



NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL

NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE
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NATIONAL SITUATIONAL REPORT – 25

Ref: NSR25_01/22

EVENT ID: COVID-19
EVENT: SIG Response to COVID-19
PERIOD: 16th January 2022 – 21st January 2022
DATE OF ISSUE: Friday, 21 January 2022
TIME OF ISSUE: 23:30Hrs
APPROVED BY: Chairman, National Disaster Council
ISSUED BY: National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC)
NEXT UPDATE: 14:00Hrs, Saturday 22nd January 2022

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1. GENERAL UPDATE

- Total number of COVID-19 cases recorded in the country now officially stands at **169**.
- Active cases to date in the country stands at **88**. *See map attached for the geographical spread in Honiara.*
- The Honiara Emergency Declared Zone is on lockdown as of 6pm, 19th January and is effective until 6am, 22nd of January, 2022.
- The National Health Emergency Operations Centre (NHEOC) continues in its contract tracing and swabbing of individuals who are possible contacts of those tested positive for COVID-19.
- The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) is now on “Full-On Activation Mode” to provide support on coordination with other emergency and essential service providers as well as to Provincial Disaster Operation Centres (PEOCs). Similarly, all other operation centres of the National Disaster Operations Committee (N-DOC) are also on full activation mode to provide support on health and other humanitarian imperatives.
- With the lockdown in effect, the proposed deployment of Government personnel to Ontong Java, Malaita Outer Islands to help curb the community transmission is placed on hold as contract tracing continues in the lockdown zone.

GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The numbers are based on [WHO Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Dashboard](#) as of **4:42pm CET, 20 January 2022**

Globally

336,790,193 confirmed cases

5,560,718 deaths

9,571,502,663 vaccine doses administered
as of **18th January 2022**

Western Pacific Region

13,687,650 confirmed cases

163,530 deaths

Western Pacific Region

169 confirmed cases

0 deaths

as of **21st January 2022**

2. CURRENT SITUATION

- The country is now experiencing COVID-19 community transmission.
- Forty-eight new cases have also been recorded on the 20th of January, 2022 as announced by the Prime Minister. This figure is expected to increase as contact tracing is ongoing.
- Active cases in the country to date stands at 56.
- Ontong Java is on lockdown as of 6pm, Wednesday 19th January, 2022 for an indefinite period. This restricts movements of people, vessels and aircraft in and out of Ontong Java.
- The Honiara Emergency Zone is on lockdown until 6am, Saturday 22nd January, 2022. This allows MHMS to conduct contact tracing.
- The National Disaster Council (NDC) Arrangement remains the country's preparedness and response coordination mechanism for the pandemic.
- Solomon Islands through RSIPF maintains safety and security on the Western Border with Bougainville given the increase in cases and the potential of importation through this border.
- Incoming and outgoing passenger and cargo flights have been suspended. Essential cargo flights are now being conducted on needs-basis. International trade continues with strict measures in place for all incoming vessels through the country's international ports.

3. SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE & NATIONAL DISASTER OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

- The Oversight Committee (OSC) For COVID-19 established by Cabinet to provide strategic advice on a whole-of-government planning and response to COVID-19 maintains its role.
- Given the community transmission now in the country, the OSC is working on strategies to respond, contain and control the COVID-19 outbreak in Honiara and Ontong Java.
- OSC has activated the National and Provincial Health Emergency Plans, National and Provincial Disaster Management Plans and the N-DOC Sectoral Plans.
- NDOC Sector Committees maintains its COVID-19 Responses with Health Sector Committee leading the health aspects and Camp Management Sector Committee maintains and continue to manage all the SIG approved Quarantine Stations. Broader coordination is through the N-DOC arrangements by the sector committees.
- NEOC is now on Full-On Activation and from advice from NDC, has directed all provinces to formally activate its Provincial Disaster Committees/Provincial Disaster Operations Committee Arrangements.
- NEOC as the coordinating engine room of the N-DOC collaborated with Sector Committees to provide support on some of the following areas:
 1. Put together a joint team comprised of officers from MHMS, RSIPF, CMSC and NERT Members for deployment to Ontong Java in its first response. The joint team is on standby for deployment pending on advice from the OSC.
 2. Developed a Malaita Outer Islands COVID-19 Response Plan to be implemented by the deployment team when on Ontong Java and is pulling together all its communications and logistics resources for the deployment.

3. Supported has been provided to MHMS to help curb some of its logistics issues one of which is the use of its vehicle to transport food and water items to crews and passengers of MV. Awka. Food and water items were dropped off at the Leroy Wharf for pick up by the crew with strict IPC measures in place.
4. NEOC provided support on facilitation of vehicle and exemption passes for other essential service providers.

