



This Situation Report is jointly issued by PNG National Department of Health (NDOH) and World Health Organization (WHO) once weekly. This Report is not comprehensive and covers information received as of reporting date.

Situation Summary and Highlights

- As of 09 January 2022, PNG has officially reported a cumulative total of 36,407 confirmed cases of COVID-19 including 591 COVID-19 confirmed deaths.
- There were 215 new confirmed cases reported during the week.
- Over 227,213 people are fully vaccinated, and over 289,244 people have been vaccinated with at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Cluster Updates & Priorities

Surveillance:

- A cumulative total 36,407 confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported in PNG with 591 cumulative confirmed deaths reported in the week 03–09 January 2022. The Delta Variant of Concern (VOC) is the dominant strain circulating currently in PNG.
- Work continues on strengthening provincial and national level routine surveillance, to ensure reporting is able to provide a timely reflection of current COVID activity and trends.
- An enhanced surveillance package is being established to provide early warning of case surge following travel and social mixing over the Christmas-New Year period.

Table 1. Reported COVID-19 cases in PNG¹ (09 Jan 2022)

Province	New Cases	Deaths	Cumulative Delta Variant	Cumulative Total
AROB			15	931
Central	2		10	833
ENB			28	2215
ES			27	701
EH			22	2156
Enga			4	1049
Gulf			10	496
Hela			35	768
Jwaka			2	421
Madang			4	1268
Manus			11	639
Milne Bay			3	1214
Morobe			84	2491
NCD	2		200	9404
NI			33	848
Northern				528
Simbu			14	1058
SH			43	1039
WNB			44	1238
WS			70	775
Western			43	3610
WH			4	2725
TOTAL	4	0	706	36 407

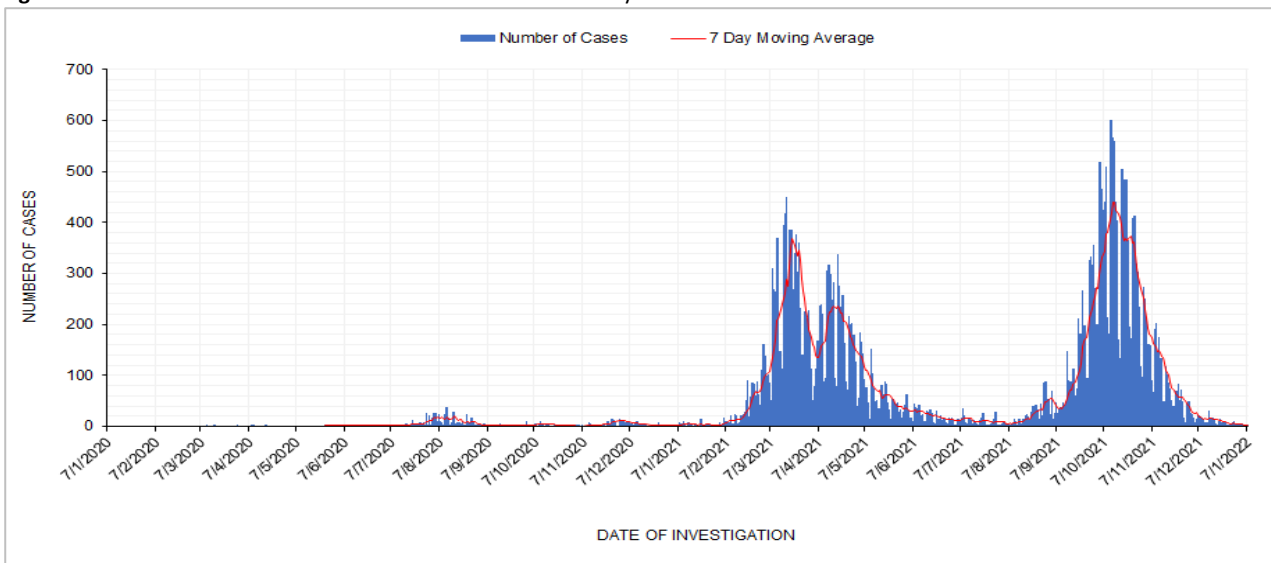
¹ As of 09/01/2022, 12:00 pm, PNG time

Table 2. COVID-19 GLOBAL AND REGIONAL UPDATE^{2b}

	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Global	305 937 955	5 502 447
Western Pacific	12 141 324	159 399

