



PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

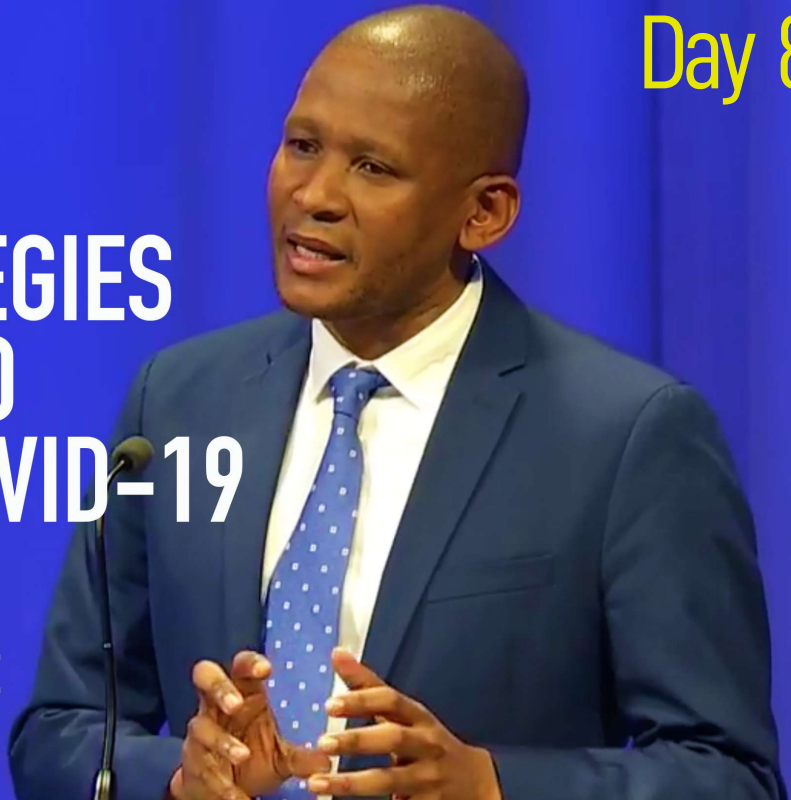
COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY

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Day 88

BOTSWANA HAS STRATEGIES IN PLACE TO COMBAT COVID-19 PANDEMIC

~ PROFESSOR MOSEPELE



The world over, numbers of positive COVID-19 cases continue to increase with some countries recording high numbers of deaths. Botswana has also seen its numbers steadily rising due to truck drivers who transport essential goods to reach various destinations in Botswana and beyond to the rest of SADC.

Deputy National Coordinator of COVID-19 Presidential Task Force Team Professor Mosepele Mosepele yesterday indicated that there are 54 new cases recorded at the borders. This brings the total number of people who tested positive in Botswana to 175. Amongst these 37 are Botswana while 138 are mainly foreign truck drivers.

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COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide

10,039,286

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 28/06/20

CORONAVIRUS IS STILL A SERIOUS THREAT!

FREE YOUR MIND FROM STIGMA...

Only the fearless and supportive will help defeat the coronavirus.

Be a friend. Join in the fight.

Own your space. Own your health!

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 has strategies in place to combat COVID-19 Pandemic ~ Prof Mosepele

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In the wake up these increasing cases, Prof. Mosepele said Botswana has a strategy in place to mitigate the increasing numbers of the pandemic in the country.

He said 80 percent of diagnosis of COVID-19 cases were recorded at various point of entries. He said Botswana cannot live in isolation hence such essential drivers were allowed access to deliver the goods.

Prof. Mosepele said this was meant to nurture the existing cordial relations between countries, adding that Botswana initially allowed movement of essential services and essential goods across borders when lockdown was introduced.

Prof. Mosepele said the Taskforce Team introduced testing as a way of mitigating the risk that comes with the movement from other countries followed by isolating and conducting contact tracing.

He said going forward, the country is in the process to procure rapid tests reagents that can have results

in less than an hour using the gene expert machines so that they can reduce the turnaround time, thereby reducing the time spent by the drivers at the borders.

The Deputy National Coordinator said Mamuno border used the same approach however ran out of the reagents. The Mamuno team were conducting 500-700 tests a day.

“Another important aspect is to strengthen the surveillance program where the testing capacity is augmented by good contact tracing and isolation” Prof Mosepele stated.

The Professor sighted a scientific opinion that some countries are quick to increase testing without managing those tested.

He opined that it is not helpful if the country is not able to do contact tracing because the same people could be infected after a couple of days. He said testing, contact tracing

and isolation of positive cases are of significance to Botswana.

He said if a country has not set up infrastructure, the disease will continue ravaging its people.

The Professor said their approach is similar to that of Botswana AIDS Impact Survey (BAIS) whereby after every 5 years there is a study that reviews how the disease has progressed.

