

KTF EDUCATION PRESENTS

COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION & AWARENESS MODULE

a Project Airborne initiative



KTF

COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION & AWARENESS MODULE CONTENTS

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MEET KTF

- KTF (Kokoda Track Foundation) is an Australian international NGO working in Papua New Guinea. Because of our shared history, the legacy of World War II and the support Australia received during the Kokoda campaign, KTF supports communities in PNG to overcome some of the challenges they face today.
- KTF runs programs in the vital areas of education, health, and livelihoods across 16 of PNG's 22 Provinces. These programs aim to train high quality teachers and community health workers, provide these professionals with mentoring and professional development opportunities, build educational and health infrastructure, fund the ongoing maintenance and resourcing of schools and aid posts, and support the positions of teachers and health workers across rural regions. Our livelihoods program aims to generate sustainable income-generating opportunities for women in remote areas via investment in state-of-the-art solar technology and women's sanitary and health products. KTF has also delivered a national leadership program, now in its tenth year, with final year tertiary students from across PNG, finding and fostering the next generation of leaders.
- KTF's projects are rapidly pivoting to adapt and continue during the current global threat posed by COVID-19.



INTRODUCTION

- The information contained in this manual will help you, your friends, families and communities to make informed decisions about COVID-19 vaccines.
- Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, a lot of research and development has been undertaken to develop vaccines to help us overcome this highly contagious and deadly disease. There are now a number of vaccines that are available to prevent infection and serious illness from COVID-19. The COVAX scheme has been established to ensure equal access to vaccines for everyone. COVAX is providing the AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines to Papua New Guinea. These vaccines have been approved by the PNG National Department of Health for people over 18 years of age. The information contained in this manual will help you, your friends, families and communities to make informed decisions about the COVID-19 vaccine.
- As of 3rd June 2021, The World Health Organisation (WHO) has evaluated that six vaccines against COVID-19 (including AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson) have met the necessary criteria for safety and efficacy. As of 4th August 2021, more than 4.1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered worldwide
- All information within this guide is referenced from reliable sources such as the World Health Organisation, Centre for Disease Control, Gavi The Vaccine Alliance, Johns Hopkins University & Medicine, and Government Health Agencies in Australia and Papua New Guinea.

WHO CAN GET COVID-19 ?

- Anyone can be infected with COVID-19.
- COVID-19 does not differentiate between borders, race and ethnicity, disability status, age or gender.
- It is important to be kind and supportive to people with suspected or confirmed cases of the virus. We are all in this together.
- As of 4th August 2021, COVID-19 has resulted in the deaths of over 4.2 million people worldwide and this number is rising daily. Actual numbers of deaths are likely to exceed these figures due to limitations in reporting.



WHY DO WE NEED A VACCINE?

