



NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL

NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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NATIONAL SITUATIONAL REPORT – 21

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1. OVERALL STRATEGY

Solomon Islands Government remains committed to its overall strategy on COVID-19 to *protect all Solomon Islanders and all people living in Solomon Islands, to keep the economic engine of the country going, and to position the country to emerge from this challenge stronger and united*. This strategy is the foundation of our COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, and other measures implemented by the Government. The National Disaster Council (NDC) Arrangement is employed as the country’s whole of Government response approach in the coordination of COVID-19 through the National and Provincial Disaster Operations Committees (N-DOC and P-DOC). The N-DOC and P-DOC through its Sector Committees COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plans are contributing to the health, social and economic security of the people of Solomon Islands through approaches that minimise the risk of importation of COVID-19, minimize the spread, reduce morbidity and mortality, and minimize and manage societal disruption, and psycho-social and economic impacts of COVID-19.

2. GENERAL UPDATES

- A new COVID-19 case detected onboard a cargo vessel MV Chefoo last week. While this new case was diagnosed in the country's Molecular Laboratory, it will not be registered as a Solomon Islands case. New case is referred to as 'Conveyance Case 1'.
- Total number of COVID-19 cases recorded in the country to date stands at 20. Nineteen (19) cases have recovered while one (1) is still active and remains in isolation.
- A total of 74 persons graduated and released on the 20th and 23rd of April, 2021 after completing all quarantine requirements.
- Total persons remaining in Solomon Islands Government (SIG) paid and self-paid Quarantine Stations as of 25th April, 2021 stands at 205.
- To date, over 13,000 COVID-19 tests have been conducted for arrivals as per quarantine testing protocols, pre-departure testing, suspected cases, reactivation cases and so forth.
- Total number of people in Honiara vaccinated in the National COVID Vaccination Rollout as of 25th April, 2021 stands at 4,289. MOI integrated mission has also seen over 400 plus persons of 18 years and above being vaccinated. For Western Province (Gizo), a total of 201 persons have been vaccinated as of 25th April, 2021. Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) continues in its vaccination awareness rollout for Malaita Outer Islands (MOI), Western and Choiseul Provinces.
- A technical Working Group (TWG) has begun initial discussions and planning on the establishment of a Reception Departure Centre (RDC) as part of the Government's augment escalation in preparedness for the anticipated repatriation of Solomon Island nationals on Bougainville.

GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The numbers are based on [WHO Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Dashboard](#) as of 6:00pm CEST, 25 April 2021

Globally

146,054,107 confirmed cases
3,092,410 deaths
899,936,102 vaccine doses administered as of 21 April 2021

Western Pacific Region

2,336,827 confirmed cases
36,219 deaths

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- The Government remains committed in ensuring there is a zero COVID-19 community transmission.
- Commercial, cargo and military flights continue with nationals and foreign nationals coming in and going out of the country. All incoming persons are undergoing mandatory quarantine in designated Quarantine Stations.
- The country's recorded COVID-19 cases to date stands at 20. Formerly positive cases who have been released after meeting health requirements are being traced by the MHMS for routine follow-ups.
- Solomon Islands remains under a State of Public Emergency (SOPE) since the declaration of the first SOPE on the 25th of March 2020.
- The National Disaster Council (NDC) Arrangement remains the country's preparedness and response coordination mechanism for the pandemic.
- Solomon Islands through RSIPF maintains safety and security on the Western Border with Papua New Guinea given the increase in cases and the potential of importation through this border.
- Essential cargo flights are also being done on need- basis. Whilst international trade continues strict measures are also put in place for all incoming vessels through the Honiara and Noro Ports.

4. SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

4.1 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE & NATIONAL DISASTER OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

- The OSC established by Cabinet to provide strategic advice on a whole-of-government planning and response to COVID-19 maintains its role.
- N-DOC Sector Committees maintains its COVID-19 Preparedness and 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 (QS). Broader coordination is through the N-DOC arrangements.
- N-DOC through NEOC has put together a Technical Working Group (TWG) and has begun initial discussions and planning on the establishment of a Reception Departure Centre (RDC) as part of the Government's augment escalation in preparedness for the anticipated repatriation of Solomon Island nationals on Bougainville.
- TWG members comprised of officers from NDMO, RSIPF, Border Management Unit, Health, Immigration, Customs, Biosecurity, MFAET and with the inclusion of Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRCS) and International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- Safety and security on the Western Border continue to be maintained by RSIPF.
- OSC through the MHMS is calling out on nationals on the Western (Shortlands), Choiseul, MOI to get vaccinated given the increasing cases of COVID on Bougainville.

4.2. REPATRIATION/INCOMING FLIGHTS/CARGO VESSELS

- SIG repatriation flights has stopped. Most entry into the Country are foreign nationals through chartered, military and cargo flights from Brisbane and abroad via Solomon Airlines.
- International trade continues through our sea ports Honiara and Noro. All incoming foreign cargo vessels are adhering to strict quarantine protocols as per the Emergency Powers (COVID19) (RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT OF FOREIGN VESSELS) Order 2020.
- All incoming persons are also required to adhere to Travel Advisories issued by SIG. [Travel Advisory Notice No.18](#) has been issued on the 19th of April, 2021 and provides important information for Non-Solomon Islanders planning to travel to Solomon Islands.

