

17 March 2021

**CIRCULAR No. 11/2021**

Dear Member,

**COVID19 ALERT - SPIKE IN REPORTED CASES THROUGHOUT PNG**

The Employers Federation reminds all members that the number of reported cases of Covid-19 continue to climb. The number of cases reported on 16 March 2021 on the World Health Organization (WHO) website stands at 2352 confirmed cases including 26 deaths. In comparison, only nine days ago, the number of confirmed cases was 1583 and 16 deaths.

In view of the escalating community transmission, we encourage employers to increase their efforts in enforcing virus prevention measures at the workplace environments. Installation of handwashing stations, enforcing facemask rules, regularly sanitizing the workplace, minimizing unnecessary movement of people in and out of the workplace, and enforcing physical distancing rules are strongly encouraged.

On behalf of the Peak Bodies representing Businesses, the PNG Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Business Council of Papua New Guinea have released a Joint Statement on Covid-19 Prevention. We attach a copy of the statement herewith for your information and noting.

Should you have questions generally on Covid-19, please do not hesitate to contact the Federation Office.

Yours Sincerely,



**Florence Willie**  
**Executive Director**



Joint Statement | PNG Chamber of Commerce & Industry | Business Council of PNG  
Tuesday March 16, 2021

## **BUSINESSES MUST TAKE LEAD IN COVID-19 PREVENTION**

With the recent increase in positive COVID-19 cases reported in Papua New Guinea, the peak bodies representing business, the private sector and development partners are calling on its members to take the lead in promoting, and implementing necessary COVID-19 prevention protocols.

Papua New Guinea Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PNGCCI) and Business Council of PNG (BCPNG) are reminding businesses to implement the Niupela Pasin strategy at every workplace.

The following measures under the Niupela Pasin, are aimed to protect employees, clients and the general public at all workplaces

1. If you're sick, stay home. Don't go to work. Don't socialise.
2. If you have fever, cough, sore throat or difficulty breathing, call the **COVID-19 Hotline 1-800200**. If you are told to self-isolate, you must do so immediately.
3. Maintain at least 1.5 meters between yourself, colleagues and clients.
4. Greet each other with a smile, a nod or a simple hello – no handshakes or fist bumps!
5. Clean and disinfect your workplace regularly – particularly door handles, phones, keyboards, elevator buttons, kitchens and bathrooms.
6. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based sanitizer.
7. Sneeze and cough into your elbow, or use a tissue and dispose into bin immediately.
8. Reduce gathering in the offices. Limit large in-person meetings or hold meetings via phone or over the internet.
9. Wear a face mask or face covering in all public places to protect yourself and others.
10. If you're concerned about your wellbeing or have underlying health conditions, work with your doctors to understand how best to stay healthy

These are measures that are now a normal part of life.

As the voice of business, the private sector and development partners, we remind all our members to ensure that all measures are taken to protect everyone from COVID-19. This is a shared responsibility, which we all must play our part in addressing.

Given the recent spike in community transmission resulting in an increased positive COVID-19 cases being reported, and the continued constraints faced by our health facilities, it is important that we take the lead in promoting, and practicing COVID-19 prevention protocols.

The PNGCCI and BCPNG acknowledge the efforts taken by Government to contain the spread of COVID-19, and we stand ready to assist where we can as partners in this challenge.

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