Ministry of Health
Vanuatu Government

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Vanuatu Flash Update – 10 November 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- **First confirmed case of COVID-19 in Vanuatu detected in quarantine** on 10 November 2020. As per the *COVID-19 Health Sector Preparedness and Response Plan*, Vanuatu is now in **Scenario 2A** ie. border case(s) only.
- Case was asymptomatic and was detected in quarantine during routine day 5 testing (and was later confirmed).
- Case will remain in isolation following all established protocols until health clearance is given for release.
- Contact tracing has been initiated with close contacts to be quarantined.
- Risk communication and community engagement will be ramped up.
- People are urged not to spread misinformation and rumours.
- Further information and updates are available at www.covid19.gov.vu

DETECTION OF FIRST CASE

On 10 November 2020, the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Vanuatu. The case was asymptomatic (not sick) and was identified in quarantine during routine day 5 testing (with re-testing to confirm). The case is a 23-year old male ni-Vanuatu citizen repatriated from USA with an arrival date to Vanuatu of 04 November 2020. Physical distancing and personal protection measures were applied and maintained during the flight, throughout the arrival process, during transport to and during registration at the quarantine facility. Arrival screening was undertaking following established protocols. The person had been identified during pre-travel registration as travelling from a higher-risk location, therefore was seated separately at the back of the plane and was screened and transported separately from other arriving passengers. The case did not share a room with anyone else at the quarantine facility and is reported to have adhered to all appropriate measures throughout the travel and quarantine process.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACTIONS

In accordance with the *COVID-19 Health Sector Preparedness and Response Plan* (version 5), Vanuatu is now in **Scenario 2A** (one or more cases detected in quarantine). A case detected in quarantine is considered a **border case and not an outbreak**. The following measures have been initiated as per the *Plan*:

- Isolate the asymptomatic case until health clearance provided
- Contact tracing and quarantine of close contacts
- Maintain all persons from the same flight in quarantine and monitor and test as per protocols
- Increase risk communication about the situation, transmission and prevention measures
- Increase community engagement for preparedness and response activities

ONGOING QUARANTINE AND TESTING OF REPATRIATES

- In accordance with the Public Health Act (Cap. 234), international arrivals (returning citizens and residents) have been placed in mandatory quarantine for 14 days in hotels and provided with food, daily health checks, testing for SARS-CoV-2 at days 5 and 11, and psychosocial assessments and support.
- Phase 2 of repatriations commenced on 01 August 2020. So far, 2,193 passengers have arrived (with travel originating in 21 countries) and have been placed in quarantine in Port Vila; 2,029 have been released and 164 are currently in quarantine.
- 181 persons have been tested to date with one (1) person identified as SARS-CoV-2 positive.

Phase 2 summary of persons in quarantine and status, as of 10 November at 11.30pm [Port Vila]

Number of people quarantined in Phase 2		Number of people quarantined with fever or respiratory symptoms		Number of people quarantined and confirmed to have COVID-19
Since August 2020	Current	Cumulative	Current	Current
2,193	164	5	0	1

Approved by: Mr Len Tarivonda, Health Incident Management Team – Health Operations Lead
Approved at: 11 November 2020, 10:30am

**This is a Flash Report for rapid communication. Situation Reports will be issued depending on the evolving situation.*