

SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT



GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION UNIT

MEDIA RELEASE

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GOVERNMENT WARNS AGAINST STIGMATIZING QUARANTINED PERSONS

Government authorities have warned against stigmatizing healthy persons who are currently undergoing quarantine in Honiara centers.

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services issued a statement last night warning that stigma or discrimination will encourage the spread of COVID-19 in communities because it will cause fear to those who are sick, and they will hide their illness to avoid discrimination.

The statement further warned that stigma will stop people from seeking immediate health care and it will discourage people from adopting healthy behavior and advice.

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a virus and this virus can infect anyone because it does not choose who it wants to infect.

“No one is to be blamed for getting COVID-19. From its rapid spread across the world, we have seen that COVID-19 does not respect borders. It does not care where you are from, how rich or poor you are, or about your age, race, religion or gender,” statement said.

The Government urges people to avoid labelling people as victims of COVID-19 because for many people the illness is mild, like the flu and most will recover and nobody wants to be known as a COVID-19 victim.

We all face a common threat, the coronavirus, COVID-19 and to fight it we must work together, united as a country. We must show solidarity with the vulnerable population – (the elderly, and the sick),” the statement said.

The Government is asking for support to create an environment where COVID-19 and its impact can be discussed and addressed openly, respectfully, honestly, and guided by the science.

If you develop a fever or cough or shortness of breath, call the public health surveillance team immediately: 23 650 or 752 2202, Free toll 115.

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For media queries contact the Dian Maggie Row media officer, on email drow@moh.gov.sb or phone: 25205 or mobile: 7489241 or follow us on www.solomons.gov.sb or Facebook:

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