



PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY Issue 116 | Thursday, 10 September 2020

Be Social At A Distance

Day 161

Play your part, stay apart. We will be back soon. **Seken half!!**

#DinweleDladleng

BAIA URGES INDIVIDUALS TO DRINK AT THEIR ABODE AND AVOID 'CHILLAS'

Head of Secretariat at Botswana Alcohol Industry Association (BAIA) Mr Jacob Sesinyi says Batswana should purchase and drink alcohol at their households.

Mr Sesinyi told the Task Force Bulletin in an interview that the whole essence of the #DinweleDladleng campaign which was launched recently, is to complement government effort in curbing the spread of the virus by encouraging people to drink alcohol in the comfort of their homes.

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@BotswanaGazette

He said their wish as BAIA is to see about 60-percent of the occupancy at local liquor restaurants after the implementation of 1-2 meter of social distancing.

Mr Sesinyi said they encourage alcohol patrons of such outlets to have a drink while having a meal and instantaneously head home after dining to give way for others.

Mr Sesinyi said all liquor outlets should take responsibility by selling alcohol to consumers who should in turn go straight home and avoid crowding outside bars, failing in which stern action will be taken. He further advised people to desist from hanging out at car washes.

“Some alcohol imbibers misconstrue the campaign to imply

that people should chill with their friends and drink at home, but rather **#DiNweleDladleng** campaign outlines that an individual should drink at his/her house and not a friend's house” reiterated Sesinyi.

The BAIA Head said following the launch of the campaign, they have engaged law enforcement authorities with the impending launching of the whistleblowing app that will be used to report those who don't abide by the COVID-19 regulations.

He said once someone report the incident, it will reach the police at the same time. He said they developed an App that they will launch soon, which will assist in directing the Police to attend hotspots instantly.

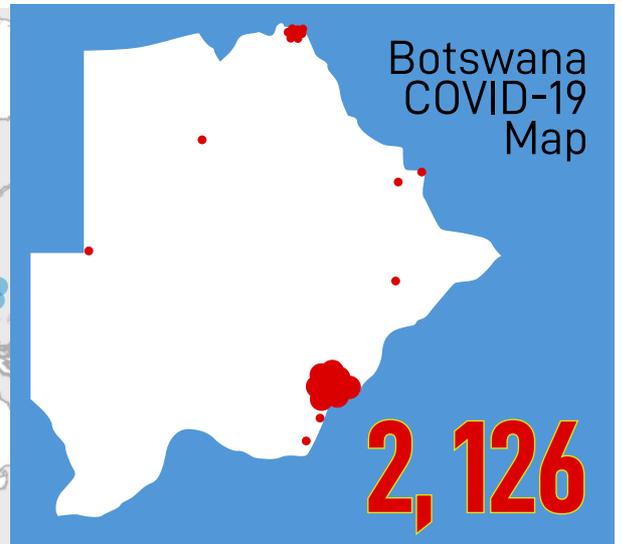
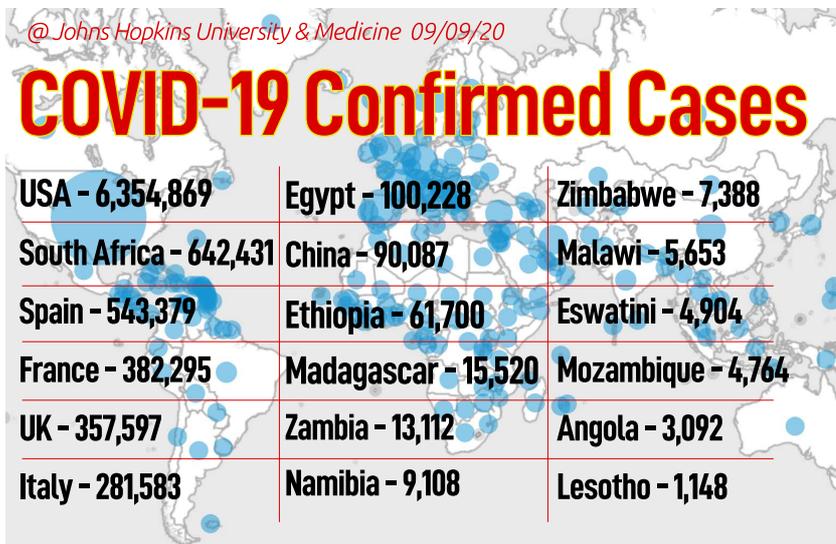
He said one of the regular violations they have noticed is that wholesale license does not allow to sell to individuals but said it's an order of the day, highlighting that they have people who will monitor the situation and use the app to report such a behavior.

