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Restrictions to contain PNG outbreak

Source: Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)

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Health authorities in Papua New Guinea have imposed a ban on the sale of cooked food in public areas in an effort to contain an outbreak of cholera, dysentery and influenza.

The outbreak has left 97 people dead in the remote Menyamya and Tewai-Siassi Districts of Morobe province in the last month.

Cholera and dysentery are reportedly spreading to the neighbouring provinces of Eastern Highlands and Gulf.

The authorities in Eastern Highlands have imposed a ban on the sale of cooked food along the highway that links the region with Morobe province.

They say cholera and dysentery are easily transmitted through contaminated food and water.

The PNG government has declared a public health emergency, which empowers health inspectors to close unhealthy facilities, including restaurants and contaminated water sources. © ABC