



# NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL

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## NATIONAL SITUATIONAL REPORT – 26

Ref: NSR26\_01/22

**EVENT ID:** COVID-19  
**EVENT:** SIG Response to COVID-19  
**PERIOD:** 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022 – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022  
**DATE OF ISSUE:** Sunday, 23 January 2022  
**TIME OF ISSUE:** 22:18  
**APPROVED BY:** Chairman, National Disaster Council  
**ISSUED BY:** National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC)  
**NEXT UPDATE:** 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

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### 1. GENERAL UPDATE

- Total COVID-19 confirmed cases recorded so far in the country stands at **289**.
- Active cases to date in the country stands at **120**.
- The country has recorded its first COVID-19 related death.
- The Honiara Emergency Declared Zone lockdown has been lifted as of 6am 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022 with strict restrictions now in place.
- Burns Creek Community has gone into a localized lockdown effective as of 6pm this evening, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022 with strict restrictions now in place.
- 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.

### GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The numbers are based on [WHO Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Dashboard](#) as of **5:55pm CET, 21 January 2022**

#### Globally

**340,543,962** confirmed cases  
**5,570,163** deaths  
**9,571,502,663** vaccine doses administered  
as of **18<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

#### Western Pacific Region

**13,837,902** confirmed cases  
**163,903** deaths

#### Solomon Islands

**289** confirmed cases  
**1** death  
as of **22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022**

- The proposed deployment of Government personnel to Ontong Java, Malaita Outer Islands to help curb community transmission is placed on hold as contract tracing and testing continues within and outside of the Honiara Emergency Zone.
- The Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) is calling on all passengers that travelled on MV Akwa, Liberty, Ocean Joy and PWI-2 to report to them for contact tracing purposes.

## **2. CURRENT SITUATION**

- The country is now experiencing COVID-19 community transmission in Honiara, Guadalcanal and Malaita Provinces.
- Official count of COVID-19 positive cases diagnosed in the country stands at 289 as announced by the Prime Minister on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January, 2022.
- Active cases in the country to date stands at 120. This figure is expected to increase as contact tracing and testing is ongoing.
- Ontong Java remains on lockdown since 6pm, Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 for an indefinite period. This restricts movements of people, vessels and aircraft in and out of Ontong Java.
- Burns Creek Community is now on lockdown. This came into effect as of 6pm this evening, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022. The Lockdown Orders until revoked restricts movement of people in and out of the lockdown zone to allow MHMS to conduct contract tracing within the community.
- The Honiara Emergency Zone lockdown has also been lifted with restrictions in place. This also restricts movement of people, vessels and aircraft in and out of Honiara. However, a further lockdown has been endorsed by the OSC for recommendation to the Prime Minister today 23<sup>rd</sup> January.
- Solomon Islands through RSIPF maintains safety and security on the Western Border with Bougainville given the potential of importation through this border. Similarly, support is also being provided on Ontong Java.
- 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.
- The National Disaster Council (NDC) Arrangement remains the country's preparedness and response coordination mechanism for the pandemic and has been tasked to prepare a 6-months National COVID -19 Response Plan through N-DOC.
- OSC has activated the National and Provincial Health Emergency Plans, National and Provincial Disaster Management Plans and the N-DOC Sectoral Plans.
- A new Order soon to be gazetted and approved by the OSC will see the market of betel banned for an indefinite period.
- OSC is working with State Owned Enterprises and Private Sectors to discuss on how they can also provide support. A virtual meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2022.

- 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 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 Malaita Outer Islands and Honiara COVID-19 Response Plans.
  3. Support 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 and other vessels that got recalled back to Honiara. 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 274 samples were tested (in the last 24 hours) as of 8am, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 8am, 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2022. 120 samples returned positive for COVID-19 bringing the total number of COVID-19 positive cases diagnosed in the country 289.
- 43 positive cases are in isolation at the Central Field Hospital. Age distribution of cases are between 18 years old and below and between 33 years old to 45 years old and above. MHMS is working on verifying the stats and will provide more information on a later date.
- More than 30 communities within Honiara have been identified in accordance with the positive results with almost 200 more people identified as persons of interest.
- Western Provincial Health Authorities have also collected and tested the suspect that have travelled to Noro. Test result has returned negative. Person is now under home quarantine.
- 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.
- Fifty-three staffs at the NRH including 21 patients have tested positive as of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January, 2022. Bed space is now becoming a challenge. The NRH will look at ways to address this issue.
- MHMS has put together a team on standby for deployment to MOI.
- MHMS through its partners is also seeking additional support on medical supplies.

## 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. With the lockdown now being lifted, RSIPF is providing support on high visibility patrol within and outside of Honiara town boundary to ensure social distancing IPC measures are adhered to by the general public.
- Upon directives from OSC, RSIPF Taro has advised vessels namely MV. Fair Chief, Ortega and Forensic 7 to return to Honiara for further assessment.
- 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, especially 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 (LSC) EOC is on activation and is liaising with its partners to support operations during the lockdown and further into the implementation of the National COVID-19 Response Plan.
- Fifteen cartons of water have been delivered to MV. Awka this evening, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022 to address the shortage of drinking water experienced by crews and passengers. Solomon Islands Ports Authority (SIPA) stepped in to assist by also engaging its water tanker to refill the ship's water.
- The Team is working on the "Food Basket" concept and methods for delivery of food packages to those residing within and outside of the Honiara Emergency Declared Zone who will need food support.

- LSC 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.
- LSC is also looking at exploring mobile banking options with market vendors and commercial banks.