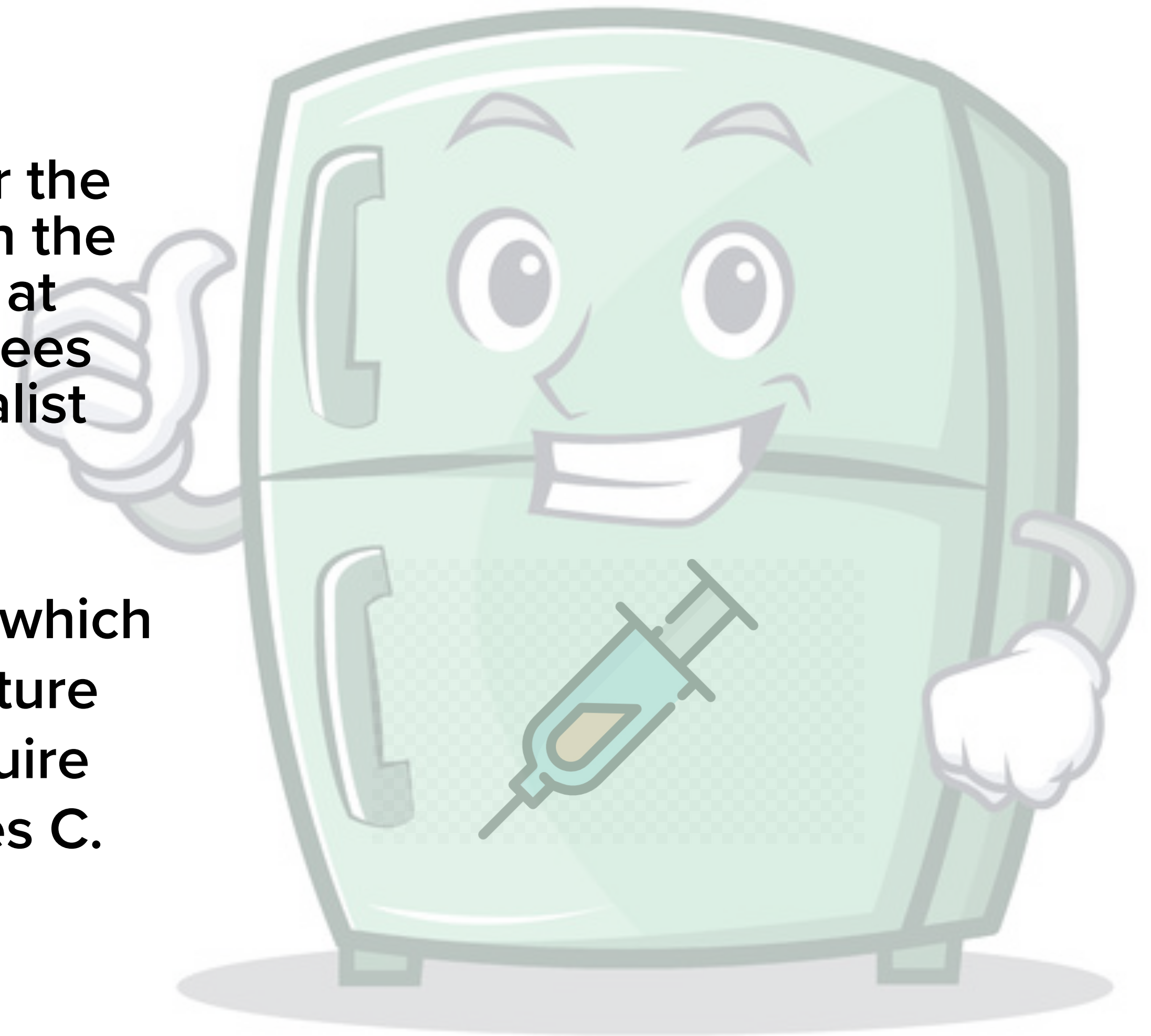
- Vaccination is the best way to develop immunity and prevent COVID-19 disease. Protection through vaccination will mean that, in time, we would not need measures like mask wearing, social distancing and strict lockdowns with travel restrictions. These measures have considerable personal, community and economic impacts. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness. It is spread amongst people through droplets that are projected from an infected person into the air, directly to another person or via surfaces such as objects that are often touched by people such (door handles, toilets, food and pots and pans).
- Some people may choose to delay vaccination because they believe there are low numbers of COVID-19 cases in Papua New Guinea. But this could change at any time, and very swiftly. In PNG, the sharing of a land border with West Papua and therefore Indonesia, is a significant risk.
- Manokwari district and Sorong City, the largest city of West Papua have recently emerged from an eight day lockdown, from July 12, 2021 till July 20, 2021 due to Papua and West Papua provinces being overwhelmed by the devastating outbreak of the COVID-19 Delta variant. Whether or not the short lockdown was enough to slow the spread is yet to be determined.
- Vaccination is the only way to protect the community and prevent the disease from spreading.

I AM HEALTHY, WHY IS THIS A PROBLEM?

- Receiving the vaccination is not just for protecting yourself, it is for protecting your friends, family and community. Help reduce COVID-19 in your community and across Papua New Guinea. COVID-19 can spread quickly and widely.
- New strains of the virus, such as the Alpha and Delta variants, are appearing which are more contagious than the original strain. Global figures are showing an increased impact on people of all ages, including younger people. On 4th August a 20 year old man died from COVID-19 in Sydney, Australia.
- If you are vaccinated, you significantly reduce the chance of death or hospitalisation from COVID-19. In addition to protecting yourself, the vaccine also helps the larger community. When enough people in the community are vaccinated, it slows down the spread of disease. If there are fewer targets for the virus to jump to, fewer people will get sick. And that means there will be less chance for more dangerous variants to develop. Achieving herd immunity, also called community immunity, is a long-term goal. It requires a large amount of the population to be vaccinated.
- The longer coronavirus spreads, the more it mutates. And if the mutations are significant, they could lead to new strains that can't be fought off with current vaccines. So the key to ending this pandemic isn't just to get vaccinated. It's to get vaccinated as soon as possible, before the virus mutates into new strains that can't be controlled with current vaccines.

