



# MILNEBAY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT



## MILNE BAY ADMINISTRATION Office of the Provincial Administrator & Pandemic Provincial Authorized Officer

### NATIONAL PANDEMIC ACT 2020

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#### PROVINCIAL MEASURES 1/2021

I, Ashan Numa, Provincial Administrator and Provincial Authorized Officer, appointed by the Controller pursuant to the relevant provisions of the *National Pandemic Act 2020*, hereby issue the following additional relevant compliance measures for the Milne Bay Province that are consistent with those issued by the Commissioner and Controller David Manning dated **18<sup>th</sup> March, 2021**. All previous provincial measures are hereby revoked.

#### **PART A. Domestic Travel Measures**

1. All measures issued under the National Pandemic Controllers measures No.1 to No.12 must be complied with. The following additional measures are applied and to be complied with in Milne Bay Province consistent with the National Measures.
2. **Air Ports: No travel to Milne Bay is permitted** except as specified by the National Pandemic Controller's Measure No. 3: 2. All inbound Domestic flights (both commercial and chartered) between Gurney (Alotau), Kiriwina and Misima Airports and rural airstrips within Milne Bay Province and other in country airports must come through Gurney Airport for health clearance prior to travelling to other airstrips in Milne Bay Province. **IT IS NOW A REQUIREMENT FOR ENTRY INTO MILNE BAY THAT A PERSON(S) MUST AT LEAST 24 HOURS PRIOR TO TRAVEL, ORGANISE AND TAKE A COVID19 TEST AND OBTAIN A NEGATIVE TEST RESULT CERTIFICATE FROM A RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED PNG TESTING FACILITY (Refer to National Pandemic Controller's Measure No. 7, Schedule 2) TO PRESENT UPON ARRIVAL AT GURNEY AIRPORT OR ANY ENTRY PORTS IN THE PROVINCE.** Pilots and crew are exempt, however, COVID19 checks shall be pre-arranged by airline companies. The only exception will be international travelers who have already undertaken the compulsory 14 days hotel quarantine in Port Moresby and have travelled straight out of quarantine to Gurney.
3. **Sea Ports:** Domestic Shipping in between provinces shall be cleared through Alotau Port by the Health, Quarantine and relevant agencies prior to proceeding to local destinations in Milne Bay Province and within PNG Waters. Shipping agencies are to advise the PCC and the MBPHA at least 24 hours prior to arrival in Alotau Port. **Shore Leave is not permitted** until further notice, unless for emergency purposes. COVID19 measures are to be observed at all times. All crew members on board will continue providing temperature checks to the Health Quarantine team as per the usual practice.



4. Provincial Border travel, from Central/Milne Bay and Oro/Milne Bay is not permitted except as specified by the National Pandemic Controller's Measure No. 3: 2. Borders will be monitored by the joint provincial authorities to ensure observance of COVID19 health measures or the *Niupla Pasin*. All incoming passengers/travelers, including Part A. 2, must have a valid negative COVID19 test results 24 hours prior to travel and have a valid reason (refer to Domestic Travel Measure 3, Schedule 1).
5. Travel Passes shall now be required for travel out of Milne Bay, approved by the Provincial Controller, for essential travel only out of the province or to the districts. These will be issued by the Provincial Control Centre.

## **PART B. Provincial Coordination Measures**

1. Pursuant to the Controller's Measures described as No.4, the Provincial Advisory Committee ("**PAC**") is an established quorum Chaired by the Provincial Administrator, thereafter the Provincial Police Commander, Chief Executive Officer ("**CEO**") for Milne Bay Provincial Health Authority ("**MBPHA**"), CEO's for Districts, Church and Business Council representatives and or others wherefore may so be deem fit.
2. The Provincial Control Centre ("**PCC**") is set up and located at the Media and Disaster Centre in Alotau, Milne Bay Province. Wherefore so a Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce has been established to manage the PCC and for all relevant purposes to report to the Provincial Advisory Committee ("**PAC**").
3. All District Administrations to reactivate District COVID19 taskforces, led by the District Administrators in consultation with the District Health Managers and District Law Enforcement Officers and supported by the Provincial Advisory Committee and the Provincial Control Centre. The District COVID-19 taskforce must endeavor to report to the Provincial Controller weekly to on forward situation to the NCC.
4. At all material times, the numbers to call the Provincial Control Centre are **6411886** or **71162447** and for COVID19 specific matters, person or persons of interest may call the Provincial Health Authority Hotline on **72820422**.

## **PART C. Schools, Business and Social Measures**

1. All persons are required to wear Masks or face coverings, which is mandatory in all Public Areas, Public Transport or Establishments in Milne Bay Province effective 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. However, all persons and establishments are responsible and urged to make judgements as to the risks to themselves and others and practice due discretion where applicable as per the following.
  - a. No persons shall be permitted into crowded Public Areas without a mask. Washing hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer is required;
  - b. This include designated Markets, Establishments or on Public Transport where there is interaction with customers, clients and workers in the places mentioned herein;



- c. Businesses and government departments and agencies must ensure all employees have Masks or Face Coverings. However, employer and employee discretion is encouraged as to the risks to themselves and others;
  - d. Persons exempted are those listed under Pandemic Measure No. 10, point 10; and
  - e. A person is also exempted from these measures if she or he removes their mask or face covering to eat, drink or take medication.
2. All **Schools** across the province will be suspended for four (4) weeks from 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2021 to 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 as per directive by the Minister for Education. Where schools commence operations thereafter they will strictly observe all COVID19 health protocols, including the mandatory wearing of masks, washing hands with soap and water, keeping social distancing of 1.5m and if having flu-like symptoms and sneezing/coughing, do onto your elbow, stay at home or seek medical attention by calling the COVID19 hotlines.

