



PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | LOCKDOWN **PHASE III**

Issue 33 | Monday, 18 May 2020

Day 47

Public Schools To Remain

CLOSED

~PS MOBE, Ms John

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Basic Education, Ms Bridgette John says government schools will remain closed during the 3rd phase of easing lockdown restrictions.

Addressing members of the media over the weekend, Ms John said they intend to open all government schools by the 2nd of June. She said schools will open in a phased manner where Standard 7, Form 3 and Form 5 students will report for school first before other students. Ms John encouraged students to continue studying at home, adding that school calendar have been adjusted to make for the lost time.

Continues on Page 2

SAY NO TO TOBACCO
IN THE TIME OF COVID-19 AND ALWAYS



HIGHER CHANCE OF TRANSMISSION
FROM HAND TO MOUTH

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide

4,687,320

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 17/05/20

CURRENT SITUATION IN NUMBERS

17/05/2020

Lab Tests Performed & resulted	13654
Negative Cases	13629
Positive Cases	25
Total Deaths	1
Recoveries	17
Active Cases	7

Public schools to remain closed

From Page 1

The Permanent Secretary said they are expecting more staff members such as teachers and administrators at work during this phase of lockdown. She said teachers are expected at work today to start preparations for student's work. Regarding covid-19 compliance requirements in schools, the PS said they have installed handwashing basins and did maintenance of school ablution facilities.

Ms John said they are currently focusing on self-assessment to make sure that what has been reported is a true reflection on the ground. She also said the Ministry continue to engage stakeholders on social distancing protocols. The PS reported that schools are currently procuring face masks that match the school uniforms, and that parents will have

to buy them at a subsidized amount. The PS said schools continue to receive infrared thermometers which is a pre requisite for opening of schools.

The PS highlighted that the 1994 revised national policy on education which stated that a class should not have more than 30 students. Ms John highlighted that currently there are some schools that have classes with less than 30 students. She however said by next week the issue of social distancing will be completed so that it does not expose teachers and learners. As for the achievements Ms John said they have prepared school reopening guidelines which will help schools preparations prior to reopening.

Ms John informed the media that private schools are free to reopen the schools provided they have satisfied all the Covid 19 compliance requirements, adding that schools that fail inspection will be closed by Health Officers.

TRUCK MONITORING		16-17 MAY 2020
BORDER	Arrival	Departure
Tlokweng	96	46
Ramatlabama	136	28
Martin's Drift	124	22
Pioneer	45	12
Mamuno	13	36
Kazungula Road Border	0	17
Kazungula Ferry	0	32
Ngoma	0	3
Ramokgwebana	32	17
Mohembo	0	0
Sub Total	446	213
Total	659	

HOW TO PUT ON, USE, TAKE OFF AND DISPOSE OF A MASK

To remove the mask: **remove it from behind** (do not touch the front of mask); **discard immediately in a closed bin**; **clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water**



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COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

USA - 1,478,241	South Africa - 14,355	Mozambique - 137
UK - 244,603	Egypt - 12,229	Malawi - 65
Spain - 230,698	Zambia - 753	Angola - 48
Italy - 225,435	Ethiopia - 317	Zimbabwe - 44
France - 179,693	Madagascar - 304	Botswana - 25
China - 84,047	Eswatini - 203	Lesotho - 1

Botswana COVID-19 Map

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Greater Gaborone	15
Gaborone, Metsimotlhabe	
Molepolole	2
South East	6
Ramotswa, Otse	
Palapye	1
North East	1
Siviya	

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.



Botswana Red Cross Society

COVID-19 Response Interventions

As part of its response to the Covid19 pandemic, Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) deployed 190 volunteers and responded in over 32 villages across the country.

According to the Chief Executive Officer Mr Kutlwano Mukokomane, interventions conducted include risk communications and community engagement, health promotion, enabling prevention protocols and infection control. He revealed that Red Cross volunteers were also deployed to provide technical and operational support to the government's relief food process.

