



PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY

Issue 113 | Monday, 07 September 2020

Day 158

BOTSWANA COVID-19 CASES SURPASS THE 2000 MARK

Botswana confirmed COVID-19 cases have surpassed the 2000 mark. Presidential (COVID-19) Task Force Team Deputy National Coordinator Professor Mosepele Mosepele announced 278 new positive cases since 29 August 2020, bringing the country's cumulative total to 2002.

Professor Mosepele detailed that sadly the country had recorded two new COVID-19 related deaths. He said the new deaths are of a woman in her 30's in Gaborone and an old woman aged over 70 years in Francistown.

Continues on Page 2

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide

26,938,794

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 06/09/20



COVID 19 CASE REPORT

03 September 2020

929

Total Confirmed
Batswana Cases

428

Active Cases
(Batswana)

493

Recovered
Batswana

8

Deceased

278

New positive tests since 29 August 2020
(228 Batswana / 50 Foreign Nationals)

1,073

Transferred out

69,384

Border Tests

58,632

Local Tests

128,016

Total Tests

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.

From Page 1

"The total number of cases now stand at 2002, there are 428 active cases of COVID-19, with 929 Batswana and those residing in the country infected and 1073 cases recorded at the borders.

One patient is in life support machine," highlighted Professor Mosepele. Deputy National Coordinator said in average most cases in Botswana are from Gaborone.

Professor Mosepele advised the nation to take care of themselves and adhere to the COVID-19 precautionary measures. He said the notion that the virus might not be strong during spring and summer seasons is not scientifically proven.

"Summer is going to lead us into trouble, some countries are in their summer, and they register many cases in a day which raises eyebrows and this clearly defines that coronavirus can survive in hot climate", said Professor Mosepele.

He urged Batswana to adhere to COVID-19 protocols and guidelines to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

India Records More Than 90,000 New COVID-19 Cases

India has reported 90,632 new COVID-19 cases on Sunday, the highest single-day rise in infections since the pandemic hit the country.

The country's total number of recorded cases now stands at 4,113,811, including 70,626 deaths, according to India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

India is on track to become the country with the second highest number of coronavirus cases. On Saturday, Brazil's Health Ministry reported 4,123,000 total cases, just 9,189 more than India.

According to Health Ministry data, India currently has 862,320 active

cases of coronavirus while 3,180,865 patients have recovered after undergoing medical supervision.

In India, not all patients require a test to be considered recovered. Patients with mild and moderate symptoms are considered no longer active after 10 days of symptom onset if they meet certain conditions, and a test to confirm that they no longer have the virus is not required.

However, severe cases can only be discharged after one negative coronavirus test.

India has tested 48,831,145 samples for coronavirus until Saturday, the ministry says. [CNN](#)

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 06/09/20

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| USA - 6,256,359 | Egypt - 99,712 | Zimbabwe - 6,837 |
| South Africa - 636,884 | China - 90,046 | Malawi - 5,611 |
| Spain - 498,989 | Ethiopia - 57,466 | Eswatini - 4,819 |
| UK - 349,505 | Madagascar - 15,319 | Mozambique - 4,341 |
| France - 347,268 | Zambia - 12,776 | Angola - 2,935 |
| Italy - 277,634 | Namibia - 8,514 | Lesotho - 1,148 |

Botswana
COVID-19
Map

2,002

EDITORIAL TEAM

Treasure Mothobi | Donnell Kutlape | Fortune Ketlhaetse
National Emergency Operation Centre



IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CHILDREN

The recent rate of infections in schools has sent shockwaves in Greater Gaborone Zone.

The country has recorded 929 local confirmed cases with a substantial number of cases emanating from schools in the Greater Gaborone, a situation the Director of Health Services pronounced to be a result of local transmission.

As the situation unfolds it is clear that children are significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. A somber reality is that a 3 months old baby was reported to have succumbed to the infection and died.

University of Botswana Faculty of Medicine Pediatrician Dr Dipesalema Joel says when Botswana recorded its first cases, children were largely spared from the deadly virus and at present the situation has dramatically changed.

He said when children are exposed to the virus, they can become infected and develop symptoms of COVID-19, however he said the symptoms are usually mild. He illustrated that children with co-morbidities on the other hand are at risk of being vulnerable and their chances of survival is slim. He said COVID-19 exacerbates the risks of poor health.



He said there is no vaccine to prevent COVID-19, however parents can do everything to protect children from the disease.

Dr Joel said for the past 3 months there has been new case reports on Pediatric multisystem inflammatory syndrome which is a condition where different body parts become inflamed, including the lungs, eyes and even the heart.

Dr Joel



Dr Joel said the probability is that many children with the syndrome had the virus that causes COVID-19 or having been around the person with COVID-19.

He noted that children with medical complexity might have increased risk for severe illness

from COVID-19 compared to other children. He advised parents to protect their children in order to reduce the spread of the virus by limiting interactions with other and taking precautionary preventative measures.

