness on what is COVID-19, its dangers and, how to prevent it, particularly for high-risk and vulnerable people;
- Citizens practicing preventative measures such as increased personal hygiene and social distancing;
- Cooperation and collaboration from business houses and micro-, small-, and medium-enterprises including street sellers;
- Security being maintained and the police working in line with the Covid-19 NCD Provincial Response Plan;
- Schools and colleges returning to normalcy as soon as possible;
- A provincial pandemic response plan template for the future;
- A flattened infection curve and return to the “green zone” as soon as possible;
- The prevention of stigma and discrimination of infected people;
- The prevention of panic, hysteria and the spread of misinformation;
- The Covid-19 NCD Provincial Response Plan being upgraded to a regional response plan that will include Central and Gulf Province;
- An enabling environment for essential businesses continuity to support COVID 19 efforts; and,
- Help to the business community to recover post lift on COVID 19.





## RESPONSE PLAN

### 1. HEALTH

Health Care is separated into two main areas Preventative and Curative:

#### A. Preventative

Education and awareness will be focused on the non-pharmacological stage, where emphasis will be placed on specific actions citizens can take to protect themselves and their families, and help contain the spread of COVID-19. The key message is: “Stop the Spread”. These personal actions will be emphasized in a large-scale education and awareness campaign focused more particularly on high-risk and vulnerable populations. Specific actions highlighted include:

- Wash your hands frequently and for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or hand sanitizers after contact with surfaces or people;
- Avoid touching your eye, nose and mouth;
- Cover your cough using the bend of your elbow or a tissue;
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Stay at home if you feel unwell;
- Stop shaking of hands;
- Keep socially distant, a minimum of 2m apart;
- Avoid big crowds;
- STOP all church gatherings; and,
- STOP all schools as directed by the NEC.

Further detailed can be seen in the Education and Awareness section of this document.





## B. Curative

Curative action focuses on case treatment and addresses actions to be taken when cases are presented to our health facilities. Health

### 1. Triage and Screening of common symptoms

All urban clinics, church health facilities and private hospital facilities will triage and screen all cases of common flu symptoms. All common symptoms like flu, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath and fever will be identified and tested.

Testing will segregate Covid-19 cases.

Health Workers must wear masks and practice all necessary preventative measures while triaging cases. Health workers will be properly trained and educated to ensure due care for themselves and their patients.

### 2. Continuity of all Routine Services at Urban Clinics

All other routine health services must be maintained. To reduce pressure on health services, some routine case reviews of patients with TB, HIV/AIDS and other disease that require regular medication, can be scaled down by ensuring patients have adequate supplies for several months. This will also protect vulnerable groups from exposure.

### 3. Covid-19 Isolation Centre

The COVID-19 Assessment and Isolation Centre will be located at the Rita Flynn Indoor Sports Complex where more detailed checks, tests and treatment will be ensured. Isolation can be done within the same facility.

All necessary physical and structural developments and improvements to the facility will be undertaken based on the specific needs and requirements of the facility. All medical and support service components of the facility will be catered for accordingly.

The facility will have a detailed set of Standard Operating Procedures and operational guidelines both with respect to Health and all other support services. The Port Moresby General Hospital and its dedicated team of health workers prepared a well-considered Emergency Response Plan which will be adapted where necessary and used accordingly. No COVID-19 case will be sent to PMGH in order to prevent vulnerable and high-risk groups from potential contamination.





Workers in the Covid-19 Isolation Centre will be in full PPE and offered a high standard of protection to ensure their safety. A detailed standard operating procedures (SOP) will be prepared for the Isolation Centre.

Testing will be practiced at this center to rule out all likely cases before being exposed back to the public.

Patients at this center will be accorded a high level of care and will be protected from stigma and discrimination at all cost.

#### **4. Movement of Covid-19 Cases**

As much as possible, we intend to limit movement of suspected cases and confirmed Covid-19 cases. The Isolation Center will serve as a one stop shop for all necessary checks, testing, isolation and treatment.

