



# NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL

## NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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### NATIONAL SITUATIONAL REPORT 05

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**EVENT ID:** COVID-19  
**EVENT:** SIG Response to COVID-19  
**DATE OF ISSUE:** Tuesday, 21 April 2020  
**TIME OF ISSUE:** 17:00 Hrs  
**APPROVED BY:** Oversight Committee for COVID-19  
**ISSUED BY:** National Emergency Operations Centre  
**NEXT UPDATE:** Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

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### A. HIGHLIGHTS

- The Government established Joint Oversight Committee (OSC) for COVID-19 under the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet mains its role in providing strategic direction.
- Solomon Islands remains under a “**State of Public Emergency**” (SOE) declared by His Excellency, the Governor General. The SOE is further extended for another four months starting from 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- “**Honiara (Alligator Creek to Poha River) declared as the Emergency Zone**” by the Honourable Prime Minister on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- “**Restriction of movement of small craft vessels declared for Solomon Islands Papua New Guinea Boarder**” by the Honourable Prime Minister on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020 under Emergency Powers (COVID-19) Regulation 2020.
- National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) and **Provincial Emergency Operations Centres for all Provinces including Honiara City Municipality** remains on “Full-On Activation mode” to support **national and provincial coordination**.
- National Disaster Operations Sector Committees (N-DOC Sectors) and **Provincial Disaster Sector Committee (P-DOC)** remains on Full-On Activation Mode.
- Provincial Disaster Committees (PDCs’)/Provincial Disaster Operations Committees (P-DOCs’) on all ten Provinces and Honiara Municipality has step up preparedness for response to COVID-19.
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for lockdown under development by NEOC with support of specific sectors.

#### GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The numbers are based on WHO Situation Report-91 as of 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 (total new cases in the last 24 hours)

##### Globally

2 314 621 confirmed (72 846)

157 847 deaths (5296)

##### Western Pacific Region

132 438 confirmed (1326)

5648 deaths (27)

##### Countries/territories/areas affected

213

##### Countries with no Confirm Cases

North Korea, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Lesotho, Comoros, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Tonga, Marshall Islands, Palau, Tuvalu, Nauru

- As of 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020, the country recorded NO CONFIRMED CASE of COVID-19. This was after the results of the two most recent samples sent on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020 returned as NEGATIVE.

## **B. CURRENT SITUATION**

Solomon Islands remains COVID-19 FREE as of 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020 after the two last samples sent to the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory (VIDRL) in Melbourne, Australia returned as NEGATIVE test on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April. This confirms that of all the 13 samples collected through the COVID-19 Triage at the National Referral Hospital (NRH), all have tested NEGATIVE for COVID-19.

The country is yet to receive in country the COVID-19 testing equipment donated by the Peoples Republic of China (PRC). The equipment is currently in Brisbane, Australia, awaiting airlift into Solomon Islands.

Given that neighbouring Papua New Guinea (PNG) now has 7 Confirmed Cases of COVID-19, it is a major concern to the Solomon Islands. Recognising the traditional connections and relationships on the Solomon Islands Papua New Guinea Border, particularly in family ties and trade, the border is regarded as a potential high-risk area of possible COVID-19 importation into the country. Thus, the Solomon Islands have taken no chances by stepping border security and surveillance as a preventative measure along the border in ensuring the lives, safety and security of communities living on the border, and broader Solomon Islands is protected.

Additionally, some Solomon Islands nationals living in PNG, Fiji and other countries are in communication with the Government for assistance. The requests are currently being discussed and appropriate support is being facilitated through the appropriate Government Agencies and the N-DOC Sector Committees.

The Government remains tough in implementing strict measures to prevent the importation and potential spread of COVID-19 within its borders to protect its people. All overseas passenger flights are currently on hold while essential cargo flights are done needs basis to support COVID-19 operations. Seaports Honiara and Noro continue to operate with strict measures in place to at the Points of Entry.

The declaration of State of Public Emergency on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 still exist and was further extended on 8<sup>th</sup> March for an additional four months commencing on the same date the declaration was proclaimed by His Excellency, the Governor General. Measures put in place to limit mass gatherings including closure of schools mainly in Honiara city and Guadalcanal province, temporary halt on recreational activities, scaling down of non-essential public government services and repatriation of city dwellers to home provinces are still enforced. Restriction of movements for small crafts along the Solomon-PNG border and night curfews in Honiara are part of the stringed measures.