Mr Sesinyi said before COVID-19 they always knew the hotspots that violate liquor trading regulations, adding that the same will still apply.

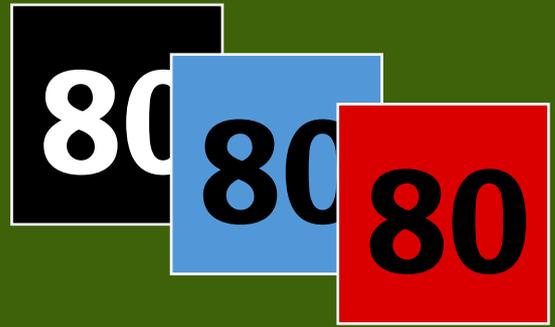
He said they therefore support government decision of immediate revocation of liquor licenses for those who violate the regulations.

Mr Sesinyi highlighted that the alcohol industry which he said is one of the highest employers, is a legitimate business which government has shares on at Sechaba.

He said BAIA encourages its members and consumers of their products to behave hence the campaign, adding that for the last ten years, alcohol related traffic offenses were less than 3-percent.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS INTRODUCES 80-80-80 STRATEGY



Ministry of Health and Wellness in conjunction with the Presidential COVID-19 Task Force Team has come up with a strategy to contain the spread of COVID-19.

The Ministry's Health Promotion Officer Ms Naledi Mokgethi informed the media that they have adopted a strategy termed 80-80-80 to respond to the newly recorded positive cases.

She said the strategy entails that after contacting a positive case patient, they should locate 80 percent of the contacts within 24 hours, test 80 percent of the contacts and isolate 80 percent of those who have tested positive.

She said by implementing the strategy they will be able to eliminate all positive cases before spreading the virus to the rest of the community.

Ms Mokgethi however said they have been encountering challenges as some people refuse to cooperate with them until they have to engage the police. She said since they have a 24-hours contact tracing team, they sometimes reach contacts while they are sleeping. She said some people do not write their names properly at shopping complexes which makes the contact tracing effort a challenge.

She said they do not take all people to quarantine based on the history of the contacts. She said sometimes distress makes people think they have to be quarantined although they are secondary contacts. After identifying a case, they question the patient to take history and those they have met. They make risk assessment, saying they are not going to take all people, they classify contact.

She said their interview determines whether one should be quarantined or not. She therefore urged all people who have been informed by health



Ms Mokgethi



Dr Smith-Lawrence

authorities that they are contacts to self-isolate at home as well as wear mask all the time until contact tracing teams arrive.

For her part a Public Health Specialist based at Greater Gaborone District Health Management Team, Dr Pamela Smith-Lawrence said they have increased testing capacity in Gaborone. Dr Smith-Lawrence said they have setup testing clusters at Nkoyaphiri, Lesirane, Block 9, Mafitlhakgosi, Block 8 clinics as well as Magogo clinic in Ramotswa.

She also said testing has commenced at various government hospitals as a way of detecting the virus. Dr Smith-Lawrence said health workers are also being tested across facilities.

She said the testing has borne fruits since they have identified positive cases. She said facilities such as Princess Marina Hospital has made it mandatory that all patients who are to be admitted should be tested before referral.

Dr Smith-Lawrence urged the general public to abide by COVID-19 regulations and cooperate with health workers at all time.

COVID-19 Could Reverse Decades of Progress Toward Eliminating Preventable Child Deaths

The number of global under-five deaths dropped to its lowest point on record in 2019 down to 5.2 million from 12.5 million in 1990, according to new mortality estimates released by UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the World Bank Group.



Since then, however, surveys by UNICEF and WHO reveal that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in major disruptions to health services that threaten to undo decades of hard-won progress.

“The global community has come too far towards eliminating preventable child deaths to allow the COVID-19 pandemic to stop us in our tracks,” said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director.

“When children are denied access to health services because the system is overrun, and when women are afraid to give birth at the hospital for fear of infection, they, too, may become casualties of COVID-19.

Without urgent investments to re-start disrupted health systems and services, millions

of children under five, especially newborns, could die.” Over the past 30 years, health services to prevent or treat causes of child death such as preterm, low birthweight, complications during birth, neonatal sepsis, pneumonia, diarrhea and malaria, as well as vaccination, have played a large role in saving millions of lives.

Now countries worldwide are experiencing disruptions in child and maternal health services, such as health checkups, vaccinations and prenatal and post-natal care, due to resource constraints and a general uneasiness with using health services due to a fear of getting COVID-19.