Dr Dipesalema Joel says although medical literature shows that children are minimally susceptible to COVID-19, he said they are hit hard by psychosocial impact of the pandemic. He noted that being home may impose greater psychological burden than the physical sufferings caused by the virus.

Buttressing the psychological factor on confinement of children, Ms Onkatlile Nthutang from Child-line Botswana said quarantine of children leads to lack of outdoor activity, although medical literature shows that children are minimally susceptible to COVID-19, they are hit the hardest by psychosocial impact of this pandemic.

She said being confined in homes

Ms Nthutang



and medical facilities may impose greater psychological burden than the physical sufferings caused by the virus.

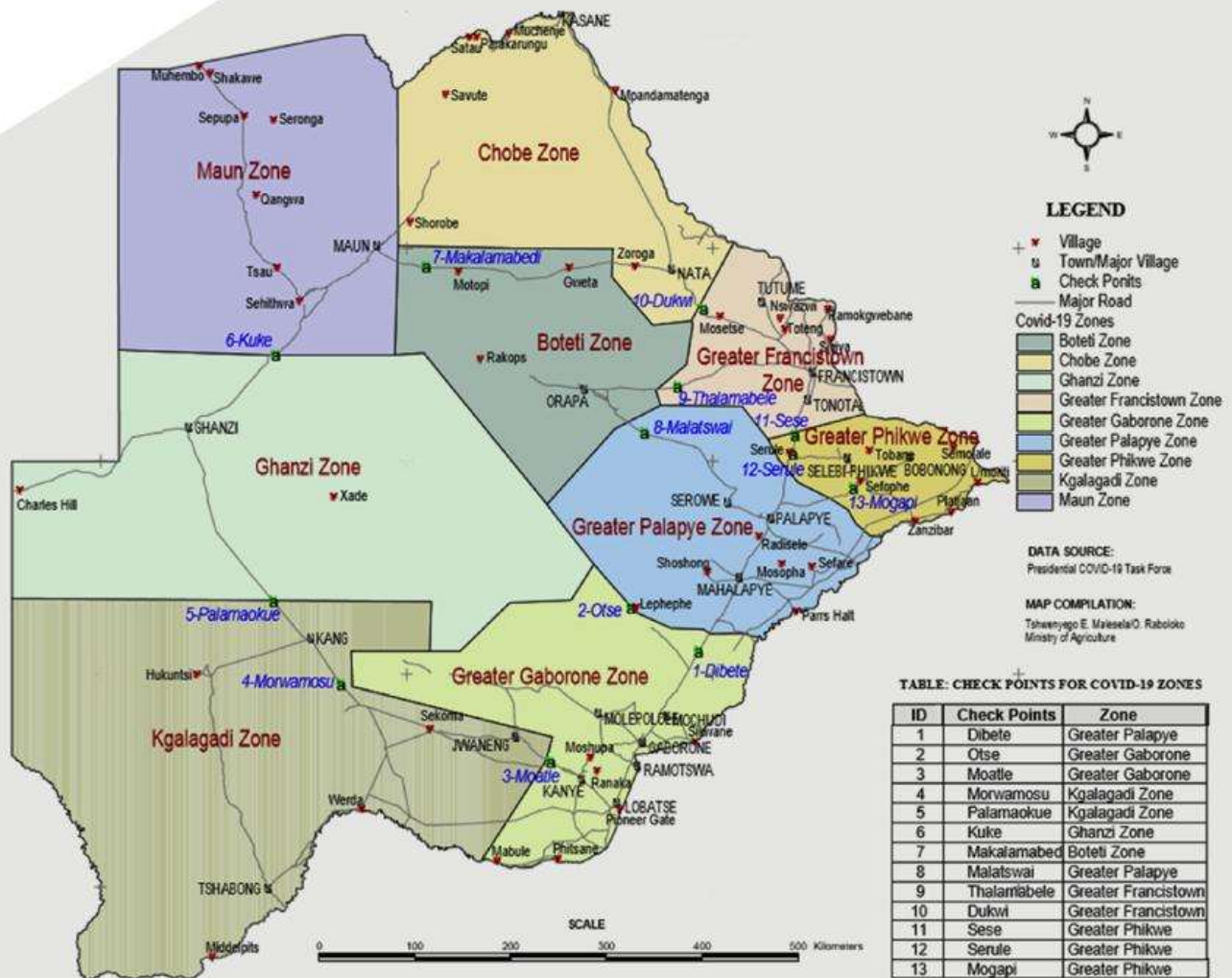
She highlighted that school closure, lack of outdoor activity, aberrant dietary and sleeping habits are likely to disrupt children's usual lifestyle and can potentially promote boredom and distress, which is likely to disturb children's usual lifestyle.

Ms Nthutang said the pandemic crisis is overwhelming on children, adding that it is important to note that when children are quarantined or in isolation, care givers should provide recreational activities as well as social and psychological support.



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

EDITORIAL TEAM

Treasure Mothobi | Donnell Kutlapye | Fortune Ketlhaetse
National Emergency Operation Centre