Remains on-going are the N-DOC Sector Committees planning and implementing their operations based on the Preparedness and Response Plan that is informed by SIG's COVID-19 graded response structure for case scenarios. The case scenarios specify actions to be taken for zero up to 5 confirmed cases of COVID-19. N-DOC Sector Committees consist of Health, Camp Management (for managing of Quarantine Sites), Infrastructure, Livelihood, Protection and Education. Similar planning process is now extended to cover Honiara City as well as Guadalcanal, Central, Choiseul and Western Provinces. Guadalcanal Province shares common land boundary with Honiara city with both having many interdependencies of basic services and commercial activities. Provincial planning process on COVID-19 Preparedness and Response also aims to address these issues.

## C. SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

- Oversight Committee established by Cabinet to provide strategic direction on a whole-of-government planning and response to COVID-19 continues to meet on a regular basis to discuss relevant measures.
- Government through the Office of the Prime Minister has conducted three talk back shows which is aired on radio, TV and online. The purpose is to update the country on the current Government response to the COVID-19. The latest talk back show was held yesterday Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- The **State of Public Emergency** declared on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 has extended to another four months as of Wednesday 08<sup>th</sup> April 2020. The four months commenced on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- N-DOC Sector Committees are stepping up in their COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plans (PRP) with the focus on broader socio-economic impact at both the national and provincial levels.
- Budget (\$137.3 million) for implementation of the Preparedness and Response Plan has been allocated to the respective lead ministries of N-DOC Committees (MAL, MEHRD, MHMS, MWYCFA, MID, MPNSCS & MECDM).
- N-DOC Health Sector Committee is leading the health aspect of COVID-19 with broader coordination through the N-DOC.
- N-DOC Camp Management Sector Committee continues to manage all Institutional Quarantine Sites (IQFs). Currently all the IQFs are empty and close, however, in a state of operational readiness should there be need for quarantining.
- National Emergency Response Team (NERT) support to the Guadalcanal Province EOC and Camp Management EOC remains.
- NERT assigned with Camp Management will be deployed with the Sector Committee to Western and Choiseul Provinces on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April to conduct training on running a Quarantine Facility.
- The second batch of NERT (two man member team) has already been deployed to support Makira/Ulawa Province.
- Oversight Committee is working with development partners and multilateral banks to support SIG implement the COVID-19 PRP including an economic stimulus package.
- Consultation meeting with Provincial Disaster Committee (PDC) with the team by the National Security Department conducted on the 15<sup>th</sup> April in Gizo regarding the security assessment in Shortland Islands, and the Solomon Islands maritime border with PNG.
- RSIPF step-up boarder security as part of the Emergency Powers (COVID-19) Regulation 2020 that restricts movement of small crafts on the Solomon Islands-PNG border.
- Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) commenced delivery of medical supplies to the Provinces (18 pallets shipped to provinces, 7 pallets ready for delivery this week, whilst 3 pallets are still being prepared). Pallets content consists of normal medical supplies of drugs and consumables).
- Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development confirm resumption of classes to begin on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

## D. N-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE

### D1. CAMP MANAGEMENT SECTOR COMMITTEE (Institutional Quarantine Facilities)

- All Institutional Quarantine Facilities (IQF) in Honiara, particularly, Guadalcanal Beach Resort (GBR), VIMO and National Hosting Authority (NHA) are empty, decontaminated, supplies stocktaking conducted and closed. However, all remains operationally ready should there be any future need for quarantining.

- Camp Management Sector Committee are stepping up its provincial support with a team to be deployed to Western and Choiseul Provinces to conduct training for the P-DOC Camp Management Sector Committee on managing the Quarantine Facilities (IQFs). Western and Choiseul shares the common maritime border with PNG and are prioritised for N-DOC to P-DOC support given the continuous increase of confirmed COVID-19 cases in neighbouring PNG.

