



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

Situation Summary and Highlights

- ❑ As of 27 December (12:00 pm), there have been 781 COVID-19 cases and nine COVID-19 deaths reported in Papua New Guinea. From the period of 21 to 27 December, there have been 20 new cases: 9 from West New Britain, 7 from Western Province, and 4 from New Ireland. The total number of provinces that have reported COVID-19 cases to date is sixteen.
- ❑ The National Department of Health (NDOH)/National Control Centre (NCC) received 20,000 Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Testing (Ag-RDT) from WHO on 22 December 2020.
- ❑ NDOH/NCC received ventilator accessories from UNICEF supported by Newcrest Mining Limited on 16 December. The ventilator accessories are supplementary procurement for the ventilators initially procured by UNICEF with support from the New Zealand Government and Newcrest Mining Limited.
- ❑ The Healthier Together campaign on COVID-19 is ongoing. It was aired on 27 December on EMTV television following its airing on NBC on 20 December.

Table 1. COVID-19 IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA¹

	New Cases (21 - 27 December 2020)	Cumulative Total
National Capital District	0	361
Western	7	211
West New Britain	9	133
East New Britain	0	13
Eastern Highlands	0	13
New Ireland	4	12
Western Highlands	0	10
Central	0	9
Morobe	0	6
East Sepik	0	3
Enga	0	3
Milne Bay	0	2
West Sepik	0	2
AROB	0	1
Hela	0	1
Southern Highlands	0	1
TOTAL	20	781

¹ As of 27/12/2020, 12:00 pm, PNG time

Table 2. COVID-19 GLOBAL AND REGIONAL UPDATE²

	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Global	79 232 555	1 754 493
Western Pacific	1 059 751	19 558

² WHO COVID-19 Dashboard as of 27/12/2020, 2:22 pm CET

National Transmission Assessment

3 – Large-scale community transmission

Despite low rates of testing nationally, since November 2020 there have been an increasing number of COVID-19 cases reported across PNG. Between 21 and 27 December, 20 newly confirmed cases have been reported from three provinces (9 from West New Britain, 7 from Western Province, and 4 from New Ireland). Sixteen out of 22 provinces, including the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, have reported one or more cases since March 2020. Nationally, PNG remains in Stage 3 – large scale community transmission. With ongoing delays to swabbing, receiving test results, and increased travel and mass gatherings over the holiday period, cases are expected to continue to increase over the next few weeks.

Epi Update COVID-19

Tests	Cases	Deaths	ICU Admissions
2131	20	0	0
NAT Tests past 7 days	New cases past 7 days	Deaths past 7 days	ICU Admissions past 7 days
39492	781	9	9
Cumulative NAT Tests	Cumulative Cases	Cumulative Deaths	Cumulative ICU Admissions
0	16	4*	unknown*
Imported Cases in past 28 days	Cases in past 7 days with no link	Active Clusters in the past 7 days	Active clusters with >3 generations

*Case investigation ongoing

Epidemiology

Figure 1. Epidemiological Curve of COVID-19 Cases in Papua New Guinea, 15 March to 27 December 2020

