



# PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY

Issue 109 | Tuesday, 01 September 2020

Day 152

## COVID-19 COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION RAMPANT IN GREATER GABORONE ZONE

~ DR TSHIPAYAGAE

**T**he number of confirmed Local COVID-19 positive cases in Botswana has risen to 701. Since the 25th of August 2020, Botswana recorded 91 new positive cases, of which 53 are local cases and 38 foreign nationals at various Point of Entries.

Director of Health Services Dr Malaki Tshipayagae said the COVID-19 infection rate is skyrocketing at an alarming rate and elaborated that they have since established that there is community transmission in the Greater Gaborone Zone especially in the Capital Gaborone. *Continues on Page 2*

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide

# 25,325,617

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 31/08/20



### COVID 19 CASE REPORT

28 August 2020

## 701

Total Confirmed  
Botswana Cases

## 202

Active Cases  
(Botswana)

## 493

Recovered  
Botswana

## 6

Deceased

## 91

New positive tests since 25 August 2020  
(53 Botswana / 38 Foreign Nationals)

## 1023

Transferred out

## 65,299

Border Tests

## 51,429

Local Tests

## 116,728

Total Tests

THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTRE

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

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# COVID-19 COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION RAMPANT IN GREATER GABORONE ZONE

Speaking during a media briefing yesterday, Dr Tshipayagae said Greater Gaborone records an average of 25 positive cases a day and some of cases are without a known contact.

The Director highlighted that he is worried by the soaring numbers of the pandemic in the country, therefore urged the general public to exercise caution.

Dr Tshipayagae said people should follow Covid-19 protocols and avoid unnecessary travels to protect the vulnerable groups. He said the Ministry of Health and Wellness is striving to get 80

percent of the results within 24 hours to facilitate isolation and contact tracing as a way of reducing community transmission. He said majority of cases were recorded in Gaborone and few cases at Jwaneng, Francistown, Chobe and Maun.

He however expressed his disappointment that certain individuals who give false information about their names and telephones and public entities. He said such an action complicate the process of contact tracing when there is a need.

The Director of Health Services

also said there are two positive Covid-19 cases which were recently recorded in some schools in Gaborone. He however said the cases do not warrant closure of schools.

He said the cases are under investigation, therefore urged school authorities to keep reminding their students to religiously wash their hands, wear face masks and adhere to social distancing.

According to Dr Tshipayagae, at least 6 coronavirus deaths have been recorded, 701 confirmed Total Botswana Cases, 1023 cases of Foreign nationals tested at various Point of Entry.

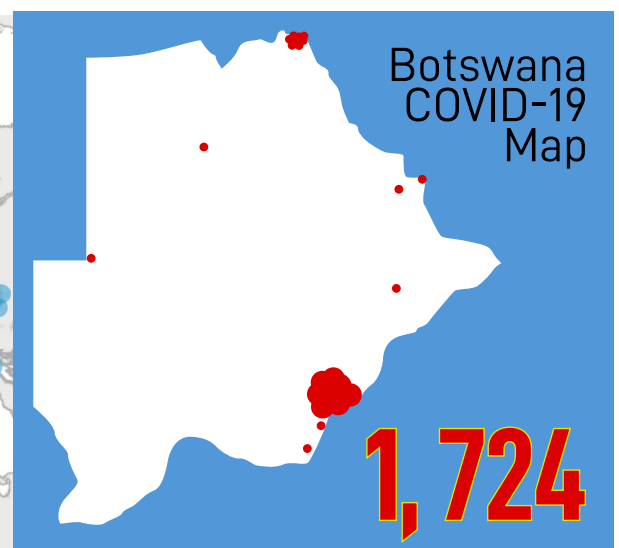
Dr Tshipayagae also revealed that to date, 116 728 testes have been conducted. On a positive note, Dr Tshipayagae said so far 493 patients have fully recovered and discharged from isolation facilities while 202 are still considered active cases.

