



NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL

NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology, Post Office Box 21, Honiara, Solomon Islands

| Phone: (677) 27936/7, 27063 | Toll-free: 955 | Fax: (677) 24293 / 27060 |

E-mail : directorndc@solomon.com.sb



NATIONAL SITUATIONAL REPORT – 23

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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

- Total number of COVID-19 cases recorded in the country to date stands at 20. The country has been COVID free for the last four months.
- Total persons remaining in Solomon Islands Government (SIG) paid and self-paid Quarantine Stations as of 11th August, 2021 stands at 1.
- Vaccination roll-out for all citizens including foreign nationals is currently underway in Honiara, Guadalcanal, Western, Choiseul and the Malaita Outer Islands with approximately 13, 188 people now been vaccinated so far. Roll-out to the remaining provinces is progressing which includes training for all frontliners.
- As of 7th August, 2021 approximately 56,928 doses of Astra Zeneca and Sinopharm have been given out so far with 15,000 COVID-19 tests have been conducted in the National Referral Molecular Laboratory and the Gizo Hospital Laboratory.
- 50,000 additional Astra Zeneca doses were received from Australia on the 29th of July, 2021.
- [Public Service Joint Circular Memorandum](#) dated 08th August, 2021 has urged all Public Servants including Provincial employees, and staff of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) to get COVID-19 vaccinations.

GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The numbers are based on [WHO Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Dashboard](#) as of **6:39pm CEST, 11 August 2021**

Globally

203,944,144 confirmed cases

4,312,902 deaths

4,394,596,684 vaccine doses administered as of **10**

August 2021

Western Pacific Region

5,066,046 confirmed cases

71,967 deaths

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- The Government remains committed in ensuring there is a zero COVID-19 community transmission. To date, there is no community transmission.
- Vaccination is occurring in a slow pace and needs to be stepped up. Members of the public 18 years and above are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated.
- All incoming persons undergo 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. International trade continues with strict measures in place for all incoming vessels through the country's international 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.
- Safety and security on the Western Border continue to be maintained by RSIPF.
- OSC through the MHMS is calling out on all nationals to get vaccinated given the increase in cases throughout the region and more so the Delta-variant which is affecting Fiji Islands that is of great concern to the country.
- The Prime Minister through his weekly updates has also called for all citizens 18 years and above to come forward and get their COVID-19 vaccinations.
- The National Disaster Operations Committee (N-DOC) through the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) have recently conducted a review workshop on the 30th of July, 2021 on the declared *Emergency Zone Lockdown Plan 2020*. This workshop brought in Government and non-government agencies including State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and other private entities to review and provide inputs to the lockdown plan. Once reviewed and approved, it will be shared to all.
- Another separate review workshop was conducted on the 05th of August, 2021 with the N-DOC Livelihood Sector Committee (LSC) to look at their preparedness and response plan in regards to the Lockdown Plan 2020. Discussions also centred on the recent Savo seismic activities and planning actions the LSC would take for preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. Both review workshops were funded by the Australian Government through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Project.
- Operational planning is also underway to repatriate Solomon Island nationals living in Bougainville.

4.2. REPATRIATION/INCOMING FLIGHTS/CARGO VESSELS

- The Government has placed a temporary suspension of all incoming passenger service by air or by sea to Solomon Islands until further notice.
- All cargo flights and vessels continue subject to weekly reviews.
- [Travel Advisory Notice Number 19](#) has been issued by the Oversight Committee for COVID-19, effective as of 29th July, 2021. All intending travellers to Solomon Islands are advised to comply to the travel advisory.
- A new shipping advisory will be released later this week outlining new measures for some classes of foreign vessels coming into the country or domestic ships that travel out of the country and returned to the country.
- The Government continues to reassure the country that every foreign vessel coming into the country undergoes risk assessment by the Vessels Exemption Committee for COVID-19.

4.3. QUARANTINE STATIONS & ISOLATION

- Total persons in SIG paid and self-paid Quarantine Stations as of 11th August 2021 stands at **1**.
- Quarantine Station currently occupied is Pacific Casino Hotel.
- No active cases in Isolation.

