



Government of the Republic of Vanuatu

National Disaster Management Office

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NEOC Situation Update

Response Name	Novel Coronavirus (COVID19)
Situation Report	01
Date	25 March 2020
Reporting period	11 March 2020 – 25 March 2020
Provinces affected	Sanma, Shefa, Tafea
Attachment(s)	Map of cases in the Pacific Region
NEOC Status	Activated - Wednesday 11 March 2020
Next SITREP	TBD

Situation Overview

As at Friday 20th March 2020, the Corona Virus task-force hand over the overall coordination of the pandemic to the National Disaster Management Office. While the National Disaster Management Office takes lead on the overall coordination of the operation COVID19, Health Cluster still takes lead of the technical and medical aspects of this operation.

Although, there was a suspect-case ¹of COVID-19 in Vanuatu in the past few days, the results came back as **NEGATIVE**. This confirms that Vanuatu has **0 cases**.

See annex (table) for cases in the pacific region outside the country.

Highlights

11 – 23 March 2020

The following measures were taken to assist NDMO and Health Cluster Minimize the health risks and improve work plans.

- **Mystery Island (in Aneitym, Tafea Province) will be quarantined for the next 14 days** due to that a cruise ship that visited the island earlier this month was carrying at least 1 known passengers who was tested to be positive with coronavirus. Therefore, **all ports of entry are temporarily closed for Aneitym only²**. Test samples for a few locals were taken, awaiting results.
- Schools in Sanma, Shefa and Tafea are temporarily closed. The Education cluster is working on home school package to provide for children in these provinces.

¹ See suspect-case definition on WHO website: <https://www.who.int/csr/sars/casedefinition/en/>

² NDMO Internal Advisory 1 clarification: all ports of entry closed for Aneitym only, not the whole Tafea Province.

- **All international flights grounded and other international ports of entry are closed** exceptions are for Vanuatu citizens that needed to be repatriated. **Only general cargo boats, oil, gas and fuel tankers are exempted.**
- Social gatherings and special events like weddings, kava bars, schools, bars, night-clubs are advised to postpone their activities until further notice.
- The public is advised practice good hygiene and social distancing as NDMO and Health cluster continues to monitor the situation.

23 – 25 March 2020

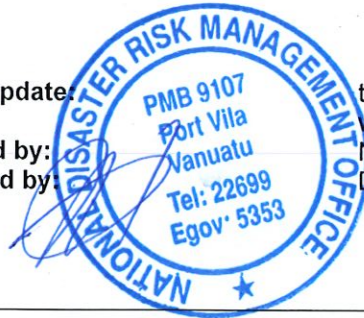
- As at 24th March the Vanuatu Council of Ministers (COM) decide on declaration of State of Emergency (SoE)
- The SoE is expected to be declared by the Head of State before the end of this week.

General Coordination

- The NEOC to coordinate this COVID19 operation with respective clusters and Provincial disaster officers.
- At the moment, NDMO is working with the Education Department, Labour Department, Consuls (in other countries), Immigration department, Health Cluster and Foreign Affairs department to repatriate students, RSE & SWP workers and other Vanuatu citizens outside the country who wish to be repatriated back to Vanuatu.
- The logistics cluster is providing support to the above mentioned organizations to coordinate repatriation flights for incoming international passengers. Apart from that, they also assist to coordinate charter flights for medical team to Aneityum.
- Currently, a total of 61 incoming passengers are currently quarantined for the next 14 days in Holiday Inn Resort along with 35 Vanuatu Mobile Force (VMF) personnel's who have been in Aneityum to conduct the 2020 general elections.
- WASH cluster is working on installing hand-washing basins in public areas for hygiene purposes.
- NGO's and other line agencies are working on contingency plans for their staff and also supporting Communications with Community sub-cluster to develop awareness materials and methods information dissemination on COVID-19.
- Provincial Disaster Officer (PDO's) have been activated as of today 25th March to support the Health cluster in communicating awareness on COVID-19 at the provincial level.
- The Emergency Telecommunications cluster has set up a **toll free number: 119** at the Health EOC for the public to call in and ask for information regarding Covid-19 virus. They are also assisting the NDMO and Health cluster to disseminate information via sms.

Further Information

- Health Update: toll free: 119
- NDMO: www.ndmo.gov.vu
- Prepared by: NDMO Information Management Unit
- Approved by: Director, National Disaster Management Office



Annex 1: Statistics of Confirmed cases and deaths in the Pacific Region

Data Source: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Date sourced: 25 March 2020, 1:34pm

Country	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Vanuatu	0	0
Australia	2,136	8
Fiji	4	0
New Caledonia	9	0
New Zealand	152	0
Guam	29	0
Papua New Guinea	1	0
French Polynesia	23	0
Solomon Islands	0	0