4. N-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE UPDATES

4.1. HEALTH SECTOR COMMITTEE

Health Coordination and Responses

- N-DOC Health through the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) maintains the leading role in the health aspects of SIG response to COVID-19.
- A total of 343 samples were tested (in the last 24 hours) as of 8am this morning, 21st January 2022. 88 samples returned positive for COVID-19.
- More than 30 communities within Honiara have been identified in accordance with the positive results.
- Western Provincial Health Authorities have also collected and tested the suspect that have travelled to Noro. Test result has returned negative.
- Malaita Provincial Health Authorities have also collected the sample for one of the suspects that is currently in Auki. The sample will be sent over tonight on a Police boat.
- Contact tracing and testing is still ongoing in the declared emergency zone by the health team.
- The National Referral Hospital (NRH) is in emergency mode and is now only accepting emergency, accidents and referral cases. For non-emergency cases and those not fly related, MHMS has opened Kukum and Rove Clinics.
- MHMS has put together a team on standby for deployment to MOI.

4.2 SAFETY AND SECURITY

Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF)

- The Police Operations Centre (POC) currently on activation since the declaration of State of Emergency (SOPE) with the support of the National Emergency Management Special Events Planning (NEMSEP) to oversee and coordinate the COVID-19 Operation for the lockdown.
- RSIPF continues to provide overall safety and security for the duration of the lockdown including assistance to MHMS on contact tracing.
- SI-PNG Border Operations is still ongoing given the high threat of illegal crossing between Solomon Islanders and Papua New Guineans.
- RSIPF is also currently supporting operations on Ontong Java with the support of the RSIPV Gizo given the recent illegal border crossing.
- RSIPF deployment to Auki, Malaita Province has been recalled back to provide assistance during the lockdown.

Correctional Service Solomon Islands (CSSI)

- Providing support to RSIPF on the overall safety and security during the lockdown.

Honiara City Council Law Enforcement Agency

- Providing support to RSIPF on the overall safety and security during the lockdown, specially within the city.

Private Security Firms

- Providing support to RSIPF on the overall safety and security during the lockdown, especially on commercial and private properties including some residences.

4.3 CAMP MANAGEMENT SECTOR COMMITTEE (CMSC)

- CMSC continues in its operations in managing all designated quarantine operations.
- CMSC through its service providers is providing support on food catering for those serving mandatory quarantine. This support is also provided to MHMS, CMSC and NEOC officers who are accommodated at various quarantine stations whilst performing duties during the lockdown period.

4.4 LIVELIHOOD SECTOR COMMITTEE

- Livelihood Sector Committee EOC is on full on activation and is liaising with its partners to support operations during the lockdown.
- The Team is working on the “Food Basket” concept and methods for delivery of food packages to those residing in the lockdown zone who will need food support.
- The Team is also liaising with Honiara Market Vendors Association using its existing food arrangements to set up food channels, provide food crops and other local products for the Food Basket concept.
- EOC is gathering data from public requests for delivery of food supplies.

4.5 PROTECTION SECTOR COMMITTEE

- The Protection Sector Committee (PSC) activated its EOC and is coordinating with its partners on addressing Protection issues during the lockdown.
- The Team is liaising with other N-DOC Sectors and Media Service Providers on dissemination of Protection key messages.
- Seif Ples has activated its preparedness and response plan and has set up its Crisis Management Team (CMT) that will oversee the organizations.
- PSC Information and Management cell, through the communication lead has developed media protection key messages (around GBV, Disability and Child protection) and submitted for approval, ready for further dissemination to media channels.

4.6 SOLOMON ISLANDS RED CROSS SOCIETY

- Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRC) has also activated its arrangements to support the lockdown operations.
- SIRC continues to provide catering services to Quarantine Stations.
- SIRC is supporting MHMS on contact tracing by providing its volunteers who have been fully trained to undertake contact tracing activities.
- Support is also provided to NEOC with a personal currently on standby for deployment to Ontong Java.
- Provincial branches have been asked to prepare contingency plans and update stock inventory for replenishment.

5. OTHER NATIONAL SUPPORT

- SIG continues to receive support from bilateral partners and international organisations for its COVID-19 operations.

6. CHALLENGES

- **Fatigue and Stress** – it is noted that fatigue and stress is kicking in for all frontline agencies and other responsible authorities.
- **Financial Resources** – finance is now becoming a challenge with banks closed and resources at hand nearly exhausted.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs)** – frontline agencies including provinces is facing shortage of PPEs.
- **Stigmatization** – it has been noted that there is high stigmatization experienced by families of those who are positive causing fear and panic amongst them.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Fatigue and Stress** – frontline agencies and other responsible authorities to quickly come up with plans to help relieve this issue of stress and fatigue that is already experienced.
- **Financial Resources** – Finance to look at prioritizing financial resources for the lockdown operations.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs)** – Ministry of Health and Medical Services to provide update on PPE stock supplies and to look at restocking PPE stock levels for frontline agencies and the provinces.
- **Stigmatization** - the public is advised to refrain from stigmatizing those who are positive including their contacts. MHMS and responsible authorities are to provide messages to the public refraining them from stigmatization.
- **IPC Measures & Social Distancing** – the public is strongly advised to practice social distancing including safe IPC measures during the lockdown.

8. NEXT UPDATE AND APPROVAL

Next update **upon available information.**

APPROVED FOR DISSEMINATION BY

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Additional Links

1. *WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard*

Link...<https://bit.ly/3DsOpRq>

2. *SIG News Release*

Link... [Articles – My SIG Services Portal \(solomons.gov.sb\)](https://solomons.gov.sb)