² WHO COVID-19 Dashboard as of 09/01/2022, 22:45 CEST

Figure 1: Trend of COVID-19 cases from 20 Jan 2020 – 09 January 2022



- A current priority is to continue to ensure surveillance systems and reporting mechanisms are in place to be able to detect changes in case activity during and after the festive season, and in the context of the globally emerging Omicron, VOC.
- Virological surveillance: 100% of samples sequenced by the Microbiological Diagnostic Unit (MDU), Peter Doherty Institute, Melbourne, in the last consignment were VOC Delta (n=68, collection dates 23 Sept - 18 Nov 2021). Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) from cases tested after 18 Nov 21 are not yet available. The next WGS report is expected to be received in mid-January.

Covid-19 Hotline:

- As of 09 January, hotline has received a cumulative total of 413,479 calls. Of these, 8,860 were health related calls. A total of 3,721 to date have been referred to Rapid Response Team/PHAs.
- More awareness is needed on COVID-19 vaccination, covering types of vaccines used in PNG, how vaccines work, and vaccine safety including side effects, their effectiveness against severity and infection, and duration of protection conferred by vaccination. There are also increasing requests for information about booster doses.

Niupla Pasin (NP):

- Niupela Pasin team this week received 10 event requests including 9 indoor events and 1 outdoor event. 10 approvals were granted for various events and meetings around the country on commitment to strictly observe Niupela Pasin (NP).
- Events ranged from meetings, workshops and private functions across the country with strict observations of NP which includes mandatory mask wearing, temperature checks, hand sanitizing and observing social distancing.
- Distributed IEC Niupela Pasin Booklets sent to Central Provincial Health Authority (PHA), NCD PHA and to the Lutheran Church.
- Continue distribution of IEC materials to the provinces and followed up with provinces for their budget plans and provincial NP officers.

Logistics and Supplies:

- The Logistic Cluster received 1,140 pieces of Universal Transport Mediums (UTMs) from Global Fund through World Vision on 04 January 2022.
- Continued processing of monthly orders received from provinces/facilities and dispatching of oxygen (O₂) consumables and concentrators.
- Continue with mapping of biomed devices in health facilities in the provinces.

