



PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY Issue 100 | Wednesday, 19 August 2020

Day 139

100th Special Edition

Speedy Recovery Dr Masupu

NEW ADMISSION PROTOCOLS ON COVID-19 POSITIVE PATIENTS CHANGED - DHS

Director of Health Services - Dr Malaki Tshipayage says government has come up with new regulations to address the issue of bed occupancy at isolation centers.

Initially the protocol was that any COVID-19 positive patient would be admitted at Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital. Dr Tshipayage said with a surge of new local cases, government had to find a way to address this matter.

Dr Tshipayage informed the nation that COVID-19 positive people who are asymptomatic will now be quarantined at their residence, adding that isolation of people with mild symptoms will also be allowed to stay at home.

He however said all patients will have to be assessed by a health practitioner at various District Health Management Teams.



He said the new protocol aims to reduce the burden on health workers and permits them to focus on critical patients.

As for other regulations, Dr Tshipayage said a convener or facilitator of a meeting or workshop will be allowed to cross into other zones to conduct training.

He said as such the convener or facilitator of the meeting will be responsible for making sure that people follow the COVID-19 protocols of wearing masks, management of attendance register, spacing of 1-2 metres and washing of hands accordingly during functions.

Meanwhile the Director of Health Services Dr Malaki Tshipayage says the trend of detection of COVID-19 positive cases has changed.

He said before the recent lockdown, cases were rampant at schools however the situation now has shifted to health facilities.

Dr Tshipayage said facilities such as Princess Marina Hospital and Tshikinyega Clinic are among the government facilities that were adversely hit by the pandemic.

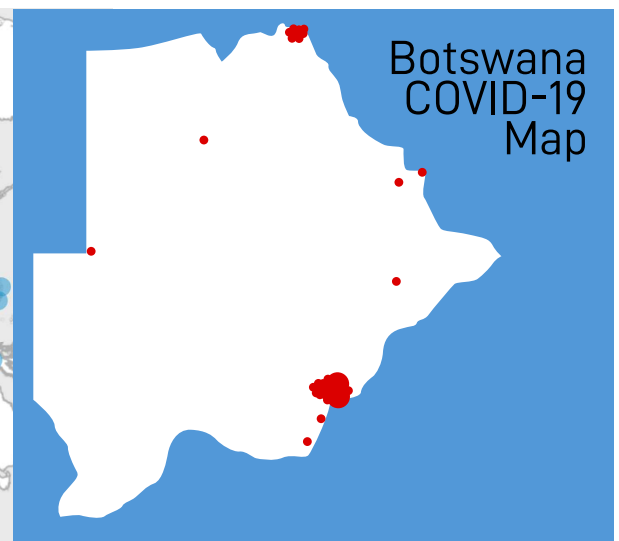
He said the country recorded 94 new cases and as a result Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital is overwhelmed.

The Director therefore urged members of the community to desist from holding non urgent functions such as "Chillas" and also to abide by the COVID-19 protocols.

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 18/08/20

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

USA - 5,474,630	Egypt - 96,590	Malawi - 5,193
South Africa - 592,144	China - 89,477	Namibia - 4,464
Spain - 364,196	Ethiopia - 32,722	Eswatini - 3,894
UK - 322,160	Madagascar - 14,009	Mozambique - 2,991
France - 256,534	Zambia - 9,981	Angola - 1,966
Italy - 254,636	Zimbabwe - 5,308	Lesotho - 946





Republic of Botswana

ABRIDGED COVID-19 REGULATIONS



USE OF MASKS IN PUBLIC PLACES

A person shall wear a cloth face mask that covers the nose and mouth when in a public place.



TRAVEL

All persons coming into Botswana from high risk countries (as defined by the World Health Organization), shall not be allowed entry into the country until further notice. This excludes returning citizens and residents as well as those performing essential services.



GATHERINGS

All public gatherings of more than 2 people are prohibited. Strictly, no parties shall be held.



MEETING

Every meeting shall have a host or convener and should be a maximum of 50 persons. The host or convener of a meeting shall be responsible for the adherence to COVID-19 protocols. No interzonal travel for meetings unless the traveller is the convener.