However, where COVID19 positive case(s) is/are detected, the following relevant protocols will be activated immediately to respond to the case(s) by the relevant authorities.

- a. The schools(s)/institution(s) shall be closed indefinitely and formal advice shall be issued by the Division of Education to that effect to school(s), school administrator(s), parents and the general public to allow for contact tracing, monitoring and surveillance and assessment of the status of the virus.
  - b. Directives to reopen schools shall be issued to all schools, school administrators, parents and the general public after the authorities are satisfied that all measures to address the COVID19 positive case(s) is/are complied with and it is assessed that the risk is manageable, the Provincial Controller, based on advice by the Provincial Advisory Committee, shall issue directives to the Division of Education for the reopening of schools.
  - c. Sale of cooked foods and other goods are banned in and around school grounds except for school canteens. Parents are advised to provide packed lunches for day students.
3. For purposes of Part C, Section 1 (a), (b), and (c) abovementioned, at all material times, reasonable steps shall include but are not limited to:-
- a. Denying entry to persons not wearing a mask or face covering;
  - b. Requesting to leave an Establishment if they are not wearing a mask of face covering and are not exempted;
  - c. Providing a Mask or Face Covering to Employees and making it the company or organizations mandatory policy that Masks and Face Covering are worn in compliance with these measures; and
  - d. Non-compliance with wearing of masks or face covering should be reported to an Authorized Officer or the Provincial Police Commander.
4. All Venues or parts of venues that provide night club activities and services, sports and venues selling tickets to patrons to be spectators of event, or that operate for the purposes of



consumption of alcohol, gambling and or indoor gaming or leisure venues are directed to close as per National Pandemic Controller's Measure No. 9, 3, but may operate subject to Provincial Controllers Approvals. However, restaurants or premises that provide food for consumption may operate subject to the following measures:-

- a. All persons on entry and exit from venues must wash their hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer;
  - b. Follow all COVID19 hygiene standards as issued by the Controller; and
  - c. Facemasks or face covering is mandatory in all venues effective Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2021 and to be worn except when eating or drinking. However, venue owners shall use discretion on the risks to patrons and take responsibility for their clients.
5. All organized sports activities are directed to be suspended as per National Control Measures No.9, 7, unless authorized by the Provincial Controller. Organizing committees, participants and spectators are to work with various local committee leaders and authorities to ensure observation of COVID19 protocols or the 'New Normal' are observed. Awareness of and compliance to COVID19 protocols will be responsibilities of the organizing communities.
6. All Markets must comply with mask wearing or face covering, social distancing requirements and safe and hygienic practices as issued by the Controller, notwithstanding:-
- a. Social distancing of at least 1.5 meters between each person; and
  - b. All persons on entry and exit from markets must wash their hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer.
7. The Sanderson Bay Informal Market and the Sanderson Bay Hotel Unit shall be closed upon written direction of the Provincial Controller/Authorized Officer, as and when required, to activate the use of the COVID19 Isolation Ward. In the event this happens, the Sanderson Bay Units shall be handed to the Provincial Advisory Committee/Provincial Control Centre to rearrange for COVID19 Isolation Centre if and when required. Upon the written direction from the Provincial Controller/Authorized Officer all persons must vacate the premises within 24 hours.
8. No person(s) shall chew betelnut/buai and spit in public places and public transport, except in their own private dwelling(s)/vehicles. Smoking is also prohibited in public places and therefore, please comply.
9. All Local religious activities may continue to operate, but must adhere to the following restrictions:-
- a. Congregation size of any religious activity to be a maximum of 50. However, we encourage the religious groups to ensure COVID19 protocols are adhered and if required to be more than 50, requires the Provincial Controllers approval.
  - b. Social distancing of at least 1.5 meters between each person; and
  - c. All persons on entry and exit must wash their hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer; and



- d. Follow all other hygienic standards as issued by the Controller.
10. The following religious gatherings are restricted 50 people, however may proceed with observance of COVID19 health measures and upon approval by the Provincial Controller accordingly. This includes funeral and haus cries:-
- a. Provincial Church gatherings;
  - b. National Church gatherings;
  - c. Crusades;
  - d. Conventions;
  - e. Provincial or National outreach programs; and
  - f. Other open air activities in public areas may proceed but must observe COVID19 health protocols and awareness. However, organizers must advise the PCC and relevant authorities accordingly.
11. Except for Section 5, 6, 9 and 10 above, an immediate ban is placed on all public gatherings of over 10 people, unless authorized by the Provincial Controller. A request for exemption must be in writing to the Provincial Controller and must include steps taken to comply with COVID19 compliance in accordance with the *Niupela Pasin*.
12. Travel on public transport from and between the provincial headquarters of Alotau to Districts will require a pass and shall be monitored by Milne Bay Provincial Transport Authority, Districts and other relevant Authorities to ensure all persons observe health and hygiene measures. Districts or parts of the districts may be quarantined indefinitely following PHA advice to the controller should there be cases detected in specific locations within the districts.
13. Non-compliance with the above measures by any person or persons shall be deemed to have committed an offence pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Pandemic Act 2020. Should there be any inconsistencies, the National Pandemic Controllers Measures prevail.
14. These measures come into effect in Milne Bay Province on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2021 and supersedes previous measures and shall remain in force until further updated measures are issued.

Signed:

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ASHAN NUMA  
PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATOR &  
PROVINCIAL AUTHORIZED OFFICER



Date:

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19/3/21