## **D2. HEALTH SECTOR COMMITTEE**

### **National Health Emergency Operations Centre (NHEOC)**

- The National Health Emergency Operation Centre (NHEOC) continues to lead the multi- sectoral coordination of the Health Sector.
- The NHEOC has established a new email account for the Information desk and continues to strengthen its reporting system. Email address is: [communication.desk@nrh.gov.sb](mailto:communication.desk@nrh.gov.sb)
- A working group is reviewing COVID -19 guidelines and refining of SOPS is ongoing, in light of changing revisions and updates from WHO and other Competent Authorities
- A database to track all required SOPs was developed which shows a total of 51 SOPs and Guidelines currently in for Technical Working Group (TWG) review.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> revision of cargo handling SOP at the POE is currently been reviewed and updated.
- The Staff risk assessment guideline for COVID-19 contact is been updated.
- The WHO Manual for Screening and treatment centre has been is currently used to inform planning and deployment of COVID-19 screening and treatment centres
- Most MHMS Divisions and Public Health programs had submitted their COVID-19 Surge Capacity Planning and Business Continuity Plan (BCP) to the TWG for discussion.
- A storage container was in place for pre-positioning of resources for COVID-19 at NRH.
- MHMS preparedness and response capacity and multi-agencies integration is improving and strengthening.
- Discussions with Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) started on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020 to improve the NHEOC room set-up.
- The NHEOC Logistics Team has completed the Radio Communication Network Coverage assessment, which shows good coverage of radio network throughout Honiara except for areas beyond the city boundary.
- A total of 2067 COVID-19 public health advocator have been trained in all Provinces
- There is 179-trained NRH staff currently on roster for full activation. Of this, 22 doctors are triage doctors, 70 are triage nurses and 50 are isolation ward Doctors and Nurses.
- There are five teams rostered around the clock at the Isolation ward. There is 19 RSIP, 30 CSSI, and 21 POE first line responders trained.
- There is Solomon Islands Medical Assistance Team (SOLMAT) consisting of 9 staff on a monthly roster, capable to deploy at short notice.

### **Integration with Key Stakeholders**

- SOP for COVID-19 Detention Centre is completed and for further revisions and alignment with updated WHO Guideline
- NHEOC is continuing to train Dental Officers, nurses and CSSI frontline responders on COVID-19 education and PPE rationale use.
- A site assessment of CSSI Detention Centre has been completed and MPNSC proposed to deploy MID.
- A joint POE SOP has been completed, that sets the direction for POE strengthening of the POE emergency management system.

- The NHEOC has cleared a new update Guideline based on IATA recommendation for cargo and passenger handling at international Airport, approved, with amendments, to include infection decontamination of cargos.
- The Henderson International Airport Civil Aviation Authority has started to prepare their Command and Control Centre
- A multi-sectoral assessment team lead by MHMS in collaboration with NDM and POE is ready to be dispatched to Gizo, Noro and Munda to perform site assessment
- A multi-sectoral team that was in Shortland and Choiseul to perform assessment, has returned to Honiara, and will present their report early this week.

### **Honiara City Health Services (HCHS)**

- The Honiara City Health Service has completed house-to-house campaign in east Honiara – provide education for 1,326 persons, distributed 2,836 IEC materials and visited 591 households. They will carry on with their activities next week in other parts of Honiara.
- All HCC primary health clinics are now operational
- Training of HCC health workers completed, except Environment Health staff.
- HCC authorities approved a recommendation for rapid assessment of all health facilities.
- The Honiara City Health Service Team is collaborating with NHEOC, to lead the assessment, planning and deployment of COVID-19 screening and treatment centres in Honiara as part of surge capacity preparedness and response.
- Preliminary sites in Honiara to establish COVID-19 screening and treatment has been identified, however, need consultations with owners, and feasibility assessment.
- The NHEOC requested the HCC authorities to approve the use of Lawson Tama Stadium for COVID - 19 screening and treatment centre feasibility assessment
- There is low stock of PPE within the HCC health services
- The NGO deploying WASH community activities linkages to MHMS is been strengthened.

### **Other Provincial Health Services**

- The Shortland and Choiseul border with Bougainville is a high risk region for COVID-19 transmission into the Solomon Islands
- The NHEOC, National Security Border, POE and Surveillance staff are now in Shortland and Taro, Shortland to conduct assessment.
- All provincial HEOC have been activated and advancing the setting up of Emergency Operational Centres (EOCs).
- Provincial Response Team has completed site visit to Kiluúfi Hospital on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 and in Gizo and Helena Goldie Hospital on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- All essential medical supplies are consolidated and a resource tracking mechanism is established which is expanded to capture ordered items, equipment and donations.
- Consultations for GPs SOP and BCP for health EMS arrangement were undertaken and drafts now in circulation for review.
- The Guadalcanal Provincial Health Services has established the following domains with their leaders in order to manage COVID-19 Activities: Planning and coordination, Clinical and Isolation and Social Mobilization.
- Plan for scoping assessment for Marara, Visale and Good Samaritan Hospital.