Figure 2: Lab Items as of 09 January 2022

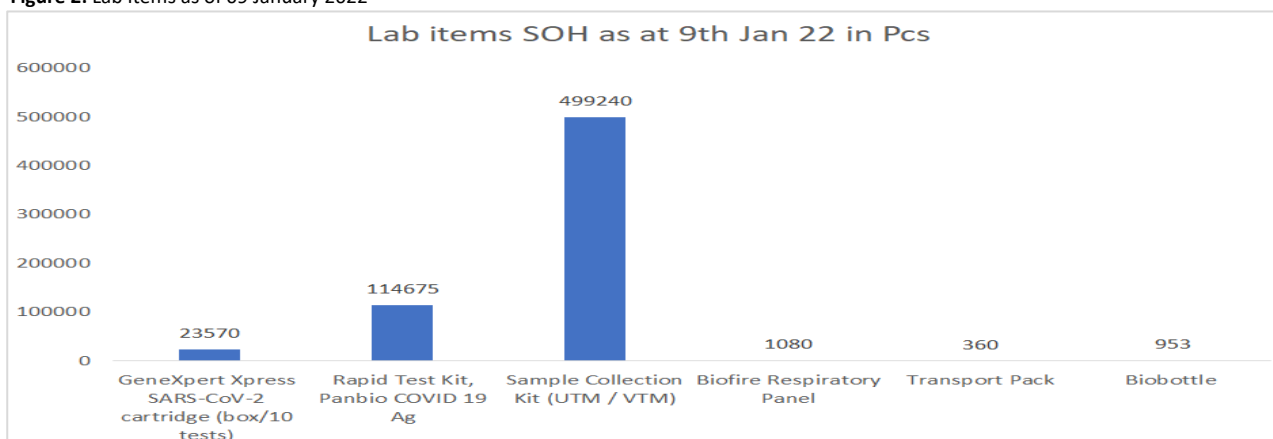
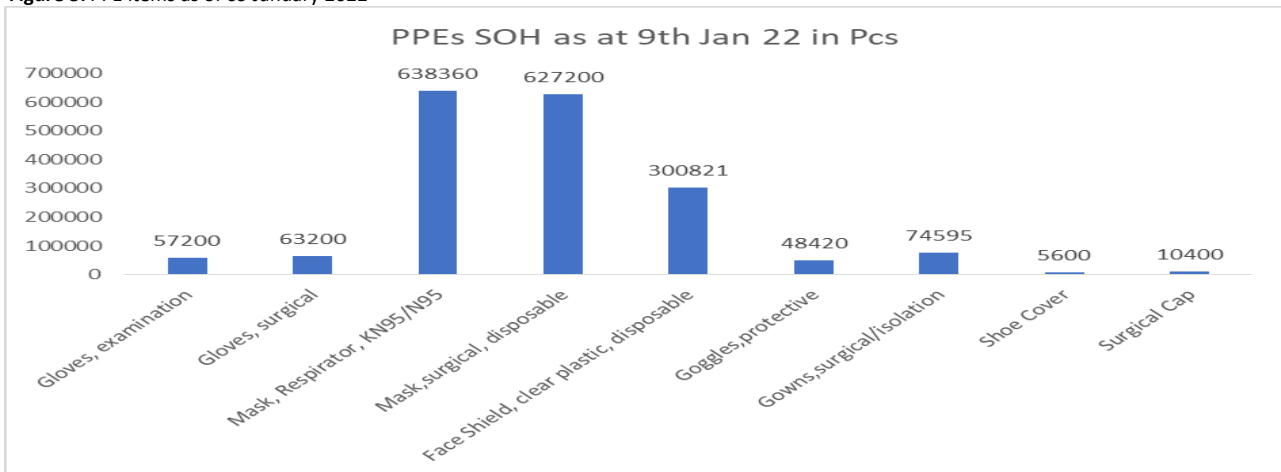


Figure 3: PPE items as of 09 January 2022



Quarantine & Points of Entry:

- As of 10 January there were 9 reported COVID-19 cases of international travellers from Manila, United Kingdom, Thailand, India and Canada during this reporting period.
- All individuals are in isolation for 14 days.

Table 3. Persons Screened by Point of Entry

Total Number of Travelers Screened before SOE (Until 22 March 2020)	29,387	
Total Number of Travelers Screened during SOE (23 March – 16 June 2020)	3,788	
Total Number of Travelers Screened after SOE (17 June 2020 – 08 January 2022)	Air	35,676
	Sea	2,197
	Land	6

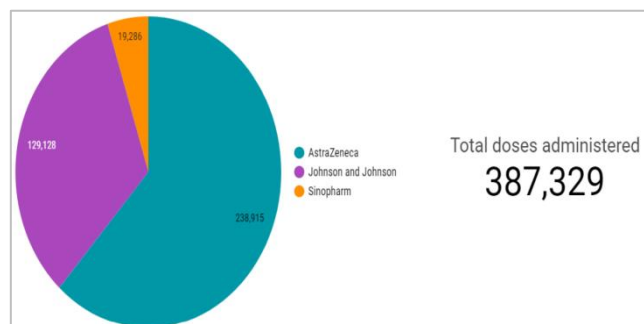
National Vaccination Rollout

- Over 227,213 people are fully vaccinated, and over 289,244 people have been vaccinated with at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Both Johnson and Johnson and Sinopharm vaccines are now available throughout PNG in every province of the country. Over 129,000 people have received the J&J vaccine, while over 19,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccine have been administered and over 238,000 doses of AZ vaccine administered.