4.3. QUARANTINE STATIONS & ISOLATION

- Total persons in SIG paid and self-paid Quarantine Stations as of 25th April 2021 stands at 205.
- Quarantine Stations currently occupied are:
 - i. Pacific Casino Hotel – 46 occupants
 - ii. Honiara Hotel – 2 occupants
 - iii. Heritage Park Hotel – 5 occupants
 - iv. Guadalcanal Beach Resort (GBR) – 12 occupants
 - v. SA Apartments – 28 occupants
 - vi. King Solomon Hotel - 112
- 1 active case remain in isolation at the National Referral Hospital Isolation Ward.

5. N-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE UPDATES

5.1. CAMP MANAGEMENT SECTOR COMMITTEE (SIG Quarantine Stations)

- Camp Management Sector Committee (CMSC) has scaled down operations, released most officers and volunteers and retained limited number to manage the Quarantine Stations.
- The current occupancy status of SIG paid and self-paid Quarantine Stations stands at 205.
- A total of 74 persons graduated and released on the 20th and 23rd of April, 2021 after completing all quarantine requirements.
- SIG personnel deployed stands at 27. These are officers from RSIPF, MHMS and CMSC.

5.2. HEALTH SECTOR COMMITTEE

Health Coordination and Responses

- N-DOC Health maintains the leading role in the health aspects of SIG response to COVID-19.
- The National Health Emergency Operations Centre (NHEOC) maintains coordination functions amongst relevant health response agencies and with other sectors and EOCs as well as the provinces.
- Total active cases to date stands at 1. Active cases remain in isolation at the NRH Isolation Ward.
- Total number of people vaccinated as of 25th April, 2021 for Honiara, MOI and Western Provinces stands at approximately 4,890. NHEOC continues to support and enhance ongoing COVID operations, and promotion of other ongoing public health measures to prevent and protect all from COVID-19.
- National COVID Vaccination Rollout continues in Honiara as well as Malaita Outer Islands (MOI), Choiseul and Western Provinces. Following these rollouts, approximately 7,455 doses of AstraZeneca has also been sent to the said provinces.
- To date, over 13,000 COVID-19 tests have been conducted for arrivals as per quarantine testing protocols, pre-departure testing, suspected cases, reactivation cases and so forth.
- Testing labs includes NRH Molecular Laboratory and Gizo Hospital Laboratory. Testing capabilities remains intact and active. Work is also progressing in operationalizing testing capabilities in Malaita and Choiseul Provinces.
- A new COVID case detected onboard a cargo vessel MV Chefoo over the weekend. The case was detected amongst a crewmember of the cargo vessel and has now come under strict quarantine. While the new case was diagnosed in the country's Molecular Laboratory, it will not be registered as a Solomon Islands case. This case is referred to as the country's 'Conveyance Case 1'.
- Official launching of the National COVID Vaccination Rollout campaign held in Gizo Provincial Hospital on the 22nd of April, 2021 with a total of 201 persons vaccinated as of 25th April, 2021. The Western Border vaccination campaign is set to roll out soon with risk communication teams arriving safely in Nila, Shortland Islands.

5.3. SAFETY AND SECURITY

Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF)

- RSIPF maintains its overall role on providing safety and security in the country.
- RSIPF continue to conduct routine patrols and static presence to Quarantine Stations in Honiara.
- RSIPF resources and personnel at the Solomon Islands Border continues to provide logistical support as a whole of SIG response in its COVID-19 border operations.
- Presence of RSIPF on the border has been stepped up to tackle the issue of illegal border crossing given the increasing cases of COVID in Bougainville. Next deployment and handover is anticipated for the end of this month.

6. P-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE UPDATES

On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) Updates

- Provincial Disaster Operations Committee (P-DOC) for Western and Choiseul are manning and supporting the OSOCC with the deployment of personnel and resources down to the border.
- Risk Communications Team have completed the Terms of Reference (ToR) for vaccination sensitization and wait the vaccination roll out at the Western Border. Team has completed 100% of the communities at the Western Border.
- Risk Communication Officer from the Provincial Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC), Western Province have arrived on the 24th of April, 2021 and awaiting vaccination roll out.
- COVID-19 vaccines are on standby awaiting to be distributed to Western Border Clinics in preparation for the roll out.
- Immigrations and Customs/ Biosecurity maintain their presence at the border with no illegal border crossing reports as of yet however the presence of a foreign logging vessel has triggered an operational response team to inform the ship and its crew on the importance of adhering to the current government SOPE.
- Camp Management Team at Nila remains dormant.

7. OTHER NATIONAL SUPPORT

- SIG continues to receive donor support through the relevant N-DOC Sector Committees. The Government of Australia, New Zealand and the People's Republic of China being the prominent donors since the SOPE.
- International Organisations such as the WHO, UNICEF, UNDP and ADB have greatly supported and assisted the Government's Response.

8. OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES AND GAPS

- Lack of resources to support Western Border vaccination rollout is seen as one of the challenges/gaps that needs addressing.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Resourcing of Western Border Operation for vaccination rollout to be fast-tracked. Responsible authorities to take note and action recommendations from Situation Updates that are sent from OSOCC.

10. NEXT UPDATE AND APPROVAL

Next update **upon available information.**

APPROVED FOR DISSEMINATION BY

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PERMANENT SECRETARY MECDM/CHAIR NDC
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE,
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Additional Links

1. *National Health Emergency Operations Centre (NHEOC) SITREP40*
Link... <https://bit.ly/2Pfri9o>
2. *Travel Advisory Notice No.18*
Link... <https://bit.ly/3gpSoG2>
3. *SIG Western Border COVID-19 Response Plan 2021*
Link... <https://bit.ly/2OGVRo0>
4. *SIG News Release*
Link... [Articles – My SIG Services Portal \(solomons.gov.sb\)](#)