FAITH-BASED ORGANISATIONS

Faith-based organizations shall - (a) have a maximum attendance of 50 persons; (b) not make provision for food or allow for the sale of food; and (c) have a maximum of two religious services per week.



FUNERALS

(a) Funerals and memorial services shall have a maximum of 50 persons in attendance; and (b) Funerals and memorial services shall not last more than 2 hours and food shall not be provided at such services.



CULTURAL AND TRADITIONAL OCCASIONS

A maximum of 50 individuals and a distance of 1 - 2 metres shall be maintained at cultural and traditional occasions such as - (a) *Go isa mafoko*; (b) *Patlo*; (c) *Magadi*; or (d) *Kgoroso*. Food shall not be served.



SOCIETIES

The following societies may meet - (a) faith-based organizations; (b) any club, company, partnership or association registered by the Registrar of Societies; and (c) political parties, including central committees of political parties with a maximum of 50 persons in attendance.



SOCIAL DISTANCING

A distance of 1 - 2 metres between individual persons shall be maintained in a - (a) Gatherings; (b) Banks; (c) Restaurants, including take-away restaurants; (d) Supermarkets and shops; (e) Pharmacies; (f) Government service departments; and (g) Memorial services.

Pic: Facebook/Veemamp

* Published on 13th August 2020

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THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTRE

Tollfree: 0800 600 111 | Telephone: 369 8337 | E-mail: neoc@gov.bw

The NEOC is located on the 4th floor at the Ministry of Defence Justice and Security.

100th Special Edition



Major General Mpho MOPHUTING Coordinator National Emergency Operation Centre

The Bulletin was created to impart information and ease communication on COVID-19. The Bulletin keeps the nation informed and conveys information on COVID-19 Protocols and Guidelines. The First issue of the Bulletin was on the 2nd of April 2020, the day the country went on a Six month State of Public Emergency.

Our entire team is very excited to be celebrating the 100th issue of the Presidential (COVID-19) Task Team Bulletin. Passion and talent held within this small staff lodged at offices 411 and 417 at the Ministry of Defense Justice and Security is reflected through every lustrous page of the Bulletin.

The Communication team is made-up of dedicated professionals who have worked tirelessly from the 27 of March 2020 to date.

In order to educate and inform the nation during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the National Emergency Operation Centre created this Bulletin as a platform that will disseminate News and current updates on COVID-19 to the public.

COVID-19 threat remains of extreme concern to the nation, and requires extreme mitigation measures. National Assembly endorsed the Six Months State of Public Emergency, and it has generally been positively received by the nation.

From NEOC we wish to urge Batswana to seriously adhere to the COVID-19 Guidelines. We also wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to the families who lost their loved ones from COVID-19 and wish the Presidential Task Force Team members' speedy recovery as well as all Batswana in general who contracted the virus.

May our good Lord bless our nation.

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ABOUT NEOC

The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) exist as part of government structure that functions at different modes or levels depending on the status of the country as directed by the National Disaster Risk Management Plan.

Ideally, if there is an emergency, the relevant sector is expected to address it at its own sectoral level with its partners with the NEOC monitoring the situation, as well as having early warning signs that will guide movement to higher modes or lower modes.

The National Disaster Risk Management Plan also indicates conditions under which NEOC will go into response mode. Therefore, there should be a NEOC that is always operational and monitoring the national situation. It is with this premise that the NEOC, made up of officers from different sectors was established in order to respond to the COVID-19 situation in Botswana. To date, NEOC is at day 146 of operation.

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The National Emergency Operation Centre is a 24/7-secure operations centre situated at the Ministry of Defence Justice and Security.

To coordinate the team, two briefings are held every day; a meeting for all section heads every morning from 0800hrs and a meeting for all members at 1600 hours. Only one meeting is held during weekends for heads of sections at 1000hrs.

All these meetings are chaired by the Coordinator Major General Mpho Mophuting. In order to be highly responsive, the centre has a senior officer on night duty, physically on site everyday who oversees the centre and report critical issues that happened overnight in the morning brief.



NEOC Team

Communications: Responsible for advising the NEOC Coordinator and relevant authorities to address issues of concern pertaining to COVID-19 information. Creates awareness and provides information on COVID 19 outbreak and present it to the Presidential Task Force. The team monitors the social media trends and advising on public perception among others.