There are exemptions that may allow for the movement of patients. These include:

- When a patient develops complications and needs intensive care at the tertiary level health facility (PMGH)
- When cases increase in numbers and need to be transferred to another back up facility like; Bomana CIS Training Centre, Laloki hospital or Bomana Refugee/Detention Centre

In this instance the St. Johns Ambulance will be tasked to carry out the movement of all Covid-19 cases from one location to another under very strict guidelines.

All other details will be built around these procedures and orders of operations.





## 2. EDUCATION & AWARENESS

### A. Education and Awareness

Education and Awareness Campaign will focus on curbing the spread of COVID-19 in the Province. St John Ambulance will provide a WHO approved and NDOH endorsed “Training of Trainer” program for organizations and communities in the city.

### B. Training

All “Training of Trainers” program will be conducted by St John’s Ambulance for trainers who will then train others in their organizations, suburbs or communities. Selected community leaders will be selected to undergo the Training of the Trainers program.

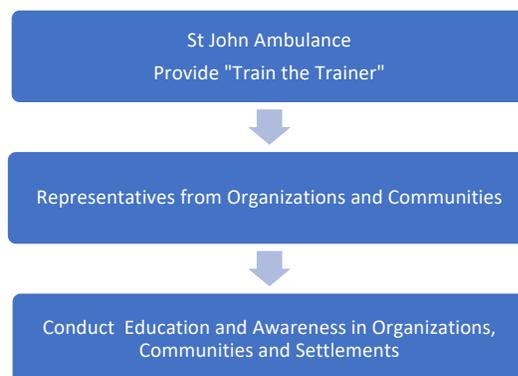
### C. Awareness

Awareness will be conducted under the guidance and supervision of officers from Active City Development Program and Training Division of NCDC. There will be five groups of awareness teams per electorate which will consist a total number of fifteen groups conducting awareness throughout the city.

The Motu-koita Assembly Awareness Team will work together with the core team to cover Motu-Koita villages.

The Active Cities Development Program and the National Capital District Commission staff will be trained as trainers by St. John Ambulance and will provide key community support in all aspects of the Education and Awareness campaign.

### D. Education and Awareness Process





**E. NCD AWARENESS AND TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR COVID-19 - 2020 SCHEDULE**

| MONTH | PARTICULARS | DATES |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
|-------|-------------|-------|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|
|       |             | 1     | 2  | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |  |
| MAR   | DAY         | S     | M  | T | W | T | F | S | S | M | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M  | T  |  |
|       | TRAINING    |       |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
|       | AWARENESS   |       |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
| APRIL | DAY         | W     | T  | F | S | S | M | T | W | T | F  | S  | S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M  | T  |    |    |    |  |
|       | TRAINING    |       |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
|       | AWARENESS   |       |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
| MAY   | DAY         | W     | T  | F | S | S | M | T | W | T | F  | S  | S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  |  |
|       | TRAINING    |       |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
|       | AWARENESS   |       |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
| JUNE  | DAY         | S     | S  | M | T | W | T | F | S | S | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  |    |  |
|       | TRAINING    |       | L3 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
|       | AWARENESS   |       |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
| JULY  | DAY         | M     | T  | W | T | F | S | S | M | T | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M  | T  | W  |  |
|       | TRAINING    |       |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
|       | AWARENESS   |       |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
| AUG   | DAY         | T     | F  | S | S | M | T | W | T | F | S  | S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  |    |  |
|       | TRAINING    |       |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
|       | AWARENESS   |       |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |



**North-West**



**North-East**



**South**



## Schedule for Education and Awareness Program

| No | Facilitator(s) | Electorates | Training/Awareness |
|----|----------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1  | ACDP & NCDC    | North East  | Training/Awareness |
| 2  | ACDP & NCDC    | North East  | Training/Awareness |
| 3  | ACDP & NCDC    | North West  | Training/Awareness |
| 4  | ACDP & NCDC    | North West  | Training/Awareness |
| 5  | ACDP & NCDC    | South       | Training/Awareness |
| 6  | ACDP & NCDC    | South       | Training/Awareness |

### F. Communications

Media outlets particularly radios stations, daily newspapers and Television outlets will be used to disseminate information. Telecommunication companies operating and based in the city should be utilized to disseminate information to clients/users and general public.