### **Challenges & Gaps:**

- Keeping up to updates and revision of guidelines means a constant review – the NHEOC has increased its staffing to spearhead this task

- GP is still slow to integrate into the regional health EMS arrangement, as there is inadequate technical expertise at their level to expedite preparation of COVID-19 SOPs and regulations- a rapid assessment of the GP EOC is to be undertaken.
- COVID-19 qPCR testing equipment is still not available in Solomon Islands. The expected date to arrive is yet to be confirmed
- Gene X-pert equipment is available in all the provinces in Solomon Islands, except Rennell and Bellona, and Central Islands Province. The testing equipment cartridges are expected in Solomon Islands on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- PPE stock is still low. NMS has received airway bill and Invoice

### **Surveillance and Response**

- The Visitation Plan developed by Camp Management was forwarded to NHEOC is awaiting discussion and clearance.
- The QC SOP for standards and requirements has been progressed and requires presentation to Emergency Response Team (ERT) Leaders for clearance
- The Public Health Emergency and Surveillance Unit is currently working on a concept paper to brief NHEOC on their recommendations to update and re-strategize Surveillance and Laboratory Testing SOPs and Guidelines.

### **Prevention and Containment of Outbreak**

- Surge capacity and BCP are identified as challenges and planning to firm up arrangements, contextualised to phases of pandemic has now submitted to TWG for technical review.
- Approach to surge capacity planning has been discussed and agreed by Emergency Response Team Leaders.
- Total of 10-isolation beds expected completion this week.
- The SI Prime Minister will officially open the Isolation facility on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020
- IPC tools for safe and effective isolation care areas, is mobilised on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020
- Hand hygiene sanitizers and bracket installation at point of care is progressing
- The Clinical Team are progressing SOP and Guidelines for care of critical ill persons
- Decontamination of QCs that were last vacated on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2020 was completed on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- PRC donations for COVID-19 received last week includes 125 0000 gloves, 20k for public use, 200 thermometers, 200 pcs of protective clothing

### **Challenges & Gaps:**

- The travel ban does not affect Sea-Port Entry but it requested for the international ships (i.e. fishing vessels, passenger boats and container vessels) to be on 14 days quarantine prior to berthing on-shore.

### **Risk Communications and Public Awareness**

- Ongoing intensive awareness campaigns have been conducted throughout the country.
- The Risk Communication team continues to deliver key health messages to the public through posters, pamphlets and Solomon Telekom Television.
- The MHMS is the primary source of credible and up-to-date health information through dedicated platforms website linkages currently in operation
- The COVID -19-telephone Toll Free number is 115, and Emergency Operation Number is 25256. 9 outside calls (public) received as of Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Data from the first week of April shows a consistently decrease on the number of calls received.
- Ongoing support from WHO on printing IEC materials still maintained.

- Discussions to have a Risk Communication Officer sit with the Incident Controller are in progress.

Challenges & Gaps:

- Financial constraints for COVID-19 field operational activities
- Many of the Honiara residents live in remote areas where there is poor road access
- An assessment of the public level of awareness was conducted by the Health Promotion team and is yet to be presented.
- Streamlining the risk communication and public health awareness is needed

**D3. INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR COMMITTEE**

- All activities reported in the last Situational Report No. 4 remains ongoing.

**D4. LIVELIHOOD SECTOR COMMITTEE**

- All activities reported in the last Situational Report No. 4 remains ongoing.

**D5. EDUCATION SECTOR COMMITTEE**

- Process emergency allowance for Solomon Islands Tertiary Students studying overseas. The committee also facilitated payments to private sponsored students, and other Solomon Islands Nationals stranded overseas due the COVID 2019 Emergency. Total payments disbursed to date on emergency payments amounts to 9.2 million SBD.
- Consultation with key MEHRD donor partners on reprioritization of the education sector budget support focusing more on COVID 2019 preparedness, response and recovery and BCP at MEHRD, Education Authority and School levels.
- On-going Consultation with MEHRD stakeholders on the Education Sector Continuity Plan and identified areas where stakeholder support in terms of funding is required.
- Coordination plans to socialize N-DOC Education COVID-2019 Preparedness and Response Plan with high risk P-DOC is under development.
- Education Authorities (Chief Executive Officers, Directors, Secretaries) remain operational with selected staff only until Ministry of Public Services advise operations to cease.
- Education Authorities are advised to review annual work plan 2020 and adjust to focus on COVID-19 and other emergency related engagements only.
  - Reprioritize expenditure of the EA grants to only on activities that are related to preparedness and possible response,
  - Prioritize critical, emergency activities and expenditures only, example- natural disaster (tropical cyclone Harold affected areas)
- Resumptions of classes will be done in phases as of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Initial Phase resumption of classes includes forms 3, 5, 6 and 7 commencing on 27<sup>th</sup> April and that is for all schools outside of emergency declared zones. All others classes from Early Childhood (ECE) to grade 6, and forms 1, 2 and 4 are advised to remain at home pending further advise by the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development.
- Teachers residing outside of declared emergency zones are advise to remain in schools and prepare for classes resumptions.
- Broadcasting of key information and messages related to Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development (MEHRD) COVID-19 response and action plans on main stream media commenced on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Awareness will be on radio will be on Tuesday 5:45pm with repeat on Wednesday 7:45am, and then on Sundays at 8:30pm with repeat on Monday 8:30am.

