



# THE UNIVERSITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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## OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR

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To: Staff

### **Covid-19 - Tuesday 24 March 2020**

The Chancellor, Pro VC Fleming and I met with the Secretary of the Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology (DHERST) this morning. He reassured that the University's policy for dealing with the Covid-19 Crisis is in line with the information released by the Government so far in relation to the State of Emergency. We will update you if any more information becomes available.

We are in the process of identifying all of those staff whose work is considered essential to the maintenance of the basic business and infrastructure at the University. If you are in this category but are currently staying away, we understand that you may not have had sufficient clarification on your role and there is no problem to date. However, you may be asked by your Line Manager to return to work.

You may have heard reports that a small group of resident students behaved badly under the influence of alcohol last evening. I would like to reassure you that the University will deal with the culprits in a strict manner and does not rule out seeking police action in this extraordinary situation in which we find ourselves.

On a happier note, the ICT Department are working hard to bring good wireless connectivity to more areas on campus. We will inform you of progress on this over the coming days.

### ***And the daily repeat of a very important message...Please make sure you...***

- ...activate your UPNG email account if you have not already done so – this is the means by which the University will stay in touch with you.
- ...practise social distancing by keeping at least 1.5 metres between you other people.
- ...wash your hands as often as possible and use hand sanitiser when it is available.
- ... cough or sneeze into your bent elbow – not into your hands
- ...avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- ...try to avoid social gatherings and crowded place

*The University is taking steps to make sure that Environmental Hygiene is practised to ensure the health and safety of those remaining on campus.*

Professor Frank Griffin  
Vice Chancellor

24 March 2020