Figure 4: PNG COVID-19 Vaccination cumulative number of persons vaccinated as of 10 January 2022

Category	At least one dose received	Fully vaccinated
Health Worker	14551	9338
45 years and above	91668	74815
Persons with comorbidity	6630	4769
Cumulative	289244	227213

Figure 5: Total doses administered by vaccine type



National and Provincial Health Update

- The Pandemic Response Coordination Group and the Health Operations Team continued to meet regularly at the National Control Centre.
- Full details of all containment measures can be found at www.covid19.info.gov.pg

Partner Coordination Activities

- The final Health Cluster meeting for 2021 was held on the 7th December. Please email osheaj@who.int if you or your organisation wishes to join the cluster meetings and present on COVID-19 activities that your organization is doing. These meetings are strategic and are used to align all partner activities.
- Currently, NCDPHA, WNBPHA, CPHA and WPHA have expressed interest or are holding weekly partner coordination meetings via zoom. If PHA's wish to engage in similar meetings, please contact Jack O'Shea who can assist in facilitating this.
- Partners are also advised that there will be a shared drive created for direct updates for health cluster members to update each week. This will be shared post the Health Cluster meetings each fortnight.
- Partners may be approached if they are currently running sentinel health facilities to provide up to date aggregate information to the NCC surveillance team.
- The next health cluster meeting will be held on the 25 January 2022 at 1pm PNG Time.

Transmission Assessment

- Transmission stage assessment is based on; number of newly diagnosed cases, case trend, deaths, testing rates, hospital capacity, contact tracing effectiveness and recent trends in ILI and SARI presentations.
- Based on these data and considering a context of delayed and under reporting, overall low testing and limited contact tracing activities, it appears that community transmission of COVID-19 is still occurring in PNG despite an observed declining trend in the number of cases.
- Based on the available regional data of each province, ENBP, NIP, ARoB and Gulf are considered to be in stage 2 (localised community transmission) while the majority of the provinces are rated stage 1 (sporadic cases). WNB and Oro provinces are now reporting cases. Oro province have been reporting cases that were diagnosed over 30 days ago and during the third surge.

Additional information about transmission classification can be found on the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) COVID-19 transmission stage dashboard at bit.ly/WPRODashboard

Figure 6: Distribution of ACTIVE cases as of 09 January, 2022.

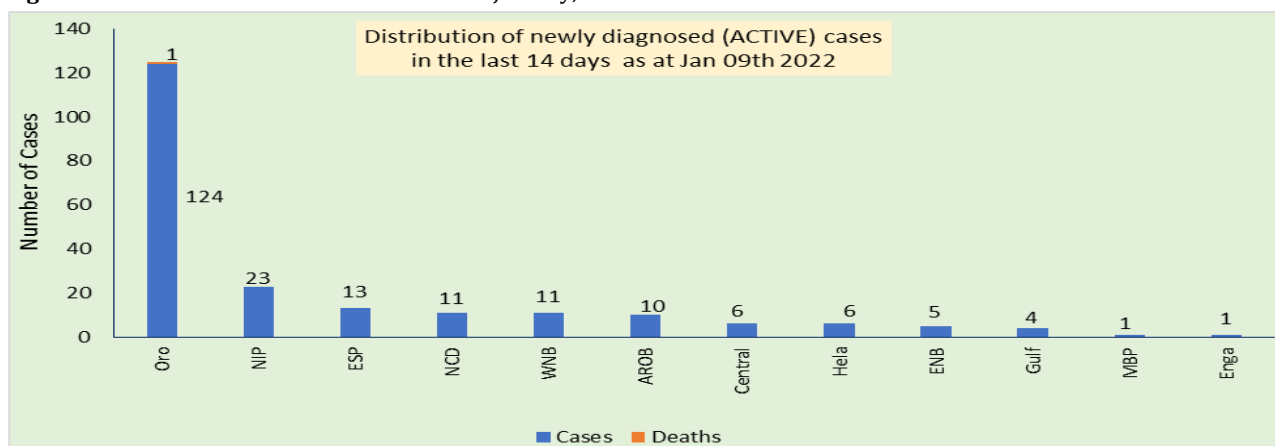


Figure 7: Provincial Risk zones as of 09 January, 2022.



For more information about this Situation Report, please contact:

Dr Daoni Esorom
Deputy Pandemic Controller
National Department of Health
Email: daoniesorom@gmail.com
Mobile: +675-7231 3983

Mr Jack O'Shea
Deputy Incident Manager
Health Cluster Coordinator, WHO
Email: osheaj@who.int