Two (2) hours in a day will be assigned specifically by media outlets to broad cast awareness information on how to slow the spread of CODIV 19. PMV's , Business outlets, SMES, Billboards should be utilized to disseminate information through the city.

### G. Awareness Materials/Flyers and Brochures

Awareness material will be developed in the form of brochures/flyers/Posters to be displayed at shopping malls, public markets, in PMVs and clinics to be distributed to people.

Business houses should take the responsibility to develop awareness material. All material should be uniform and approved by the St John's Ambulance.

## 3. SECURITY

Police will comply to all the directions above and provide a list of their needs once the action plan is presented to them.

## 4. ECONOMY and BUSINESS

In order to protect the public and curb the spread of COVID-19, the following measures will be put in place on public vending:

1. All street vending with stop for two weeks effective March 23, 2020.
2. Public markets will be operational with social distancing and facilities for hand washing and sanitizing of market surface with bleach.
3. SME markets will be operational with social distancing and facilities for hand washing and sanitizing of market surface with bleach. All SMEs must abide by State of Emergency directives.

## **BUSINESS RESPONSE**

### **A. Advocacy**

The Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry (POMCCI) will act as the official conduit through which information will flow from the COVID 19 NCD Provincial Task Force to the business community.

POMCCI will disseminate for the business community:

- From the National Government and National Department of Health;
- From the World Health Organization and National Department of Health on the Universal Infection Control Measures;
- A clear referral pathway for persons with COVID 19 symptoms and contact persons.
- A list of testing facilities including; quarantine facilities; contact tracing process and awareness; and, emergency numbers.

### **B. Cooperation**

Business continuity of supply chains, transport and logistics of essential goods and services (domestic and international) are essential to the stability of the Province.

Provincial residents should be able to access public transport, shops, markets and fuel stations during the lockdown period as long as alcohol hand-sanitising and other good hygienic practices are implemented.

In line with the National Government's measure number 7, public transport providers must ensure that their vehicles are sanitized and operating within the restricted occupancy guidelines. Shops, banks markets and restaurants also are required to have alcohol sanitizing and other good hygienic practices.

As such, NCD will work with the business community to mitigate any problems.

Trading hours would be 8:00 am to 4:00 pm daily.

NDC will work in collaboration with the National Government and POMCCI to develop a recovery package for business once the health crisis is addressed.

## **5. PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

In order to protect the public and curb the spread of COVID-19, the following measures will be put in place on public transportation:



## 12 NDC COVID 19 RESPONSE PLAN

1. PMV will be permitted to operate as long as they comply with the social distance restriction of one person per seat and no standing passengers.
2. Bus owners will assume the responsibility to clean and sanitize their busses every hour and will not permit passengers who exhibit flu like symptoms.
3. Should PMVs not adhere to these measures, all PMVs will be cancelled and NCDC will use the 18 APEC buses for 14 days, with sanitizers available.
4. Operation timing will be contingent on the State of Emergency order.



## 6. LOGISTICS AND PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

The Logistics and Procurement Plan for Covid-19 covers the following key areas:

### A. Isolation Facility

- Isolation facility Infrastructure setup requirements will be provided;
- PPE (Personnel Protective Equipment) x 50 sets. These are WHO approved full gear that all health personnel will wear when dealing with suspect and positive cases at the Isolation facility; and,
- Ventilators x 10 sets.

