



PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY

Issue 38 | Monday, 25 May 2020

Day 53

IMPORTED CASES HIT BOTSWANA

CORONAVIRUS



COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide

5,367,675

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 24/05/20

The COVID-19 Presidential Task Force National Coordinator Dr Kereng Masupu yesterday informed the public about 5 new cases of COVID-19. This new development takes the total number of confirmed cases in Botswana to 35.

He said the latest cases are similar to the previous ones and they were transiting through Botswana.

Dr Masupu reported that so far 17,631 tests have been performed with 35 testing positive while 17,596 tested negative. He cautioned the public that COVID-19 remains a threat and reminded them to continue adhering to the COVID-19 protocols.

CURRENT SITUATION IN NUMBERS

24/05/2020

Lab Tests Performed & resulted	17631
Negative Cases	17596
Positive Cases	35
Total Deaths	1
Recoveries	19
Active Cases	15

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.

Botswana serves in the WHO Executive Board

The Minister of Health and Wellness Dr Lemogang Kwappe has described the support reiterated by member states at historical virtual Assembly as reaffirmation to the importance of global solidarity, international cooperation and multilateralism in managing the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are particularly pleased at the good gesture by Member States who co-sponsored and adopted a consensus Resolution on COVID-19; a resolution that partly promotes equitable access to safe, efficacious vaccines and medicines for COVID-19," he said. Dr Kwappe also noted at the 147th session of the WHO Executive Board Meeting on Friday that the COVID-19 global crisis has brought to the surface many weaknesses and vulnerabilities in the health systems.

"This therefore highlights the importance of building resilient health systems with the capability to detect diseases early and respond urgently," he said.

What is certain, he said, is that the world needs a well-functioning and strengthened WHO as a leading agency in global health governance. This will enable the coordination of the public health emergency response to the current epidemic as well as to prepare for emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.

He assured World Health Organisation (WHO) Chairperson Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and the rest of the Member States of his zeal and utmost humility in undertaking the assignment to amplify Africa's Region critical healthcare needs and priorities.

"As Botswana ascends the WHO Executive Board, particularly at a critical time in global health landscape, we will undoubtedly strive to add impetus to

the ongoing transformation agenda of the World Health Organisation" he said. Dr Kwappe conveyed warmest regards and appreciation from His Excellency the President of the Republic of Botswana, Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi to the African Member States for having designated Botswana to serve in the Board and also congratulated the just elected Chairperson of the Board Dr Harsh Vardhan, Vice-Chairperson Kenya and Rapporteur of the Executive Board.



Hon Dr Kwappe



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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Face masks can avert infectious diseases

Princess Marina Hospital Superintendent Dr Tshepo Machacha has hailed the COVID-19 regulations that mandates one to wear a mask, saying they come at an opportune time as the winter season is approaching.

In an interview with the Presidential Task Force Bulletin, he said it is common knowledge that a lot of people catch common cold during the winter season, therefore the use of masks will reduce an individual's chances of catching a common cold.

Face mask plays a major role in averting infectious disease such as common cold, flu and Tuberculosis. The masks also reduce droplets emitted through sneezes and cough.

Dr Machacha, further, said since Tuberculosis is an airborne disease, the use of the face mask will also reduce the possibility of one getting such.



Dr Tshepo Machacha

The hospital Superintendent urged people to always put on their masks all the time especially when conversing. "I have realized that some people remove their masks when speaking to friends and family," said Dr Machacha. Dr Machacha emphasized the need to wash cloth masks every day after use and avoid reuse as that could spread viruses.

In matters relating to COVID-19 compliance at Princess Marina Hospital, Dr Machacha said wash basins have long been mounted at all hospital gates, adding that hand sanitizers and soaps have long been installed at all the wards. He also said they have acquired infrared thermometers to check temperatures for all people that enter the hospital including staff.

Dr Machacha further explained that they have flu clinics to attend to all visitors at the hospital. He said if a person is found to have flu symptoms they are not permitted to proceed to the wards as a precautionary measure to stop possible spread of the virus to patients.

A group of friends in Gaborone appreciating truck drivers
Photo Cred. Kenny Ketshotseng (Facebook)



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Police urges public to embrace the new normal

C OVID-19 has altered daily life around the world. Social distancing, temperature screening, wearing of mask and hand hygiene is now the new normal.

As regulations on extreme social distancing are gradually eased, government has made it mandatory for the public to wear masks as a

preventive measure of contracting diseases. The wearing of face masks should be done alongside observance of social distancing of 1 - 2 metres apart to maximise the effects of slowing down the spread of the pandemic.

However, the Botswana Police has observed that scores of people in some

parts of the country have stopped mandatory wearing of face masks. It has also been noted that social distancing is disregarded while the public participate in social gatherings and activities that exceed the prescribed numbers as espoused in the Emergency Powers Act.

In recognition of the risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Botswana Police Public Relations Officer, Assistant Commissioner Dipheko Motube is therefore warning those who contravene the stipulated regulations to desist from doing so. ***"Failure to observe the aforesaid provision attracts stringent penalties and we will therefore not hesitate to ensure full compliance of the law,"*** he said in a press statement.

Meanwhile, motorists have been advised to exercise patience on the roads as the police are frequently facilitating movement of trucks carrying essential goods in and outside the country. ***"During this time, there shall be inconvenience on the roads given the number of trucks that will be using various highway occasionally,"*** he said.