He however highlighted that patients who unfortunately passed on had pre-existing conditions.

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 31/08/20

## COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

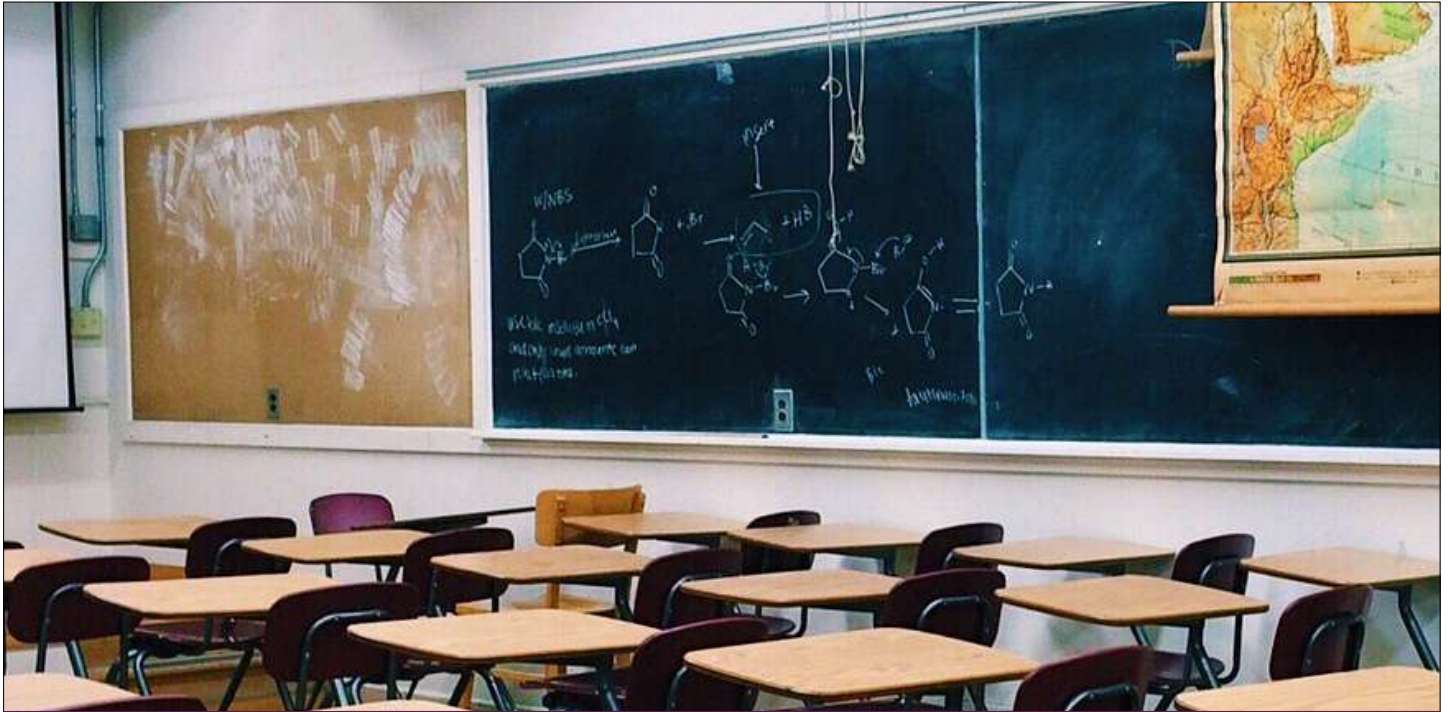
USA - 6,020,186	Egypt - 98,727	Zimbabwe - 6,412
South Africa - 625,056	China - 89,907	Malawi - 5,536
Spain - 462,858	Ethiopia - 52,131	Eswatini - 4,577
UK - 338,079	Madagascar - 14,863	Mozambique - 3,916
France - 318,895	Zambia - 12,097	Angola - 2,654
Italy - 269,214	Namibia - 7,550	Lesotho - 1,085



### EDITORIAL TEAM

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## Non Completing Classes Re-opens Today.