- UNICEF supporting MEHRD printing of COVID 2019 IEC advocacy materials.

## **D6. PROTECTION SECTOR COMMITTEE**

- All activities reported in the last Situational Report No. 4 remains ongoing.

## **D7. SAFETY AND SECURITY**

### **D7.1. ROYAL SOLOMON ISLANDS POLICE FORCE (RSIPF)**

- RSIPV Gizo depart Aola base for COVID 19 -SI/PNG border operations. Vessel arrived at Gizo waiting for immigration officers to arrive per Solomon airline before heading to the Shortland islands. Western Province government officials seek permission to board patrol boat to border, commander maritime will give decision on the request.
- Police Response Team (PRT) deployed a total of 17 officers to support surveillance and security operations on the SI-PNG Border relating to the declaration of that location as the second declared emergency zone under the Emergency Powers (COVID-19) Regulation 2020.

#### **D7.1.1. RSIPF PROVINCIAL RESPONSES**

##### **A. Western Province**

- Eleven (11) sailing vessels (yachts) located anchored at Liapari Bay. Eight (8) of which has no body present on board, three (3) has crews on-board. Immigration and Police conducted a joint check on all the vessels and confirmed all are in the country before the declaration on the SI-PNG border as an emergency zone.
- Ten (10) Gizo base officers were also deployed to Shortland Islands as a step-up of presence on the border continues.
- Police continue to support health in the on-going COVID-19 awareness in Noro.
- Police maintain mobile patrol to monitor Bougainvillean family currently at Korovaka village close to Samanago, in the Shortland.

##### **B. Choiseul Province**

- Public education on COVID-19 continues
- On 14 April 2020 a male person was detained under Emergency Powers (COVID-19) Regulations 2020 at Taro. The person was escorted to Gizo for further dealings and quarantine on the evening of 14 April 2020.

##### **C. All other Provincial Polices**

- On-going assist in the PEOCs and various P-DOC Sector Committees including the on-going COVID-19 awareness.

### **D7.2 CORRECTIONAL SERVICES SOLOMON ISLANDS (CSSI)**

- All activities are ongoing at preparation phase

*Note: Reports received through POC and Provincial Disaster Management Offices*



## **D7.3 VESSELS MONITORING WITHIN SOLOMON ISLANDS EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ)/WATERS**

### **A. FISHING VESSELS**

The Ministry of Fisheries has monitored a total of five (5) fishing vessels in operating within the Solomon Islands waters, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the past 20days. Three of the vessels are fishing vessels operating domestically, whilst two of the vessels are fish carrier vessels travelling into the country from two international destinations.

- **ZHONG SHUI 748** – Vessel tracked fishing and spent 20days in Solomon Islands EEZ. Last port of call is Honiara on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Vessel authorised to enter port for unloading of catch. Expected time of arrival is 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- **JIN CHIN FU 68** – Vessel tracked fishing in Solomon Islands EEZ for the past 20days. Last port of call is Honiara on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Expected time of arrival back in Honiara port is 18<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- **HUA FU 207** – Fish carrier tracked travelling from the last port of call, Bangkok, Thailand. Vessel did not come in close contact with another vessel as stated in the Quarantine Guideline (Questionnaire), however, caution must be taken when boarding. Expected time of arrival in Honiara is on today 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- **JOCHOH** – Fish Carrier vessel tracked for the past 20days and currently drifting in Marshall Islands waters. Last port of call is Balboa, Panama on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020. Expected time of arrival in Honiara port is today 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- **YI SIANG 1** – Vessel tracked in Solomon Islands waters for the past 20days. Last port of call is Noro on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Expected time of arrival at Noro port is on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

### **B. CARGO VESSELS**

- *The NEOC is yet to receive the list of vessels from either the SIMSA or Customs on the time of reporting.*

## **D8 SOLOMON ISLANDS RED CROSS SOCIETY (SIRC)**

- All activities reported in the last Situational Report No. 4 remains ongoing.

