



PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY

Issue 56 | Thursday, 18 June 2020



Director of Health Services Dr Malaki Tshipayagae announced that Botswana has reached 79 confirmed positive COVID-19 cases, with 25 recoveries, 1 death and 4 active cases.

Giving an update lastnight, Dr Tshipayagae warned the country to be prepared for more cases of COVID-19 to slightly rise as more tests especially at Point of Entries are conducted.

“As of 16th June 2020, Botswana has a total of 79 COVID-19 positive cases. Twenty-seven (27) are Citizens (Batswana) while the rest (52) are Non-Citizens”, he explained. *(Continues on Page 2)*

CURRENT SITUATION IN NUMBERS 17/06/2020

Lab Tests Performed & resulted	33176
Negative Cases	33097
Positive Cases	79
Total Deaths	1
Recoveries	25
Active Cases	4
Transferred Out	49

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 Records 79 Cases

From Page 1

He further shared that within the new cases recorded, there were three (3) new cases which involves Botswana,

- (i) the first one being a 40 year old front liner Female Motswana working at a point of entry,
- (ii) a 35 year old Motswana female who had travelled to UK and was quarantined on arrival,
- (iii) and a 32 year old Motswana Male who travelled to a neighboring country.

Dr Tshipayagae revealed that three of the patients are being admitted at Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital while the other is at a health Facility in Charleshill.

Director of Health Services explained that 33 176 tests were conducted and 33 097 came back negative since March 31st, 2020.

He said there was a surge of positive cases at Point of Entries as 49 arrivals tested positive of the novel corona-virus. He alerted that all the 49 positive cases were voluntarily transferred back to their respective countries.

He said despite the rising number of cases, most people who get infected only suffer mild symptoms and make a recovery, highlighting that 25 of them have recovered and discharged from health facilities.

Meanwhile, Global coronavirus cases surpassed the 8 million mark as according to a running tally by US-based Johns Hopkins University on Monday.

The university's data showed that the global tally of fatalities had reached 435,619, while the number of recoveries topped 3.83 million.

The US remains the worst-hit country with over 2.11 million infections, while its death toll exceeds 118,000. Brazil, which has the largest number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Latin America, has the second highest number of infections worldwide with more than 888,200, followed by Russia with around 536,400 and India with over 332,400.

Several European countries are also among the hardest hit in the world.

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide

8,226,693

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 17/06/20

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 28/05/20

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

USA - 2,266,238	South Africa - 80,412	Malawi - 564
UK - 300,715	Egypt - 47,856	Eswatini - 563
Spain - 244,683	Ethiopia - 3,759	Zimbabwe - 401
Italy - 237,828	Zambia - 1,405	Angola - 148
France - 194,347	Madagascar - 1,378	Botswana - 79
China - 84,434	Mozambique - 638	Namibia - 36

Botswana
COVID-19
Map

79

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.



Alcohol Industry Pivotal To Botswana's Economy

Liquor Industry is said to be responsible for 15 000 to 17 000 jobs who are in direct production of alcohol in the country.

Botswana Alcohol Industry Association Chairperson Mr Mothusi Molokomme explained that the vast majority of alcohol industry jobs are in retail, pubs, clubs, and bars all estimated to be employing around sixty thousand people.

Briefing the Media on the review of the Liquor Act and defining their 'new normal' phenomenon, he alluded to the fact that the alcohol industry plays

a pivotal role in the country's economy.

He hailed efforts by the government of Botswana through the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry for continuously engaging them and mapping the way forward together as partners in the fight against COVID19. He said the new trading regulations were drafted in consultation with them.

Mr Molokomme said a ray of hope for them as an Association was the permission as stated in the new Trade Act which allows grocery stores to be able to sell alcoholic beverages, saying

...allows grocery stores to be able to sell alcoholic beverages.

it is a worldwide trend and a welcome development in Botswana.

BAIA Chairperson cautioned alcohol consumers to religiously adhere to COVID-19 regulations and respect the rule of law. He said failure of such would compromise efforts made by government to contain the spread of the virus and be forced to take precautionary measures like banning the sale of alcohol again.

Botswana implemented a temporary ban on the sale of alcohol however not consumption in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Tertiary Institutions Meet Covid-19 Requirements



Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology Hon Dr Douglas Letsholathebe says public tertiary institutions have complied with Covid-19 Regulations. Dr Letsholathebe was briefing members of the media on Tuesday.


The Minister said Ministry of Health & Wellness has already given his institutions thumbs up to open the schools. "University of Botswana, Botswana Accountancy College, Botswana International University of Science and Technology and Institutes of Health Sciences opened between the 3rd and 15th respectively," Dr Letsholathebe reiterated with Technical Colleges following thereafter in staggered dates.

Hon Letsholathebe said Institute of Health Sciences managed to send students for attachments while other institutions failed to follow the latter due to lockdown. On a positive note, Minister Letsholathebe said other institutions such as the University of Botswana managed to help their students with sim-cards to access data during lockdown for online studies.

For her part Botswana Qualifications Authority Chief Executive Officer Ms Botsalano Mosimakoko said their aim is to make sure that institutions offer quality education and learner academic protection. She said they have to make sure that courses offered are registered and accredited.

She said in order to deliver quality education some schools use conventional teaching methods, e-learning

and some use blended learning. Ms Mosimakoko however said tertiary institutions should make sure that learner's data is safe and that institutions should ensure that students have access to the interim platforms.



Republic of Botswana

Media Release
14 June 2020

"BSAFE" COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING APP LAUNCHED

In another effort to combat the spread of COVID-19, the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 would like to inform the Public that it has launched the bSafe Contact Tracing Application ("bSafe App") which will replace the manual registration. The app will improve contact tracing of those potentially exposed to the COVID-19 virus through the use of innovative wireless technology, or QR codes, at service points.


To register for the bSafe Contact Tracing App for free:

(i) Individuals need to download the app which is available on Google Play Store (Android) by scanning the QR Code at the top.

(ii) Non-Android users can register at web.covid19bw.center

Before entering any place, individuals must use a QR scan code to register their details instead of doing so manually. Those without smartphones can either ask someone to register them or they can register at service points.


Service Providers should all ensure that they have downloaded the bSafe App and are ready to register and check-in individuals upon entry at service points. Kindly note that screening of temperatures at service points is



still a requirement. If an individual's temperature is more than 37.4, service providers should immediately contact the COVID-19 call center (06649).

Digital contact tracing will assist health officials to identify, give alerts to people potentially exposed to the coronavirus, test them promptly and offer support much more easily during quarantine.

The Public is further informed that the bSafe App complies with Botswana's legal framework that protects the users' right to privacy. The Public is encouraged to use the "bSafe App" to safeguard their personal information, ensure seamless registration at points of entry and enable quicker contact by health officials should it be necessary to do so.


Dr. Kereng Masupu
 Coordinator - Presidential
 Covid-19 Task Force



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;

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

Editor: Treasure Mothobi

Content Producers: Lorato Okaile | Donnell Kutlape | Chandapiwa Baputaki | Fortune Ketlhaetse