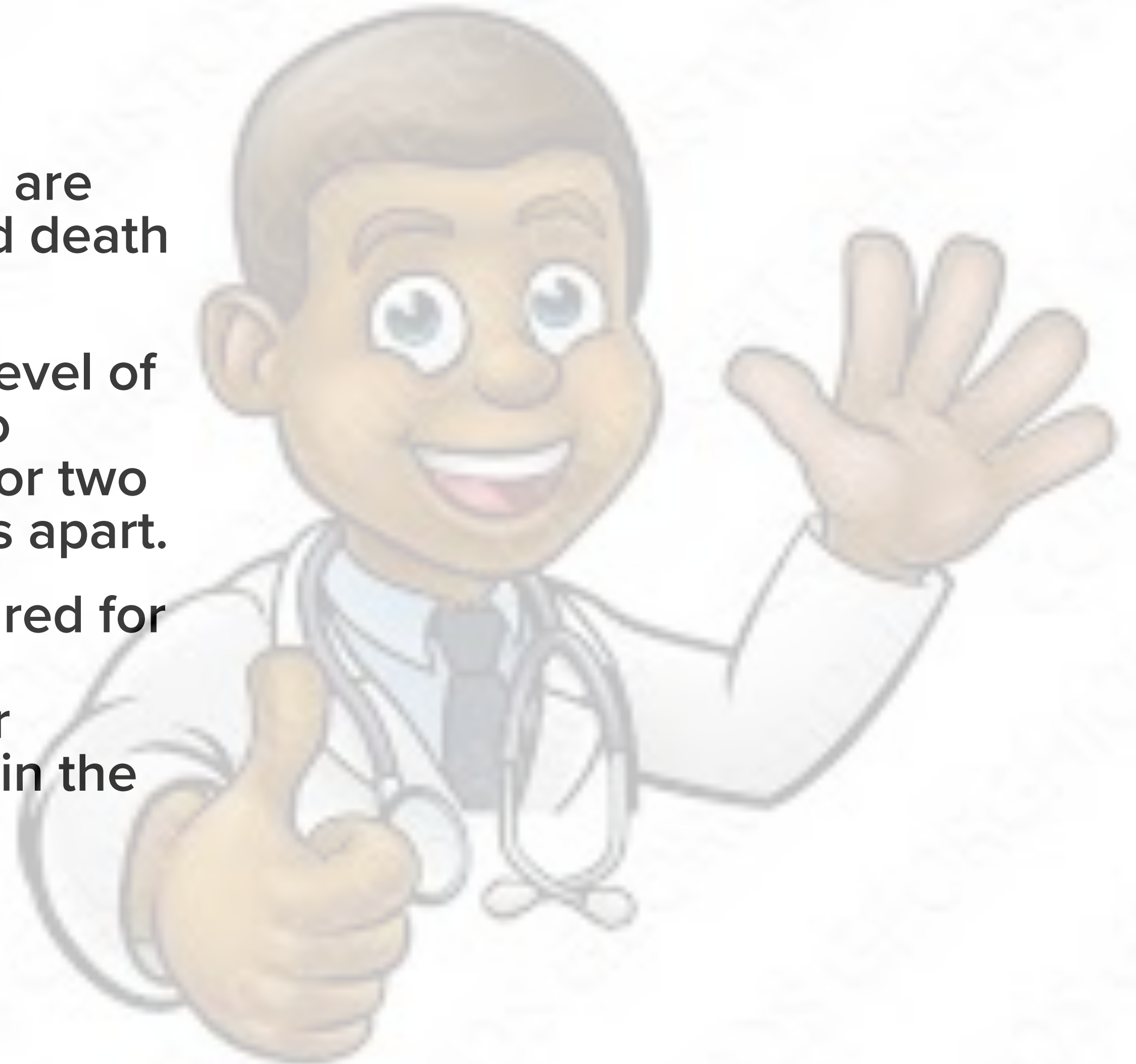
WHY THIS VACCINE?

- AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson offer the convenience of a simple supply chain, with the vaccine able to be stored and transported at normal refrigerator conditions (2 to 8 degrees C) for six and three months, with no specialist setting required for administration.
- This compares favourably to supply chain logistics for Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which can only be stored at refrigerator temperature for five and 30 days, respectively, and require transport at -70 degrees C and -20 degrees C.



DO THE VACCINES WORK?

- AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are very effective in preventing severe disease and death due to COVID-19 in adults of all ages.
- For AstraZeneca, one dose will provide some level of protection. However, two doses are required to maximise protection. The recommendation is for two doses of AstraZeneca between 6 and 12 weeks apart.
- For Johnson & Johnson, only one dose is required for optimal protection. Which vaccine you will be administered will depend on availability in your location. Both vaccines are effective and work in the same way.
- By August 2021, 4.1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered worldwide.



ARE THE VACCINES SAFE?

- The AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines have undergone rigorous testing and clinical trials involving over 40,000 of people to determine their safety.
- Both vaccines have been approved for use by The World Health Organisation (WHO).
- Millions of doses of the vaccines have been administered already around the world.
- AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is the most widely administered vaccine globally, used in 184 countries around the world so far.
- Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine is currently being used in 43 countries.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

* There is no COVID in my village.



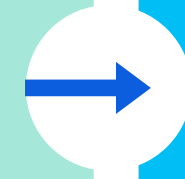
- * This could change very swiftly. It is better to be protected before instead of after it arrives.
- * Protection against non-severe COVID-19 and complications such as 'long COVID'.
- * Protection of unvaccinated close contacts of vaccinated individuals.
- * Protection of friends, family and community by preventing transmission of the virus.
- * Ability to ease and/or avoid imposing other COVID-19 mitigations.
- * People can be infected with COVID-19 and may not have any symptoms but they can still be spread to others (including vulnerable people).
- * Borders can be reopened for tourists to return.
- * Worldwide research has shown that people have contracted the virus in its variant forms more than once. In most cases, the patient has developed far more severe symptoms the second time leading to hospitalisation.

* Most people who contracted COVID-19 have recovered.



* Whilst many people recover from COVID-19, it is still unknown what the long-term effects of the virus will be.

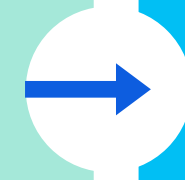
* I'm young, it won't affect me.



* Research into the Delta variant has found evidence that young people are just as susceptible to infection. With earlier strains, the rapid responses of younger people's immune systems provided an advantage in protecting the body from the virus.

* As of 21st July 2021, 38% of COVID-19 sufferers currently in Australian hospitals are under 55 and 22% are under the age of 35. On 4th August, a 20 year old man died from COVID-19 in Sydney, Australia.

* I'm not at risk of severe infection so why do I need it?



* You can carry the virus and infect others who may be more susceptible to a severe illness including the elderly, those with underlying health conditions, and people with a disability.

* Why does Australia recommend AstraZeneca to be given to people over 60 years of age?

* As of July 2021, this has changed in response to the current outbreak and rapidly increasing cases. The vaccine is now approved for all adults over 18.

* Does it work?

* After the correct dosage the vaccines are 82% effective at stopping you from becoming infected. There is a small chance you may still get COVID-19 but you will not develop a serious or life-threatening illness.

* Does it work against new variants?

* Research indicates that 2 doses of AstraZeneca provides 74% protection against the Alpha variant and 67% against Delta. AstraZeneca confirms 100% protection against severe disease, hospitalisation and death.

* Does having side effects mean that the vaccine is working? What does having no side effects mean?

* The vaccine stimulates your immune system to protect you from the virus. This sometimes causes side effects like fever, chills or headache, but not for everyone. Whether you have a reaction or not does not predict if it works or not. You do not have to have side effects in order to be protected.

* Am I protected if I have one dose of AstraZeneca?

* One dose will provide a small amount of protection but the recommendation is for two doses at around 6-12 weeks apart.

* What about blood clots?

* Blood clots resulting from the vaccines are extremely rare, occurring in about 0.001% of people, or 1 per 100,000. The number of people who die from this are 1 per 2 million.

* How about the rushed vaccine production?

* Coronavirus vaccine research began after the SARS outbreak of 2003. This pre-existing shared knowledge, aided by swift and huge monetary investments from multiple governments and international agencies due to the urgency of the global situation, then most importantly the largest clinical trials in the history of medicine (almost 45,000 participants) has resulted in the safe and fast development of COVID-19 vaccines.

* Will the vaccine give me COVID-19?

* The vaccines do not contain live coronavirus. You will not get COVID-19 from the vaccine.

* Will the vaccine make me sick?

* After the shots, you might experience a sore arm, a mild fever, body aches, headaches, nausea & diarrhoea but this doesn't mean you have COVID-19. These symptoms, if they happen at all, are temporary, usually lasting only a day or two. They signal a natural response as your body's immune system learns to recognise and fight the coronavirus. If symptoms persist for more than 2 days then please seek advice from a health worker.