TRUCK MONITORING

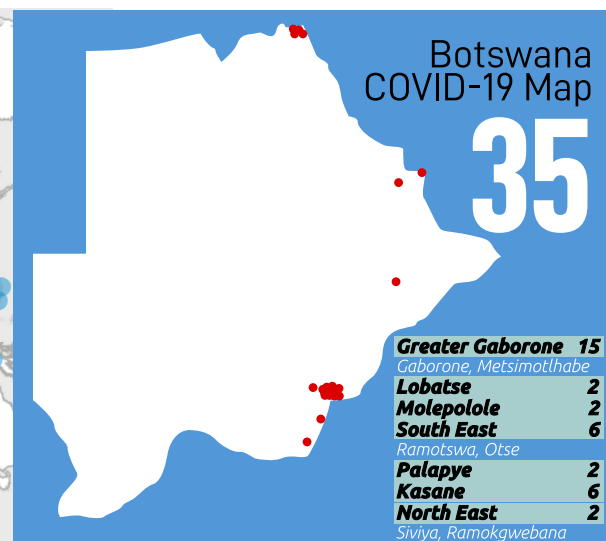
23-24 MAY 2020

BORDER	Arrival	Departure
Tlokweng	150	38
Ramatlabama	126	42
Martin's Drift	62	54
Pioneer	22	14
Mamuno	46	33
Kazungula Road Border	0	12
Kazungula Ferry	0	42
Ngoma	2	0
Ramokgwebana	7	17
Mohembo	1	0
Sub Total	416	252
Total	668	

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COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

USA - 1,632,721	South Africa - 21,343	Mozambique - 194
UK - 260,916	Egypt - 16,513	Malawi - 82
Spain - 235,772	Zambia - 920	Angola - 61
Italy - 229,858	Ethiopia - 582	Zimbabwe - 56
France - 182,102	Madagascar - 527	Botswana - 35
China - 84,084	Eswatini - 238	Lesotho - 2



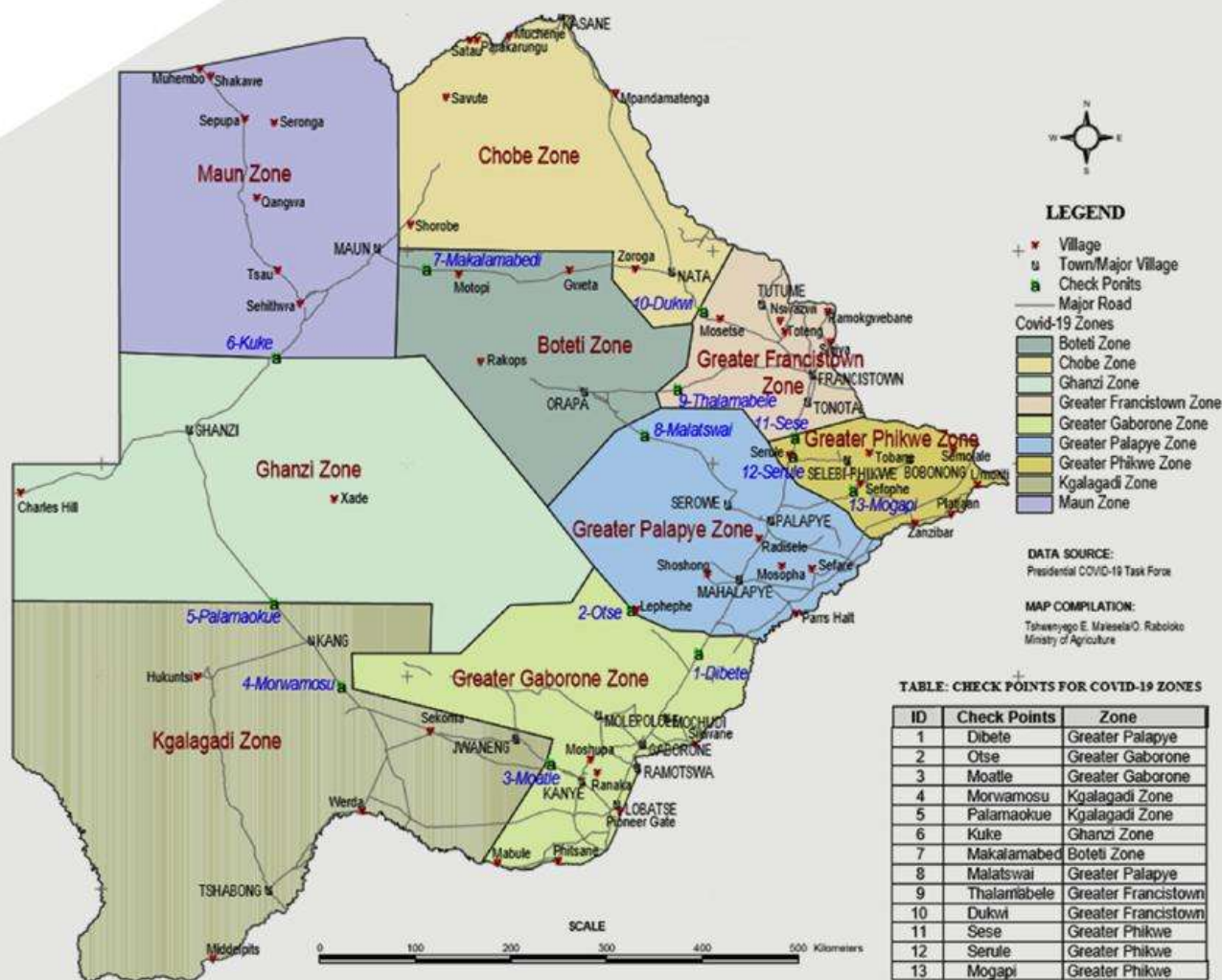
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Republic of Botswana

COVID-19 ZONAL MAP



KNOW YOUR ZONES

Extreme Social Distancing ended on Wednesday 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

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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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