Logistics: Responsible for sustaining the operation. It is also responsible for coordination of logistical issues on the ground.

Disease Surveillance: Responsible for collection, analysis and interpretation of health data in order to give direction of response.

Operations: Responsible for the coordinated actions of a state in response to a developing situation.

National Disaster Management Office: Provides linkage between the NEOC and the districts as well as providing technical direction on disaster management.

Information Communications Technology : Provides technical ICT support and guidance to ensure that NEOC runs smoothly with assured secure information flow.

Administration: Its functions entails the running, overseeing, managing and coordination of daily operations within the Operation Centre and ensure compliance to the set protocols. The office is also responsible for working coherently with the logistics team to ensure acquisition and supply of the specified requirements.

Security: Coordinates issues of compliance and provides strategic early warnings on security matters related to COVID-19 pandemic response.

100th Special Edition



Treasure MOTHOBİ
Head of Comms & Editor
Presidential (COVID-19) Task Force Bulletin

TM: We welcome a milestone - our 100th Edition

For almost 4 months we have brought inspiring up-to-date and positive stories about COVID-19 right into the Ministries, Parastatals, Embassies, and Government of Botswana's Development Partners among others. From the Bottom of our Hearts we thank you for embarking on this journey with us.

My Colleagues, proficiencies and relations are our utmost resource. To date it has been an Honour and a Privilege for me to lead such a formidable and creative team. Together we shall overcome this pandemic.



Fortune KETLHAETSE
Design & Content
Presidential (COVID-19) Task Force Bulletin

FK: A mildstone in the mist of a pandemic

The 100th edition came at a time when many of those who have been involved in the operation from day one are starting to feel the effects of the many man hours they put in. For the NEOC team, this can only be a motivation to keep on delivering what we are mandated to do.

It is indeed a privilege and honour to be part of the team charged with serving our country in the fight against this scourge. The feedback and encouragement we get, both as a team and the Centre, makes us want to wake up the next day and do better.

#CarryHopeInYourHeartAlways



Chandapiwa BAPUTAKI
Content Producer
Presidential (COVID-19) Task Force Bulletin

CB: March 2020. A pandemic is declared.

A call comes through for me to join the communications Unit. Dragged in reporting for duty as I wondered if this was not a bad move in putting my family at risk. With each passing day, a strict hand hygiene routine, sharing of information and enforcement of COVID19 protocols - the lessons slowly but surely reach home.

The routine at work is transferred home and a new normal is embraced starting with a hand sanitizer by the door upon entry. Strictly no visitors, no unnecessary travels to shopping malls, kids go out only when going to school.

We don't know how this will end but my family and I got the vital lesson that the virus does not move but it is the people that move it. A big shout out to all the frontliners who continue to fight with fear and anxiety each day while the whole world has settled in to the new normal.



Lorato OKAILE
Content Producer
Presidential (COVID-19) Task Force Bulletin

LO: A milestone worth celebrating, The journey continues

It has been an incredible experience during my time at the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC). I was rattled a bit when I took up my responsibilities at NEOC, given the kind of assignment at hand which requires one to think outside the box. This was despite my experience of working for the government as an Information Officer and the assignments I have undertaken before.

Also given the kind of journey that we were embarking on, there was no time to be hand-held and taken through the expectations as a NEOC member. We had to hit the ground running. We had to make sure the centre becomes operational. The focus was more on behind the scenes through coordination with stakeholders to monitor how the country respond and adapt to the COVID -19 pandemic.

Our first assignment as a member of the communications unit was to come up with a communication strategy, an exercise that was executed well through the experience of teammates Treasure Mothobi, Donnell Kutlapye, Chandapiwa Baputaki and Fortune Ketlhaetse. The communication strategy gave birth to what we called the NEOC bulletin which later changed its name to Presidential (COVID-19) Task Force Bulletin.

Like the Chinese proverb 'A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step, the first bulletin to be published proved just that. Through the bulletin, NEOC shares any COVID-19 related information with members of the public to keep them well informed.