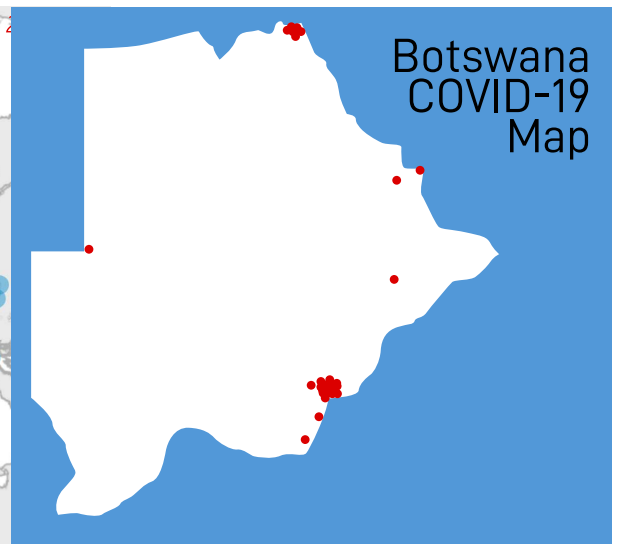
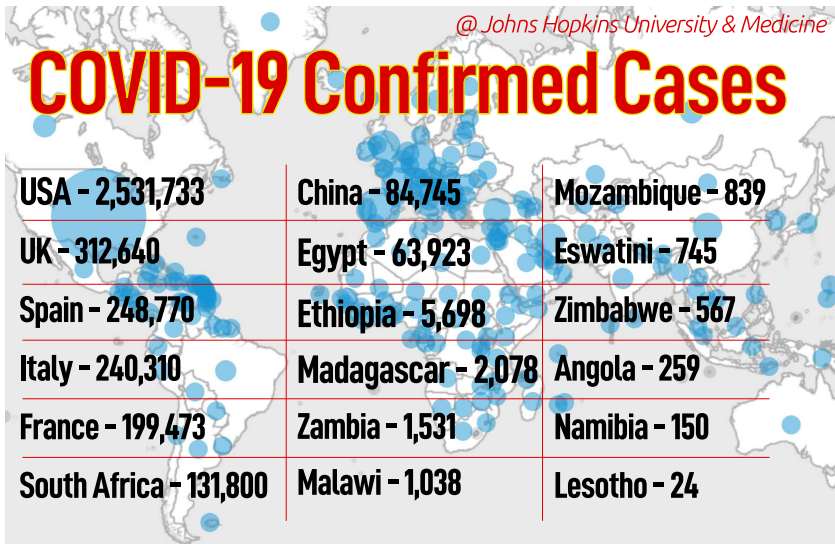
Prof. Mosepele said in Botswana the surveillance is guided by whether one has signs and symptoms while in other countries it is through testing at health facilities.

He further said Botswana has a plan to test people in the villages along the borders and shopping complexes where majority of people frequent.

He said they will also go to bus and taxi ranks where a sample of about 20 people will be tested three times in a week.

what is of paramount importance is testing, conduct contact tracing and isolation of positive cases

Botswana has a plan to test people in the villages along the borders and shopping complexes





Mr Zibochwa



IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MENTAL HEALTH

In January 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of a new coronavirus disease, COVID-19, to be a Public Health Emergency of international concern. To date the world has recorded just over 10 million positive cases.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness has revealed that it is providing strategic measures in support of mental health and wellbeing of mental health patients in this era of COVID-19.

Ministry's mental health Coordinator, Mr Patrick Zibochwa said they never encountered any challenges as existing structures are designed in such a way that patients are taken care of holistically under any circumstance. He said all what the ministry had to do, was to integrate COVID-19 regulations and protocols into already existing structures of mental health.

Speaking on COVID-19 BTV programme, Mr Zibochwa said the leadership and governance on response to Mental Health is structured accordingly. He said the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and Ministry of Health and Wellness are mandated to coordinate aspects of mental health at district level. He said both Ministries under the sphere of Universal Health Coverage have deployed mental health coordinators to the districts and they carry out the expanded coverage of the mental health community.

He said the Government realises that there might be support that is likely to be required as the pandemic rises in Botswana, and the Ministry will closely monitor in

conjunction with the mental health sector to respond to emerging needs. Mr Zibochwa said prioritizing mental wellbeing is an integral part of staying healthy and highlighted that coronavirus was changing the way people are accustomed to and have to internalize the "new normal" way of living incorporating people with mental sickness. However he advised care givers and patients to ensure that medication is taken as prescribed.

Mental illnesses are health conditions involving changes in emotion, thinking and behavior.

CORONA VIRUS IS STILL A SERIOUS THREAT!





bSafe

- Register for the bSafe Contact Tracing app which replaces manual registration.
- If you don't have a smartphone, either ask someone to register you. Alternatively, register at service points.
- Upon entry at service points you will be required to scan QR Code or provide your national ID number (Omang).

