



# PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY Issue 103 | Monday, 24 August 2020

## Day 144



# Indigenous Medicine can be used to contain ailments.

**M**inister of Health and Wellness **Dr Lemogang Kwappe** says *Indigenous medicine and medicinal plants have to be extensively considered and used where possible.*

When giving an update about the Ministry's strategic direction regarding the delivery of health services, including and going beyond the ongoing management of COVID-19, Minister Kwappe said medicinal plants were frequently used in the olden days to address health challenges. *Continues on Page 2*



@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 23/08/20

**CORONAVIRUS IS STILL A SERIOUS THREAT!**

Republic of Botswana

**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.

\* Published on 13th August 2020

**THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTRE**

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**He cited 'thobega', 'go baa phogwana' as relevant examples of traditional methods that our forefathers relied on to contain ailments.**

Dr Kwape said it was of paramount importance to lay Knowledge and balance Indigenous Medicine and Primary Health Care. He said it was evident that Botswana must look back and have extensive research on such and focus on finding various remedies for today's challenges. He said cooperation between health care systems will improve health standards.

Minister Kwape said it is crucial to meet with all stakeholders to discuss on the issues pertaining to health with an intent to advance a healthy nation as a collective. He argued that traditional medicine was the central medical system for Batswana prior the arrival of the Western missionaries who introduced science-based medicine.

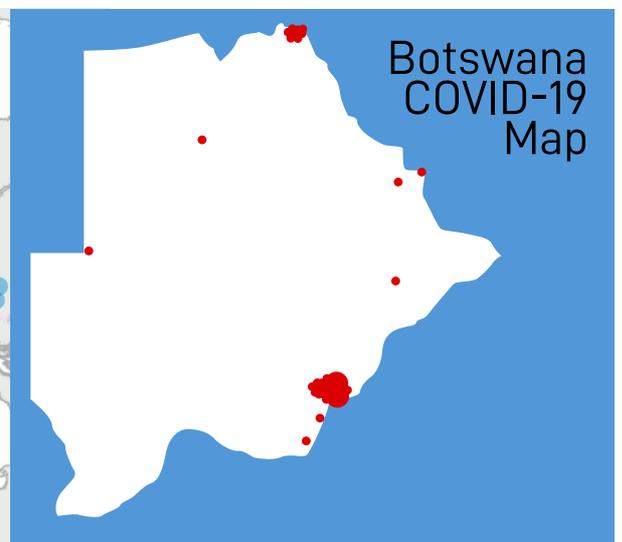
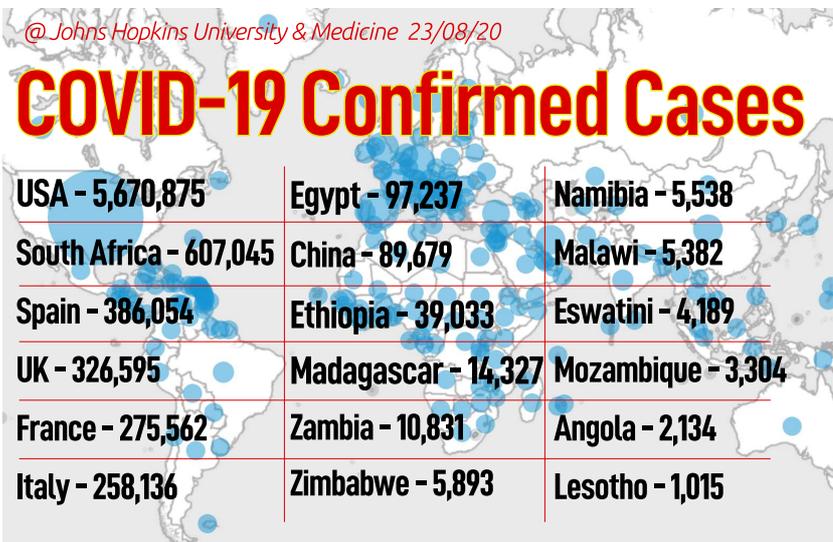
On the issue of COVID-19, Ministry of Health and Wellness Permanent Secretary Mr Kabelo Ebineng said COVID-19 pandemic continues to be an ever present

threat to the nation however he pointed out that Botswana's response to the pandemic has been sustained and has borne fruit.

Mr Ebineng shared that the Ministry strives to increase isolation sites beyond Gaborone and improving oxygen generation and access in different parts of the country. He said this will not only be helpful in the COVID -19 response but can also be used for other treatments for those with respiratory insufficiency.

Minister Kwape expressed his sincere gratitude to all front liners, Government and Private organisations, different media houses, the public at large for collaborating with the Ministry in fighting COVID-19.

He urged the nation to continue observing the core preventive measures of COVID-19 of Hand hygiene, wearing of masks at all times in public places, maintaining social distancing (1 to 2 metres apart), Minimising movement and Calling health facilities if one is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.





# FUEL RESTRICTIONS RELAXED

***Botswana has relaxed fuel restrictions, this comes after the experienced an unprecedented shortage of fuel which resulted in long queues at petrol stations. The ration of fuel was imposed on the 10th of July 2020 in a bid to ease a crippling shortage that saw consumers rushing to stock up.***

President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi had announced that as a way of bringing about stability to the supply and demand for fuel government introduced fuel rationing.

Fuel purchases have been limited to P 250 per vehicle at a time and purchase of fuel with jerry cans was restricted to Thursdays only while purchasing of petrol with drums or large containers was prohibited.

In exercise of the powers conferred on His Excellency the President by section 3 of the Essential Supplies Services Act, the President relaxed the restrictions on the Essential Supplies Services (Petroleum) regulations on the 20th of August 2020.