Today the NEOC family celebrates the 100th edition of this bulletin, a milestone worth recognising. The journey continues.



Donnell KUTLAPYE
Comms 2ic & Content Producer
Presidential (COVID-19) Task Force Bulletin

DK: Going down the Memory lane: 100th Edition

I remember sometime in mid-March when I received correspondence via email addressed to MOHW staff and DHMT Heads that some of their staff members will be deployed to assist in the fight against the COVID-19.

I shared the correspondence with my colleagues and they started telling me that they heard I am going to the Ministry Head Quarters to assist in the fight against the pandemic. On Saturday the 28th of March in the morning when I was just about to go to the fields (masimo), I received a call that I should report as soon as possible to the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) based at Ministry of Defence Justice and Security Head Quarters.

On the first day we were introduced to the NEOC Coordinator Major General Mpho Mophuting and MDJS Executive i.e MDJS PS MS Matshidiso Bokole and Minister Hon Kagiso Mmusi. One of the key assignment was to produce an electronic bulletin to be shared with the front liners every day.

The Coordinator suggested we produce the first bulletin at the beginning of the State of Emergency. The whole essence was to keep the front liners abreast with COVID-19 issues. The broader aspect was to have a Bulletin as the communication tool across government Ministries and all arms of government.

It is times like this that one reflects on their contribution to the fight against Covid-19 especially in information dissemination. It's a great opportunity for me to serve my Government at the pinnacle of a strategic operation centre (NEOC).

100th Milestone REFLECTIONS

Andrew Sesinyi

PS. Government Communications

This is a splendid spread. It's very informative & I don't miss opening to read.

I'm greatly attracted also by its presentation, it's layout, brand, and even font colour and sizes.

It's good reading. The picture reproduction is amazingly clear, glossy in an eye catching way & relevant to text.

This bulletin is a personified speaker for future newspaper and magazine publications. The paper touch is going.

Imagine all reading on your phone screen! That's why the quality and appearance including font and colour are important. Unless one wear specs, an average eye doesn't need glasses for this.

I actually enjoy even just looking at it. Like I say, it's the future



Athaliah Molokomme

@almolokomme



Thank you very much to the Presidential COVID19 Task Force for keeping us informed. The bulletin is most attractive & reader friendly. Fantastic graphics & messages. Indeed together we can beat COVID19 if we follow advice from the authorities. 🙌🙌



Botswana Government @BWGovern... · 1h

**NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTRE
BULLETIN (ISSUE 39)**

Honourable Dr Lemogang Kwape
Minister of Health & Wellness

This bulletin looks spiffy and has always been relevant to the cause

Sharon Ledimo
PRO BOMRA

I love the template and the brief articles, I look forward to every read, able to just go through it even on a hectic day.

On the other hand, perhaps we could have a standard leisure like section/article, arts centred just to mix in with the formal articles

Masego Ramakgathi
PR MLG&RD

The Bulletin is very informative, refreshing and very relevant.

Thuso Palai
Manager Brand Botswana - BITC

Personally I learn a lot from it.

I would suggest that now that we don't have too much attention on CORONA maybe you reduce the frequency, maybe release it Monday, Wednesday and Friday. That way there is no repetition and information overload.

I would also suggest you put more human stories, interview patients who have recovered etc, that should get more interest from people than just what the leadership says.

But all in all, it's a great publication.



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COVID-19 ZONAL MAP



KNOW YOUR ZONES

Extreme Social Distancing ended on 20th May 2020 signaling the end of the three phases which were introduced to curb the spread of the virus in the country. The Presidential Task Force has developed a surveillance plan to monitor the disease. This resulted in the different zones to create cohorts for easier monitoring, easier tracing of contacts of positive cases and to avoid uncontrollable spread across the country.

The Inter-Zonal permit is therefore a requirement for people to travel from one zone to the other. Thirteen law enforcement check points have been designated across the country to monitor movements of people.

The nine (9) COVID -19 Zones are as follows;

1. Greater Gaborone zone
2. Greater Palapye zone
3. Greater Selibe Phikwe Zone
4. Greater Francistown
5. Boteti zone
6. Chobe zone
7. Maun zone
8. Gantsi zone
9. Kgalagadi zone