**Government/Public schools in Greater Gaborone Zone resume classes today. These are standards one (1) to six (6), Forms one (1), two (2) and four (4) while public Pre-Primary classes and learners with profound and multiple disabilities countrywide will remain at home until further notice.**

**A media release from the Ministry of Basic Education says strict adherence to COVID-19 protocols is mandatory in order to ensure that schools remain safe for both learners and staff.**

**The release states that returning learners are therefore reminded to adhere to the following minimum requirements among others;**

- **Frequent hand washing**
- **Temperature screening and registration**
- **Proper wearing of masks at all times**
- **Social distancing in classrooms and during meal breaks**
- **Refrain from crowding while waiting for any service at school or outside.**

**The Ministry further request parents to remind children to abide by the COVID-19 protocols and stay safe at all times.**



### STOP THE VIRUS! WASH YOUR HANDS.



Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.



Lather your hands by rubbing them together with soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.



Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy birthday" song from beginning to end twice.



Rinse hands well under clean, running water.



Dry hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important things we can do to stop the spread of COVID-19 and stay healthy

**SKMTH**

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# In WHO global pulse survey, 90% of countries report disruptions to essential health services since COVID-19 pandemic

***The World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday published a first indicative survey on the impact of COVID-19 on health systems based on 105 countries' reports.***

Data collected from five regions over the period from March to June 2020 illustrate that almost every country (90%) experienced disruption to its health services, with low- and middle-income countries reporting the greatest while critical care - such as cancer screening and treatment and HIV therapy - has seen high-risk interruptions in low-income countries.

"The survey shines a light on the cracks in our health systems, but it also serves to inform new strategies to improve healthcare provision during the pandemic and beyond," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "COVID-19 should be a lesson to all countries that health is not an 'either-or' equation. We must better prepare for emergencies but also keep investing in health systems that fully respond to people's needs throughout the life course."

Services hit across the board: Based on reports from key informants, countries on average experienced disruptions in 50% of a set of 25 tracer services.

The most frequently disrupted areas reported included routine immunization - outreach services (70%) and facility-based services (61%), non-communicable diseases diagnosis and treatment (69%), family planning and contraception (68%), treatment for mental health disorders (61%), cancer diagnosis and treatment (55%).

Countries also reported disruptions in malaria diagnosis and treatment (46%), tuberculosis case detection and treatment (42%) and antiretroviral treatment (32%).

While some areas of health care, such as dental care and rehabilitation, may have been deliberately suspended in line with government protocols, the disruption of many of the other services is expected to have harmful effects on population health in the short- medium- and long-term.

Potentially life-saving emergency services were disrupted in almost a quarter of responding countries. Disruptions to 24-hour emergency room services for example were affected in 22% of countries, urgent blood transfusions were disrupted in 23% of countries, emergency surgery was affected in 19% of the countries. Disruption due to a mix of supply

and demand side factors. 76% of countries reported reductions in outpatient care attendance due to lower demand and other factors such as lockdowns and financial difficulties. The most commonly reported factor on the supply side was cancellation of elective services (66%).

Other factors reported by countries included staff redeployment to provide COVID-19 relief, unavailability of services due to closings, and interruptions in the supply of medical equipment and health products.

Adapting service delivery strategies. Many countries have started to implement some of the WHO recommended strategies to mitigate service disruptions, such as triaging to identify priorities, shifting to on-line patient consultations, changes to prescribing practices and supply chain and public health information strategies.

However, only 14% of countries reported removal of user fees, which WHO recommends to offset potential financial difficulties for patients.

To that end, WHO will continue to work with countries and to provide supportive tools to address the fallout from COVID-19. [W.H.O](https://www.who.int)





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