Download the bSafe app and register for free

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BW COVID 19 TASK FORCE

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Pic; KillerPass Facebook Page

NO SUNDAY SOCCER

Sport is a major contributor to social, physical and economic development. Since its onset, the COVID-19 pandemic has spread to almost all countries of the world.

Social and physical extreme distancing measures as a way to curtail the spread of the disease, has disrupted many regular aspects of life, including sport and physical activity.

The Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development issued an advisory communique that due

to concerns regarding the high risk of the spread of COVID-19, recreational sport and arts events are still suspended until further notice.

The advisory release advised the public not to engage in such activities that will cause them to gather in groups until further advice is given.

The release further states that an announcement will be made in due course to advice on measures that must be put in place in line with COVID-19 regulations before such activities are allowed to resume.

Yes. Respiratory viruses can be passed by shaking hands and touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

Greet people with a wave, a nod or a bow instead.

Should I avoid shaking hands because of the new coronavirus?



World Health Organization

#Coronavirus #COVID19

9 March 2020

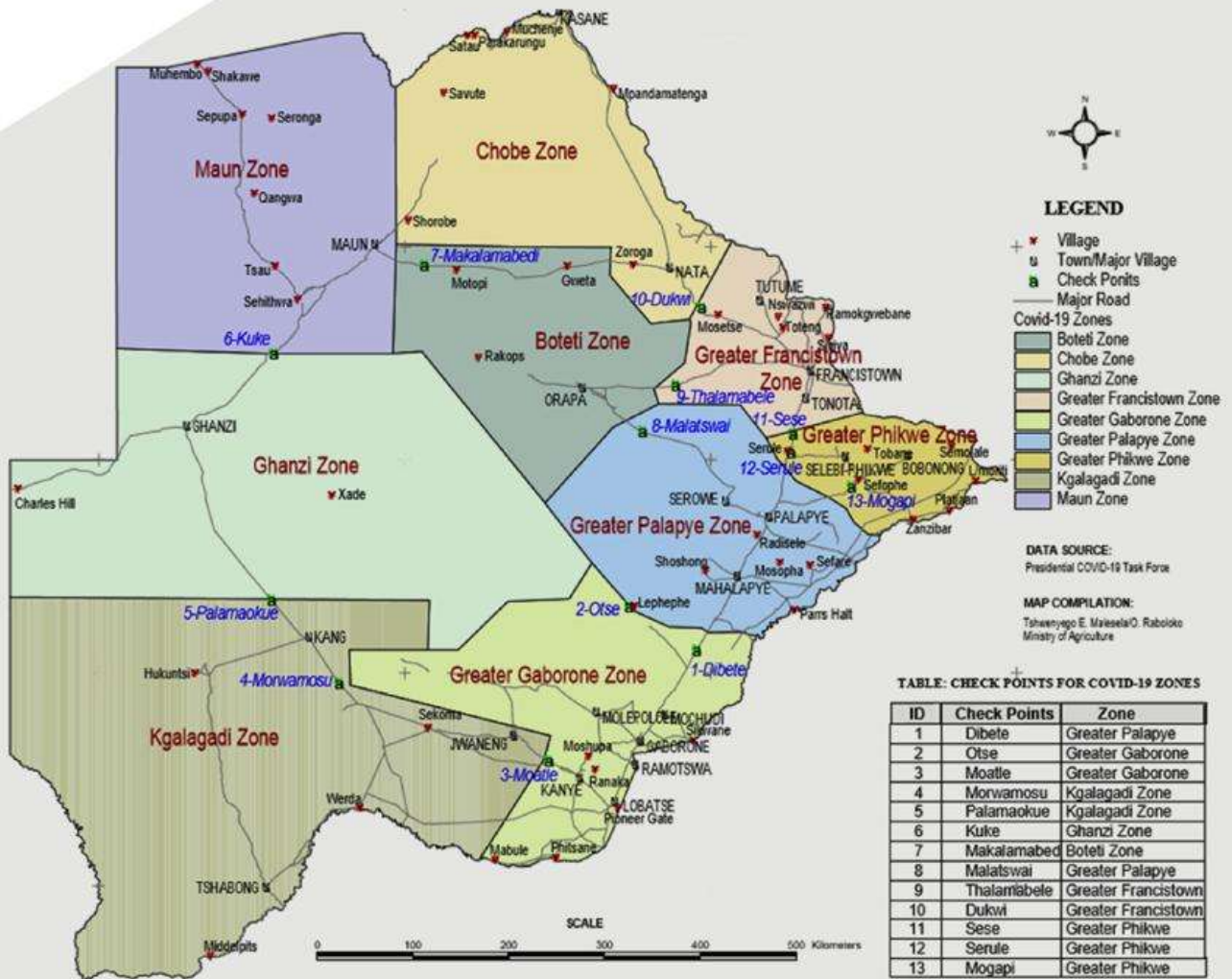
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Republic of Botswana

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;

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

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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.



DON'T STIGMATISE THEM
APPLAUD THEM

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