* Will the vaccine make me magnetic?

* There is no scientific evidence to suggest any of the WHO approved vaccines have magnetic properties.

* Does the vaccine contain a microchip?

* There is no scientific evidence to suggest any of the WHO approved vaccines contain a microchip.

* Will the vaccine change my DNA?

* COVID-19 vaccines do NOT change human DNA. The vaccines do not have any contact with DNA inside the cells of your body so they cannot alter DNA in any way. The vaccines stimulate the body's immune system to produce antibodies, DNA is not part of this process.

* I am pregnant.

* Pregnant women can receive the vaccine if the benefit of vaccination outweighs the potential risks. Therefore, pregnant women at risk of exposure to COVID-19 (e.g. health workers) or who have underlying health conditions may be vaccinated. Pregnant women should seek the advice of a health worker. The vaccines are safe for breastfeeding mothers, and do not harm a woman's ability to become pregnant.

* I have allergies

* People with common allergies (eg. foods, insect stings, latex etc) can get a COVID-19 vaccine. People who have previously had a severe allergic reaction to a vaccine should consult your doctor, who can evaluate you and assess your risk.

GET THE FACTS!

- We encourage everyone to rely on reputable sources of information to help make informed choices and stay up-to-date on the latest information about COVID-19 vaccines. With new COVID-19 variants emerging and vaccine development, it's normal to have questions or concerns, and possibly feel hesitant about getting a vaccine.
- There is a lot of misinformation and rumours about COVID-19 and the safety of the vaccines. Sometimes it's hard to tell false information apart from the facts. It is important that you know where to look to find the truth. WHO and UNICEF are good sources for facts. Follow the advice provided by the PNG Health Department's Niupela Pasin.
- Facebook and WhatsApp are not always reliable sources of information. Information you read from them should always be fact checked against other sources. As educators, teachers can play a vital role in distributing the facts about COVID-19.
- The PNG toll-free COVID-19 information number is 1800 200 and is a useful resource.





PNG Council of Churches

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied.

"Am I my brother's keeper?"

Genesis 4:9

Declaration

PNG COUNCIL OF CHURCHES SUPPORT COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

We define ourselves as churches, living and working together for the common good of people and society, therefore we affirm our support for the COVID-19 vaccination and declare our trust in the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccination as a lifesaving tool which protects human from severe sickness and death due to COVID-19," said the PNG Council of Churches in a statement issued on Friday.

"Our affirmation is guided by the theology of 'Love for Neighbours' to reach out to others and the theology of 'Liberation' to reduce the suffering of our neighbours inflicted by the COVID-19 pandemic."

The churches recognize the 99 per cent reduction in COVID-19 deaths because of high vaccination rates in countries like Israel, United States and United Kingdom and that over two billion people all over the world have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19.

Noting, that the PNG Council of Churches said it stated also that most of PNG's health workers, essential workers, people with underlying illnesses and aged population are not turning en-masse for vaccination despite being more at risk of dying from the virus and also frontline workers in the fight against COVID-19.

The churches also note that a lot of misinformation is being circulated through the social media that is leading to hesitancy of the public to get the vaccine, thereby endangering the lives of millions of people in PNG. The churches also recognizes the negative social and economic impact that COVID-19 has caused in PNG resulting in the loss of lives and livelihood of Papua New Guineans.

Furthermore, the church leaders through PNGCC thoroughly examined the COVID-19 vaccination from the Christian theological, cultural, social, academic, medical and political perspectives, and have specifically analyzed the doubts and suspicions that were raised.

Based on this knowledge as well as from the information provided by trusted medical experts, the PNGCC has decided to adopt the five principles of the COVID-19 vaccination which are - Solidarity, Duty, Safety, Access and Communication:

Solidarity: The PNGCC strongly affirm global and national call and support for protecting humankind and protecting the people from serious illness and deaths from COVID-19 infection and that these protective measures fully confirm with Christian principles."

Duty: The PNGCC accepts that this is the duty of all persons who are eligible for immunization to join our nationwide SLEEVES UP CAMPAIGN to help stop COVID-19 in PNG to protect themselves and their loved ones from severe sickness and death. It is the duty of the government to provide critical health and social support to uphold the welfare of its citizens.