During the reporting week, the Society deployed 113 volunteers to augment the government's capacity to conduct rapid assessments and distribution of relief food packages. BRCS volunteers assisted with food distribution in Molepolole, Tshidilamolomo, Zoroga, Tonota,

Natale, Satau, Tsau, Kopong, Kanye, Moshupa, Lehututu and Tshane.

A total of 22 families were provided with temporary shelter to decongest crowded homes and enable preventative health practices. Mr Mukokomane revealed that BRCS issued and erected family tents in Nxaraga, Artesia, Moshupa. Volunteers also issued tarpaulins and constructed temporary shelter in Mabule and Artesia. He said a total of 5 families were issued with shelter kits.

Risk Communications Community Engagement (RCCE), Infection Control and Prevention in Samuchima, BRCS volunteers are stationed daily at a communal water point to provide soap for hand washing, ensure social distancing and demonstrate hand washing. He said this intervention is aimed at ensuring infection control and prevention at communal water points.

He said over 47 households were reached during house to house Risk Communications and Community Engagement (RCCE) and Health promotion outreach in Kopong. Volunteers also placed social distancing stickers in Mabule and Tshidilamolomo clinics, the stickers disseminated prevention messages. In addition, health promotion outreach were done in Zoroga, Lesoma, Tsau, Kazungula, Gumare, Tsau, Komana, Maun, Tsanoga and Lehututu including hand wash demonstrations as well as setting up hand washing stations.

The BRCS distributed hygiene packages to 50 households in Mabule and over 250 individuals stand to benefit from these packages. The BRCS continues to explore collaboration opportunities with communities, the government and international organisations.

The Lockdown Extended in Phases

Phase I

The current lockdown conditions period will be extended by one week, from May 1st to May 7th, 2020. During this period, the Government will develop and finalize regulations for a phased lifting of lockdown rules in low risk sectors.

Phase II

Starting from May 8th to May 14th, Government will lift in a phased manner, some lockdown rules while at the same time introducing additional plans for further lifting of the remaining lockdown rules.

Phase III

From May 15th to May 22nd, which will be the final week of the lockdown extension, Government will lift the remaining rules from the original lockdown rules implemented on March 30th, 2020.

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Smokers encouraged to embrace the New Normal

Anti-Tobacco Network (ATN) Executive Director, Professor Bontle Mbongwe has encouraged tobacco smokers who did not have access to tobacco to accept the new normal which may transition them to quit smoking.

Speaking to the Presidential Taskforce Team Bulletin, she said people who smoked or used other tobacco products should be assisted to quit smoking as lockdown restrictions are gradually eased. Prof Mbongwe reiterated the effects of tobacco and its potential to destroy the respiratory system hence weakening a smoker's responsiveness to infections.

She said that since Covid19 is primarily a disease affecting the respiratory system, smoking was still a major hazard as it raised the risks of lung disease and reduced lung function which can make the COVID-19 infection more severe and reduces chances of recovery.

"It can also affect how your body makes and uses oxygen thereby boosting the risks of conditions such as pneumonia," she said.

Prof Mbongwe further applauded Government's decision to ban the sale of tobacco and tobacco related substances during the state of public emergency saying this confirmed that tobacco and its products were non-essential commodities.

World Health Organisation (WHO) have noted that Tobacco kills more than 8 million people globally every year. More than 7 million of these deaths are from direct tobacco use and around 1.2 million are due to non-smokers being exposed to second-hand smoke.

A review of studies by public health experts convened by WHO on 29 April 2020 found that smokers are more likely to develop severe disease with COVID-19, compared to non-smokers.

COVID-19 is an infectious disease that primarily attacks the lungs. Smoking impairs lung function making it harder for the body to fight off coronaviruses and other diseases. Tobacco is also a major risk factor for non-communicable diseases like cardiovascular disease, cancer, respiratory disease and diabetes which put people with these conditions at higher risk for developing severe illness when affected by COVID-19.



Republic of Botswana

During this challenging time, our truck drivers put their lives on the line for us everyday to make sure we have our essential supplies.

They are us. We are them.



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OUR FUTURE IS IN OUR MASKS

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