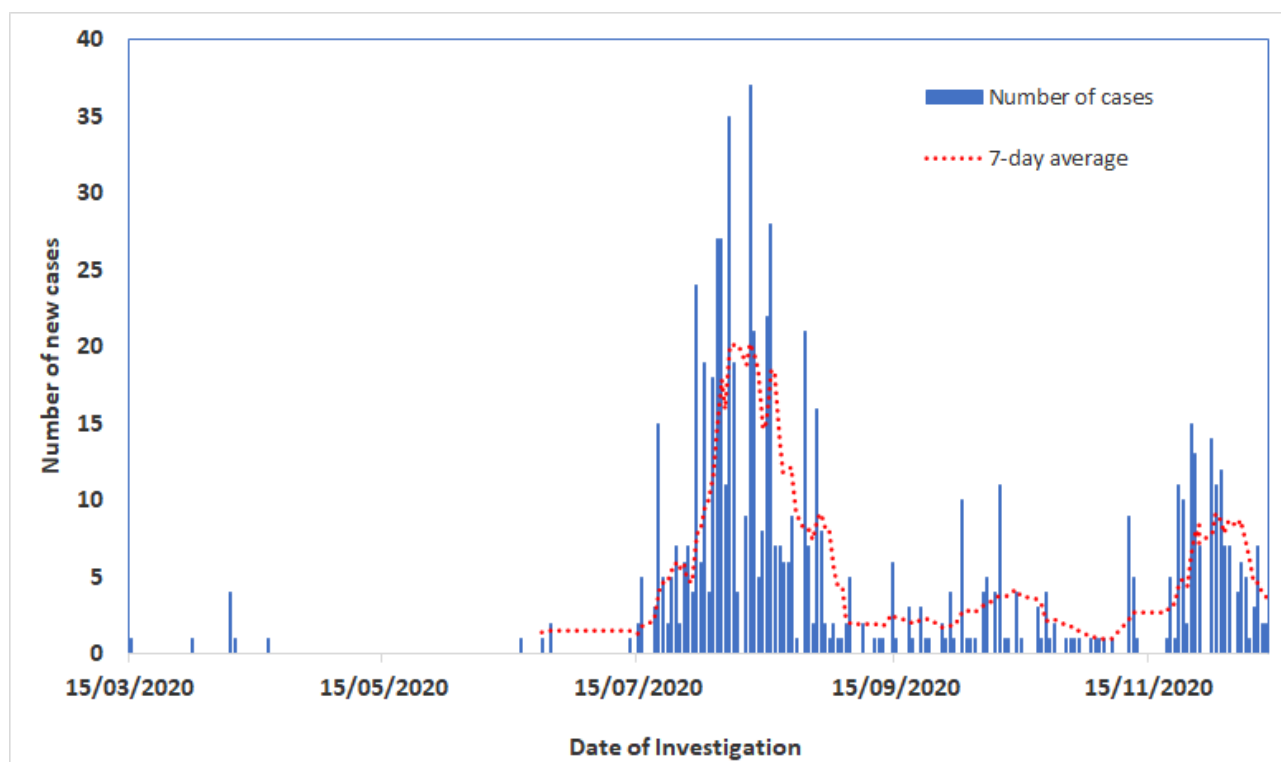
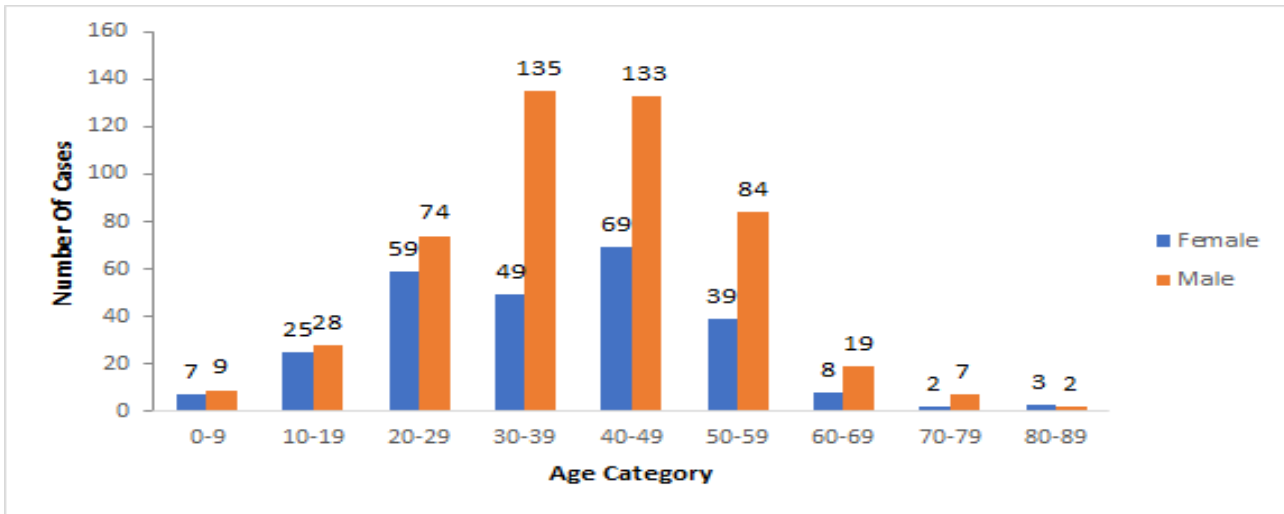


Figure 2. COVID-19 Cases by Age-Group and Sex in Papua New Guinea, 15 March to 27 December 2020



- For the period of 21 to 27 December, the COVID-19 National Hotline received 1,901 calls. Of these, 30 (about 1.6%) were health-related calls. Twenty-four (24) of these were referred to Rapid Response Team/PHA. As of 27 December, the hotline received a total of 147,048 calls. Of these, 4,856 (3.3%) were health-related calls. A total of 1,625 calls were referred to Rapid Response Team/PHAs.
- Papua Province in Indonesia is continuously reporting COVID-19 cases in areas that border Sandaun and Western Provinces. While the border is officially closed, traditional border crossing continues, and the threat of case importation remains high. As of 27 December, Papua Province has reported a total of 5,933 confirmed cases and 99 deaths among people who confirmed to have COVID-19 by RT-PCR (data accessible at <https://dinkes.papuabaratprov.go.id/>).

Table 3. Persons Screened by Point of Entry

Total Number of Travelers Screened before SOE (until 22 March)	29,387	
Total Number of Travelers Screened during SOE (23 March – 16 June)	3,788	
Total Number of Travelers Screened after SOE (17 June – 19 December)	Air	11,659
	Sea	671
	Land	6
	Total	12,336

Annex A – Pictures



Photos 1-2. NDoH/ NCC were handed over ventilator accessories from UNICEF supported by Newcrest Mining Limited on 16 December.



Photos 3-4. NDoH/ NCC received Ag-RDT from WHO on 22 December. These test kits will be used across PNG to increase COVID-19 testing rates and help reduce turnaround time.

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