Safety: The PNGCC acknowledge, based on advice from credible, recognized and reputable medical experts, the safety and effectiveness of all COVID-19 vaccines, and that countries with high immunization rates are beginning to see a decline to almost zero of serious cases and deaths due to COVID-19 infection; and that common side effects are not severe and normal.

Access: The PNGCC acknowledges that deadly diseases like COVID-19 can only be controlled and stopped by vaccinating most of the population, especially high-risk groups. It therefore appeals to all responsible departments, agencies and organizations to ensure that full access to COVID-19 vaccine is provided to all Papua New Guineans especially the high-risk group in all provinces. The PNGCC calls on local communities and their leaders to work with respected Christian organizations to ensure

adequate awareness, access and uptake of COVID-19 vaccinations.

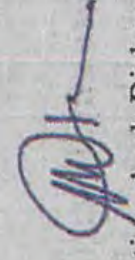
Communication: The PNGCC appeals to the media, communities, and key leaders to seek the correct information, and not to spread misinformation and rumours that can cause confusion among our communities and ultimately endanger the lives of millions of people. The PNGCC calls on the media to fully engage the national and international religious leaders and medical experts and institutions to address community concerns about COVID-19 vaccinations.

The PNGCC has also thanked the extraordinary support provided by the Church Partnership Programme, National Department of Health, UNICEF, World Health Organisation, The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFA) to protect the lives of Papua New Guineans from COVID-19.

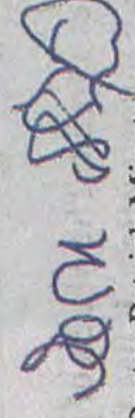
"We are equally grateful to all governments and organisations who have provided funding for COVID-19 pandemic response and vaccination activities in Papua New Guinea.

"We pledge our complete support to assist the government of Papua New Guinea and local communities to address community concerns, to work with all partners to ensure that all people are reached and vaccinated consistently in line with the PNG National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 vaccine, and to advocate strongly for additional health and social welfare initiatives to improve the lives of all people," the PNG Council of Churches said in its statement.



Sir John Cardinal Ribat
Catholic Church

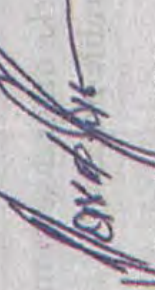

Acting Arch Bishop Nathan Ingen
Anglican Church
of Papua New Guinea



Rev Kewai Kero
PNG Evangelical Alliance



Pastor Patrick Minato
GutNius Lutheran Church
of Papua New

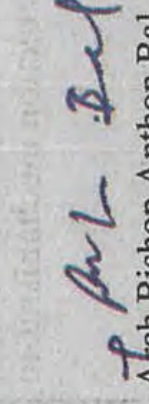

Rev. Roger Joseph
PNG Council of Churches
General Secretary



Pastor Julian Robert Kivori
Baptist Union
of Papua New Guinea


Bishop David Piso
GutNius Lutheran Church
of Papua New Guinea


Pastor Jeffrey Moduna
President Baptist Union PNG


Head Bishop Rev. Jack Urame
Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Papua New Guinea


Arch Bishop Anthon Bal
Catholic Church
of Papua New Guinea


Moderator Benard Siai
United Church
of Papua New Guinea


Pastor Malachi Yani
President
SDA Union Mission

The Papua New Guinea Council of Churches (PNGCC) is a Christian ecumenical council in Papua New Guinea. Its members comprise the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea, the GutNius Lutheran Church (affiliated with the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod), the Union Baptist, the Roman Catholic Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea, the United Church in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands and the Salvation Army. The Council has four major programs: Social Concerns Desk, Women's Desk, Theological programs, and Administration.

Call the toll-free Covid-19 hotline 1800 200 or follow  PNGNDOH



“As COVID-19 sweeps across the world causing one of the greatest health and economic crises of our time, I acknowledge the anxiety and pain that so many are feeling at this time. At KTF, we are playing our role by pivoting our entire suite of development activities towards a COVID-19 response.

No individual organisation, Government, business or initiative has the ability to address the challenges created by this crisis alone. Our strength is in our partnerships and we will overcome this by working together in a Spirit of Mateship that has underpinned our organisation since its establishment.

We are all in this together, and we will get through this together.”

Dr Genevieve Nelson, CEO, KTF



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This manual has been produced, printed and distributed by KTF, using information from the WHO, CDC, Gavi The Vaccine Alliance, Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, medical journals and Government Health Departments of Australia and PNG. For more information on KTF's COVID-19 response, please visit www.ktf.ngo/covid19



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