## **D9. COORDINATION (N-DOC AND NEOC)**

- The N-DOC Arrangement remains the coordination mechanism for the SIG COVID-19 response was per the declaration and the emergency powers (COVID-19) regulation 2020.
- N-DOC maintains lead in the SIG coordination with respective N-DOC Sector Committees leading the respective sector planning and response. Similarly, this is replicated in all the Provinces including Honiara Municipality.
- NEOC remains on Full Activation mode to support N-DOC, Sector Committees, Honiara City Council and Guadalcanal Province with respective COVID-19 and TC Harold response activities.
- NEOC is also supporting N-DOC Sectors with the development of SOPs for the planned lockdown in Honiara city. The SOP defines specific tasks for essential sectors and services to be carried out during the lockdown periods.
- NEOC is supporting the development of an exercise document to test health, safety and security response capability during possible lockdown.

- NEOC is deploying a coordination/hazard risk personal and a GIS personal in the joint SIG team to be deployed to Western and Choiseul Provinces. Team will also consist of two MID and Camp Management (IQF) team.

## **E. P-DOC SECTOR RESPONSE**

- All Provincial Governments continue to undertake preventative measures in alignment with the National Government measures to mitigate possible importation of COVID-19.
- All Provincial Disaster Operations Committee (P-DOC) remains operational with regular meetings as part of on-going preparedness.
- On-going COVID-19 awareness in all 10 Provinces including Honiara City Council.
- All 10 Provinces have identified potential Institutional Quarantine Facilities as part of their preparedness work should COVID-19 spreads to the Provinces. A joint SIG team comprising of the NEOC, MID and Camp Management will be deployed to support the P-DOC and P-DOC Camp Management Sector Committee on conducting a training on managing Institutional Quarantine Facilities. Team will first support Western and Choiseul due to the current level of risk of possible COVID-19 importation from neighbouring PNG.

## **F. OTHER NATIONAL SUPPORT**

- Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce (SICCI) pledged their support to N-DOC Livelihood Committee, and their commitment to support SIG Response to COVID-19.
- SICCI will present its proposal to N-DOC for deliberation on its bid to be a member of N-DOC on a date to be confirmed this week. This is important opportunity for both parties given the scope of SICCI and impacts COVID-19 currently has on the business landscape.

## **G. OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES AND GAPS**

- Second batch of financial support to Provincial Disaster Committees (PDCs) and their Provincial Disaster Operations Committees (P-DOCs) yet to be disbursed subject to submission of acquittal of first batch of financial assistance.
- National testing capability not yet in place.

## **H. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- All N-DOC Sector Committees to continue updating NEOC on the implementation of their Preparedness and Response Programmes.
- Progress with urgency the N-DOC Sector Committees support all the provincial sector committees in planning, implementation and resourcing.
- Strengthening of information management, resources and tracking, reporting and monitoring of all activities implemented by N-DOC Sector Committees under the Preparedness and Response Plan.
- Prioritise and progress with urgency the establishment of the qPCR test machine and gene Xpert testing (COVID-19 testing facility). The need is more urgent given the current situation in PNG.
- Continuation of awareness and trainings to front liners and the public on issues surrounding COVID-19.
- Continue of awareness to the public on issues relating to Stigmatizing and how this can lead to discrimination.

- Public to cooperate with Health and other Government Ministries in preparing and responding to COVID-19.
- A 3W (Who, What, Where) matrix to be circulated to all N-DOC Sectors to track activities to- date. **This will be distributed today 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020.**
- A donor-tracking matrix to be provided to development partners to document contributions in cash and kind. **This will also be distributed today 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020.**
- **Western Provincial Disaster Committee (WPDC) advise both National and Provincial Government agencies plans also consider potential COVI-19 refugees from Bougainville to Western Province on a possible COVID-19 escalation in PNG.**
- **WPDC recommends immediate increase in the capacity of health centres on the border region to cater for front-line officers and repatriated population from urban to village.**
- **SIG to consider extending the designation of Emergency Zones to both Shortland and Noro, under the Public State of Emergency.**

## **I. NEXT UPDATE**

Next update will be on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020.**

APPROVED FOR DISSEMINATION BY

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