5. N-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE UPDATES

5.1. CAMP MANAGEMENT SECTOR COMMITTEE (SIG Quarantine Stations)

- CMSC continues in its operations in managing all designated quarantine operations.
- Total persons in quarantine as of 11th August, 2021 stands at 1.
- CMSC is also supporting other SIG personnel deployed to manage all designated quarantine stations.
- Safety and security in designated Quarantine Stations continues to be maintained by the Correctional Services of Solomon Islands (CSSI).

5.2. HEALTH SECTOR COMMITTEE

Health Coordination and Responses

- N-DOC Health through the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) 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.
- All active COVID cases have recovered.
- 90 days follow up protocol by MHMS on all 20 ex-positives have been completed with all test results negative.
- The recent incident of the foreign vessel that entered our country, MV PAPA MAU has resulted in the quarantining of 7 POE personnel and 20 Solomon Islands Ports Authority workers. All have completed their mandatory tests and have been released upon returning negative test results.
- Three COVID cases were detected after tests returned positive onboard a foreign vessel. The vessel was immediately put under quarantine with no unauthorized persons to board. Further testing is being conducted for the crews and depending on the results, the next course of action will be determined. MHMS through the Vessels Exemption Committee continues to ensure protocols requiring entry of foreign vessels by sea is enhanced and strengthened.
- MHMS have conducted assessments on Quarantine Stations to ensure they are able to contain the Delta variant and prevent it from leaking outside of the quarantine walls should we have people infected with the variant in the facilities.
- Kilufi Hospital, Malaita Province has successfully installed testing capabilities in its laboratory. This increases the country's testing sites to four. Work is in progress to increase working space in the laboratory. Government through MHMS continues to ensure all provincial testing capabilities and other testing facilities is upgraded.
- Launching of the vaccination roll-out for Malaita Province is scheduled for later this week to be followed by full roll-out of vaccination in the province. MHMS continues with its vaccination roll-out throughout the country.
- Key communication activities to push vaccination awareness messages to communities has been upscaled through the use of traditional and offline media platforms to target the general public.
- The National Referral Hospital will shortly be implementing COVID-19 screening at its carpark area for all persons presenting at the hospital. The public is reminded that only emergency cases or the very sick referred cases will be allowed. All other sick cases will go through the health clinics in the capital. This will allow the NRH to respond to any COVID-19 cases should community transmission occur.
- 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.

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.

6. P-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE UPDATES

- All Provincial Disaster Operations Committee (P-DOC) continue with their sector responses on COVID-19 despite limited infrastructures and resources.
- Western, Choiseul, Guadalcanal and Honiara City continues with its vaccination roll-out.

7. OTHER NATIONAL SUPPORT

- SIG continues to receive support from bilateral partners and international organisations for its COVID-19 operations.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- N-DOC Sector Committees to provide inputs to NEOC for review of the declared Honiara Lockdown Plan 2020.
- All nationals and foreign nationals living in the country are advised and encouraged to get vaccinated given the increase of the COVID Delta-variant in the region and especially Fiji. This will help reduce the risk and spread of community transmission should the country record(s) a community transmission.
- Shipping agents of all foreign vessels applying for entry into the country are required to adhere to rules and regulations imposed by the Vessels Exemption Committee for COVID-19.

9. NEXT UPDATE AND APPROVAL

Next update **upon available information.**

APPROVED FOR DISSEMINATION BY

DR. MELCHIOR MATAKI
PERMANENT SECRETARY MECDM/CHAIR NDC
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE,
DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND METEOROLOGY

Additional Links

1. *National Health Emergency Operations Centre (NHEOC) SITREP 48*
Link... <https://bit.ly/3yH8hxV>
2. *Public Service Joint Circular Memorandum 08th August 2021*
Link... <https://bit.ly/3jP2W1A>
3. *Travel Advisory Notice Number 19*
Link... <https://bit.ly/3lKSzOX>
4. *Gaz No. 171 & Sup No. 146 Thursday 23rd July 2021*
Link... <https://bit.ly/2WLRD6X>
5. *Gaz No. 172 & Sup 147 Thursday 23rd July 2021*
Link... <https://bit.ly/3yCSboU>
6. *SIG News Release*
Link... [Articles – My SIG Services Portal \(solomons.gov.sb\)](https://solomons.gov.sb/Articles-My-SIG-Services-Portal)