### B. Testing Sites

Testing Site Infrastructure setup requirements will be provided including:

- 2000 Test kits;
- 200 Temperature Guns;
- 4000 masks; and,
- Other key supplies.

### C. Requirements for Public awareness teams:

- 200 T-Shirts to distinguish the awareness team and give them prominence during the awareness campaigns;
- 500 masks; and,
- Transport and fuel.

### D. Procurement and Logistics requirements for all Police operations to support the NCD Covid-19 Response Plan:

- Transport and fuel; and,
- Protection gear.





## **7. HIGH-RISK AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

- A. To protect the elderly and people with underlying medical conditions, testing, quarantine and treatment of infected people will happen only in the designated Isolation Facility only. Regular hospital wards will be kept free of any COVID-19 symptom demonstrating patient or visitor, and visitors more generally will be kept to a minimum.
  
- B. All the homeless people are considered vulnerable and would be removed from the streets.

## WHAT IS THE COVID-19 VIRUS

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus.

Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness.

**The best way to prevent and slow down transmission** is be well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads. Protect yourself and others from infection by washing your hands or using an alcohol based rub frequently and not touching your face.

The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it's important that you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow).

At this time, there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19. However, there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatments. WHO will continue to provide updated information as soon as clinical findings become available.



## BASIC PROTECTIVE MEASURES AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

Stay aware of the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak, available on the WHO website and through your national and local public health authority. Most people who become infected experience mild illness and recover, but it can be more severe for others. Take care of your health and protect others by doing the following:

### 1. Wash your hands frequently

Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.

**Why?** Washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand rub kills viruses that may be on your hands.

### 2. Maintain social distancing

Maintain at least 1-meter (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

**Why?** When someone coughs or sneezes they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain virus. If you are too close, you can breathe in the droplets, including the COVID-19 virus if the person coughing has the disease.

### 3. Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth

**Why?** Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and can make you sick.

### 4. Practice respiratory hygiene

Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.

**Why?** Droplets spread virus. By following good respiratory hygiene, you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19.

### 5. If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care

Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance. Follow the directions of your local health authority.

**Why?** National and local authorities will have the most up to date information on the situation in your area. Calling in advance will allow your health care



provider to quickly direct you to the right health facility. This will also protect you and help prevent spread of viruses and other infections.

## **6. Stay informed and follow advice given by your healthcare provider**

Stay informed on the latest developments about COVID-19. Follow advice given by your healthcare provider, your national and local public health authority or your employer on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

**Why?** National and local authorities will have the most up to date information on whether COVID-19 is spreading in your area. They are best placed to advise on what people in your area should be doing to protect themselves.

## **Protection measures for persons who are in or have recently visited (past 14 days) areas where COVID-19 is spreading**

7. Stay at home if you begin to feel unwell, even with mild symptoms such as headache and slight runny nose, until you recover.

**Why?** Avoiding contact with others and visits to medical facilities will allow these facilities to operate more effectively and help protect you and others from possible COVID-19 and other viruses.

8. **Seek medical advice promptly** if you develop fever, cough and difficulty breathing, as this may be due to a respiratory infection or other serious condition. Call in advance and tell your provider of any recent travel or contact with travelers.

**Why?** Calling in advance will allow your health care provider to quickly direct you to the right health facility. This will also help to prevent possible spread of COVID-19 and other viruses.



## CONCLUSION

NCDC remains committed to the health and welfare of our people. We will continue to act and take precautionary measures, not only for COVID-19, but also to address all infectious diseases or disaster outbreaks in the Province.

Let us all join together as “One People, One City” heading towards “One Future” and protect our city and our beloved nation as we move forward against this deadly virus.

NCDC would like to thank all the partners, especially the stakeholders, the private sector and all the individuals who have donated funds or equipment to support our country.

We would also like to sincerely thank POMGH, PHA, the police, all health workers and NCDC staff who work hard to provide the critical response and assurance to our people.