Health interventions such as these are critical for stopping preventable newborn and child deaths. For example, women who receive care by

professional midwives trained according to international standards are 16 per cent less likely to lose their baby and 24 per cent less likely to experience pre-term birth, according to WHO.

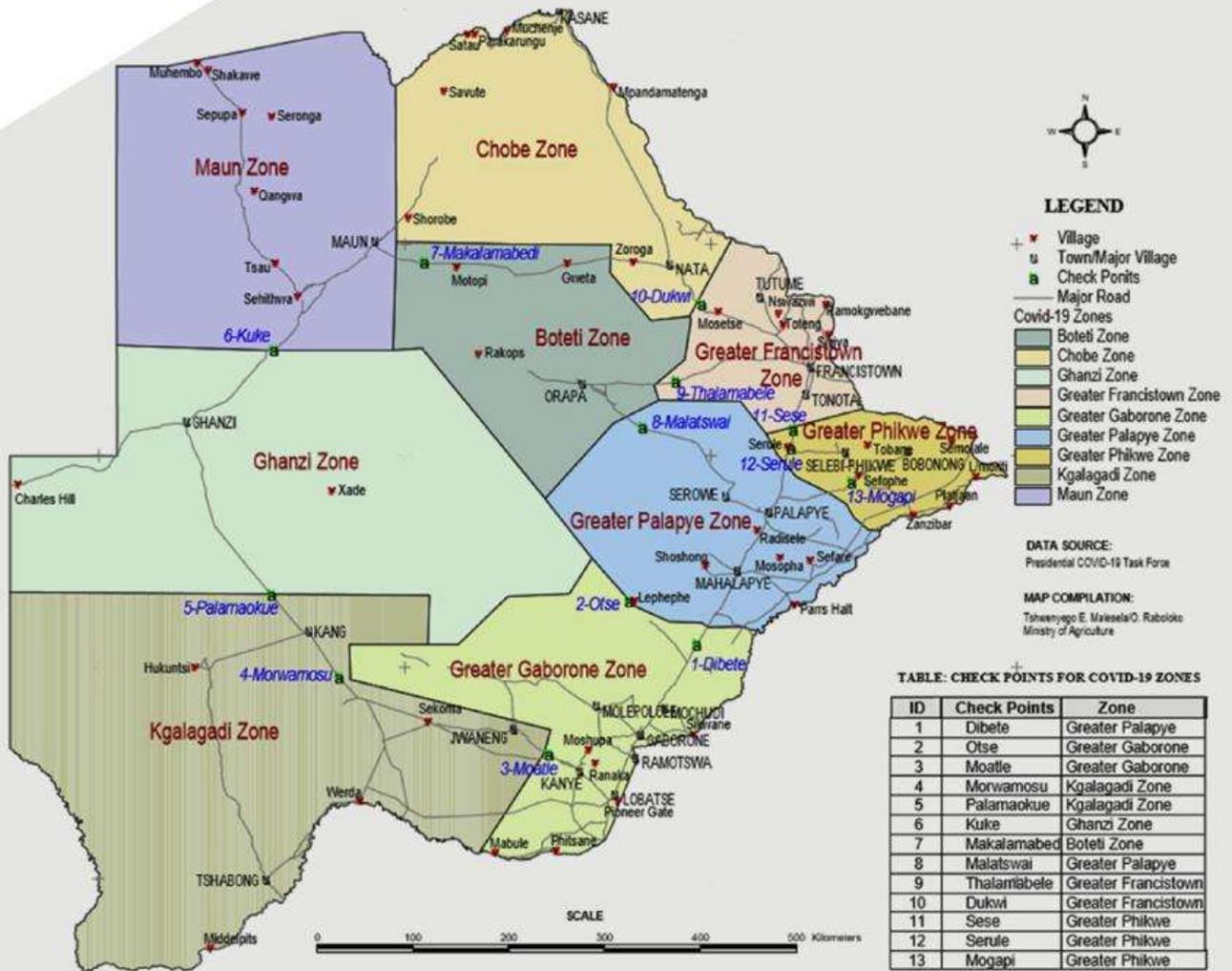
“The fact that today more children live to see their first birthday than any time in history is a true mark of what can be achieved when the world puts health and well-being at the centre of our response,” said Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

“Now, we must not let the COVID-19 pandemic turn back remarkable progress for our children and future generations. Rather, it's time to use what we know works to save lives, and keep investing in stronger, resilient health systems.” **W.H.O**



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;

- Greater Gaborone zone
- Greater Palapye zone
- Greater Selibe Phikwe Zone
- Greater Francistown
- Boteti zone
- Chobe zone
- Maun zone
- Gantsi zone
- Kgalagadi zone