***The restrictions have been relaxed as follows;***

- Filling stations are now allowed to sell a maximum of P300.00 fuel to one automobile at a time.
- Filling stations shall now operate from 0600 until midnight
- Purchasing of petroleum products using fuel containers will now be allowed only on Mondays and Thursdays from 0600 hours to 1800 hours.

The statutory instrument No 107 of 2020 states that, A person who contravenes or fails to comply with any provision of the regulations shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding P 2000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or both.



***Some 2,000 people attended a concert in the city of Leipzig organized by scientists seeking to study the risk of virus transmission during large events. There are high hopes as large entertainment venues remain shut.***

Scientists from the German University of Halle observed conditions on Saturday at an experimental concert in the eastern city of Leipzig, where they hope to learn more about the risk of infection at large events.

The study comes as events and large gatherings remain banned in Germany until at least November. Most concert organizers and entertainment industry staff have seen their work dry up in recent months.

Popular German singer Tim Bendzko volunteered to play three separate concerts over the course of the day, which would test different configurations of the event.

The experiment involved 2,000 concert goers, who were mostly young, healthy and not belonging to any high-risk group.

Attendees had to provide a negative COVID-19 test result prior to the concert and their temperature was taken upon arrival at the venue.

They wore FFP2 face masks during the event and were fitted with contact-tracing devices, which would complement sensors on the ceiling of the venue that collected data on their movements.

Scientists ran three scenarios at each concert. The first scenario was meant to resemble concerts before the pandemic, without any coronavirus measures.

The second scenario involved viewers following health and safety guidelines, while the third scenario involved a reduced number of attendees who were kept 1.5 meters apart from each other.

Data collected on Saturday will be fed into a mathematical model, which should help scientists evaluate the risks of the virus spreading in a large concert venue. The results are expected this fall.

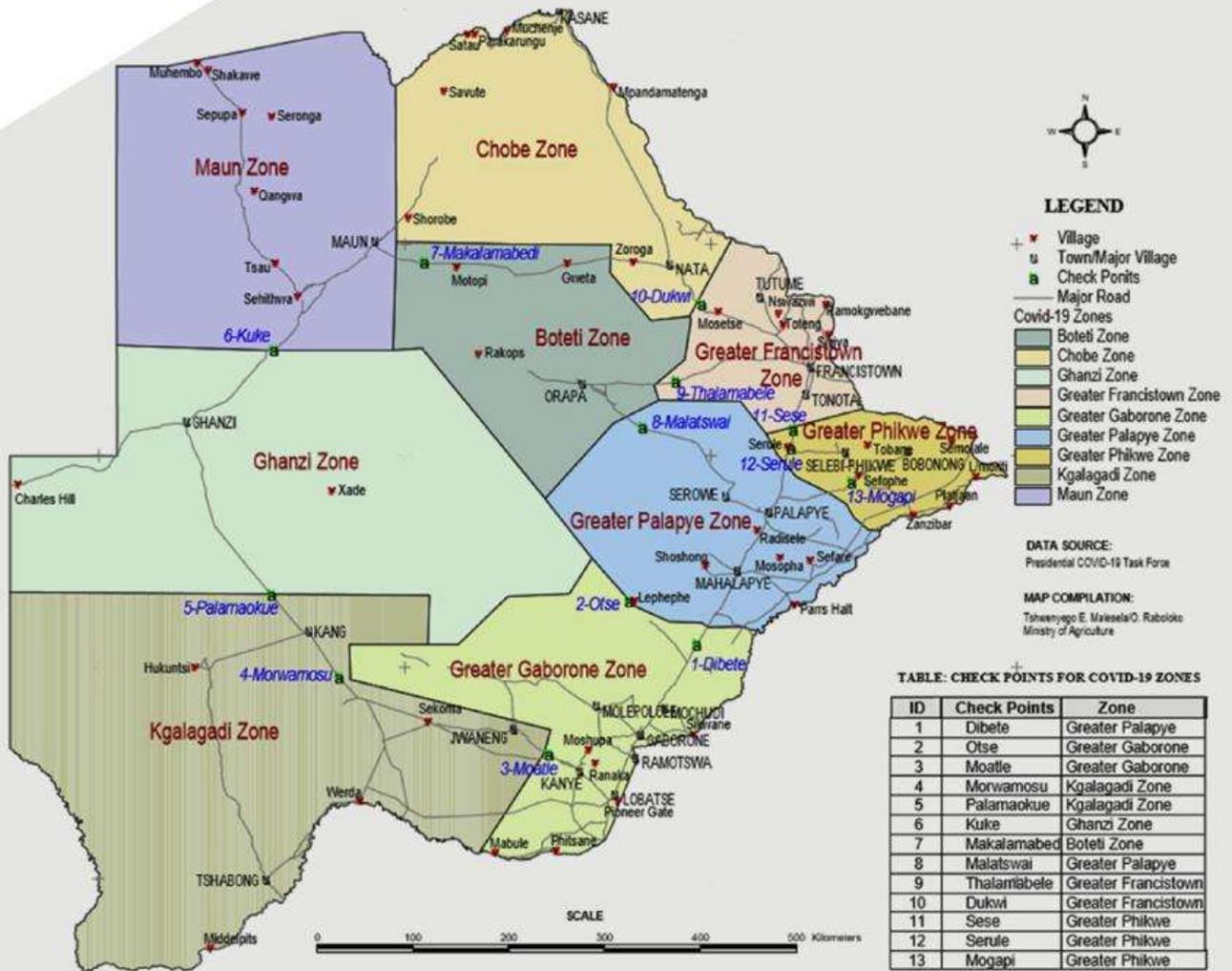
The aim of the experiments is to find out whether concerts and other large events could be allowed to resume while avoiding high infection risks.

**DW News.**



Republic of Botswana

# 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