#### **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 INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR COMMITTEE**

- The Infrastructure Sector Committee (ISC) is on activation and is providing support as a whole of Government response.
- Supported on logistics issues by retrieving vehicles from other SIG Ministries and are now pooled to support RSIPF and MHMS.
- Provided support on vehicle fueling for RSIPF and MHMS to carry out its operations.
- Support was also rendered to MHMS to transport medical supplies to the National Medical Store.
- ISC is also communicating to its other members on the state of utility services and other critical infrastructures and has observed that there are no major disruptions at the moment.
- All road maintenance in Honiara is on hold at the moment but contractors are on standby for any emergency repairs.

#### **4.7 EDUCATION SECTOR COMMITTEE**

- The Ministry of Education & Human Resources Development (MEHRD) has delayed the commencement of schools for another week and not on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2022.
- MEHRD Permanent Secretary has announced that the Business Continuity Learning Program will soon start. The learning program will be aired on SIBC and other media platforms to provide online lessons for ECEs, primary and high schools in and around the country.
- MEHRD is liaising with its sector committee members and is analyzing the current situation and will provide information to the public.

#### **4.8 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. P-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Provincial Disaster Operation Committee (P-DOC) Arrangements of all provinces have been directed to go on full activation and operationalize all disaster management arrangements.

### **5.1 GUADALCANAL PROVINCE**

- Guadalcanal Province through its P-DOC arrangements continues in its operations despite the limited resources available.
- The Good Samaritan Hospital is on lockdown after tests were conducted and results returned positive. Support has been asked by the P-DOC for the NDMO to provide food kits and water.
- Contact tracing and testing is ongoing with multiple areas suspected as hotspots of COVID-19.
- The P-DOC is discussing the need to close the Corona Market as it has been identified as an area of interest and will liaise with the Agriculture Division to formulate a strategy to address food security.
- P-DOC is also supporting the MHMS on contact tracing and testing.

### **5.2 CENTRAL PROVINCE**

- A localized lockdown has been enforced in Central Province after contact tracing conducted resulted in suspects being identified to come into contact with crews that travelled on MV. Prestige which berthed at Tulagi on the 15-16<sup>th</sup> of January 2022.
- Close contacts have been advised to go into home isolation awaiting contact tracing testing.
- All health frontline workers have been advised to undergo swabbing test.
- Restriction of movement of people, vessels and boats in and out of Central Province have been enforced with monitoring to be conducted by the RSIPF Team.
- Awareness on IPC measures and social distancing has been conducted to residents in Tulagi and will be rolled out to surrounding communities.

### **5.3 ISABEL PROVINCE**

- Isabel P-DOC Team is on standby for deployment after initial reports have been received that there might be possible COVID-19 suspects that have gotten off on the island province from Honiara.
- The PHEOC is awaiting further information to ascertain the situation before deploying a team to conduct contact tracing and testing.
- PEOC is liaising with NEOC and will provide further updates on the situation.

### **5.4 MAKIRA ULAWA PROVINCE**

- A joint urgent meeting has been held at Makira Ulawa PEOC by members health, police and the P-DOC after initial reports have also been received that there are possible COVID-19 suspects believed to have travelled from Pelau and are now Santa Catalina.
- A team from the Provincial Health Authorities has been deployed to Santa Catalina for awareness on IPC measures and social distancing.



- Restriction of unnecessary Inter-Island travelling within Makira has been put in place and will restrict travelling with exemptions for access to essential services.
- Social gathering activities have also been scaled down.
- The Team is awaiting report from PHEOC, PDOC and directives from NHEOC and NEOC are working closely with NHEOC to verify the reports.

## 5.5 TEMOTU PROVINCE

- P-DOC with the support of RSIPF have detained a vessel that travelled from Honiara. Vessel has been advised to float outside of Lata Township while awaiting advise from health authorities. RSIPF ensured that no passengers and crew are to leave the vessel.
- P-DOC Team provided support on food rations for the passengers onboard the vessel.
- Temotu Health Officials continue to carryout contact tracing on a suspected case in Temotu. Suspect is in isolation awaiting test as health workers continue to do contact tracing to other communities.

## 6. OTHER NATIONAL SUPPORT

- SIG continues to receive support from bilateral partners and international organisations for its COVID-19 operations.
- United Nations agencies are working with various N-DOC Sector committees and NEOC on back stopping arrangements and relief support.

## 7. CHALLENGES

- **Health Sector is overwhelmed** – Community transmission in Honiara is putting considerable stresses on the health system as a whole.
- **Wide Spread Community Transmission** – Curb and control community transmission
- **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 and other financial institutions implementing strict measures and resource 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.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- **National COVID-19 Response Plan** – N-DOC to finalise and submit to OSC by 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- **Financial Resources** – Finance resources to be availed to the required level identified in the National COVID-19 Response Plan.
- **National Referral Hospital** – Put in alternative measures to ensure continuity of critical emergency services.
- **Curb and Control Community Transmission** -Implement proactive measures in Honiara and other up-coming hot spots in the country.

- **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.
- **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 while the lockdown is being lifted.

## 9. NEXT UPDATE AND APPROVAL

Next update **upon available information.**

APPROVED FOR DISSEMINATION BY

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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE,  
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## **Additional Links**

1. *Gaz No. 19 & Sup No. 17 Sunday 23rd January 2022*  
*Link... <https://bit.ly/3IKX6sX>*
2. *Gaz No. 18 & Sup No. 16 Friday 21st January 2022*  
*Link... <https://bit.ly/33Y7EFO>*
3. *Gaz No. 16 & Sup No. 14 Friday 21st January 2022*  
*Link... <https://bit.ly/35gKdZ2>*
4. *WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard*  
*Link...<https://bit.ly/3DsOpRq>*
5. *SIG News Release*  
*Link... [Articles – My SIG Services Portal \(solomons.gov.sb\)](https://solomons.gov.sb)*