



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Office of the Secretary

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CIRCULAR

TO: Chief Executive Officer- PHAs

DATE: 28 January 2020

**SUBJECT: MANDATORY HEALTH QUARANTINE SCREENING AT ALL POINTS OF ENTRY
THROUGHOUT PAPUA NEW GUINEA.**

The National Department of Health in Papua New Guinea is on heightened surveillance and for suspected cases following the recent outbreak of **Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak situation in Wuhan, Hubei China**. On 30 January, the WHO Director General Declared the outbreak a **Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHIEC)**. The NDOH is on heightened alert for imported cases. We are taking measures to prepare, prevent or reduce transmission.

2019-nCoV is a new disease and not so much is known about it. The Government of Papua New Guinea through the National Department of Health has been working with partner agencies to implement mitigation and control measures to protect public health of all people in PNG.

All PHAs are requested to enforce mandatory health screening of all in-bound vessels.

1. Port Health clearance will be given to all inbound international vessels and logging ships arriving or transiting from China on the 15th day after last port of call in China.
2. Screening and health clearance to be issued strictly by the Health Quarantine Officer or Duty Environmental Health Officer prior to boarding of vessels by other officers or the public.
3. Mandatory completion of 2019-nCoV screening forms for incoming passengers and crews arriving on all international vessels or carriers.

Remain vigilant and conduct public health awareness to ensure that the public are well-informed of basic preventive measures to take. Please keep the Provincial Emergency Operation Centre on alert and operational and standby should need arises.

HEALTH IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

We have also completed the Public Health and Medical /Clinical guidelines for the management of the 2019-nCoV. Our Public health and Clinical Standards team in the department will be in touch you to undertaken training for our health workers.

For more information, contact: Dr Daoni Esorom – Executive Manager- Pubic Health Division on 3013707/72313983 and email:daoniesorom@gmail.com/Esorom_Daoni@health.gov.pg, or Mr. Berry Ropa, Manager, Surveillance and Emergency Response on email [bropa2013@gmail.com/](mailto:bropa2013@gmail.com) 71291609 or the hotline on 71960813. Please find attached travel advisory with screening form for incoming international passengers and crew, and advocacy materials for public dissemination

Yours sincerely,



DR PAISON DAKULALA

Acting Secretary

cc Chief Migration Officer - PNG Immigrations and Citizenship Authority
cc Chief Executive Officer - PNG Ports
cc Chief Operating Officer - National Airports Corporation
cc Secretary - Department of Transport