



PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY

Issue 73 | Monday, 13 July 2020

Day 102



Princess Marina Referral Hospital Resumes Dental Services

Botswana detected its first novel coronavirus infection at the end of March 2020 and thereafter the epidemic showed a rise exponentially. His Excellency the President, Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi declared a 6 months National State of Emergency and introduced Extreme Social Distancing which encompassed stopping large gatherings, banning visitors from high-risk countries, closing of schools and temporary stopping some services at Hospitals around the country.

With Botswana relaxing lockdown measures, Princess Marina has unlocked Dental Services. Oral Health Services Head of Department at Princess Marina Referral Hospital, Senior Consultant Prosthodontist Dr Faith Galebole divulged in an interview with Presidential Covid-19 Task Force Bulletin that the hospital has since resumed some services among them oral and

(Continues on Page 2)



COVID 19 CASE REPORT

10 July 2020

65
Total Confirmed
Botswana Cases

26
Active Cases
(Botswana)

38
Recovered
Botswana

1
Deceased

85

New positive tests since 06 July 2020
(10 Botswana / 75 Foreign Nationals)

318
Transferred out

31,066
Border Tests

20,313
Local Tests

51,379
Total Tests

THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTRE

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Dr Faith Galebole

Princess Marina Referral Hospital Resumes Dental Services

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maxillofacial surgery services, removal of dentures, filling and scaling, tooth extractions, screening and laboratory services.

She indicated that they had to find new ways of helping the patients hence a few weeks after the lockdown, dental services were availed to the public following stringent measures. Dr

Galebole however said surgical tooth extractions and scaling will remain suspended until further notice.

She said during lockdown the hospital reduced its dental services to only emergency services and just oral health screening. Dr Galebole said they made the decision because the bulk of dentistry is confined to the oral cavity (mouth) which is the main source of saliva droplets which has the potential to spread the COVID-19 virus thus putting the dental personnel at high risk.

Dr Galebole said although dentals services have resumed at Princess Marina Hospital, because of some challenges experienced such as inadequate PPE especially gowns, only a limited number of patients can have their teeth removed on a daily basis. She said this is to allow for the right precautionary measures to be applied.

The HOD said they are currently inundated with high patient volumes from across the country since other dental clinics are not operating due to lack of Covid-19 National Dentistry specific guidelines.

She said services are going to look very different over the next few months as the Hospital tries to adapt to the new normal.



Republic of Botswana

"As a nation, we have to ensure that we continue to wage a spirited fight against the spread and transmission of COVID-19.

We can only achieve that by adhering at all times, to health protocols of extreme social distancing, regular washing of hands with clean water and soap and the use of hand sanitizers as well as proper wearing of face masks."

His Excellency DR. Mokgweetsi Masisi
President of the Republic of Botswana

**CORONAVIRUS IS STILL
A SERIOUS THREAT!**

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Air Botswana Resumes Operation

The national airline, Air Botswana will resume domestic operation with effect from the 17th of July 2020.

The airline closed its operations towards end of March when government closed all ports of entries as a way of preventing possible spread of the corona virus.

Air Botswana Managing Director Ms Agnes Khunwana said in a statement that they will resume their domestic travels to Francistown, Maun and Kasane. The General Manager highlighted that the airline shall gradually increase frequency of operations on the basis of demand and reinstate regional operations as soon as current travel restrictions are lifted.

"As we gradually re-introduce operations, we will continue to explore other possible recovery strategies that address the commercial viability and business sustainability of the national airline without compromising the health and safety of both staff and customers." Said Ms Khunwana. Ms Khunwana said they are looking



forward to resume operations and embrace the new ways of working. "To this effect, the airline is enhancing modifications for adherence to the new normal," elaborated Ms Khunwana.

- **frequent cleaning of hard surfaces including lavatories, overhead lockers and windows**

- **Enhanced use of technology to offer customer focused solutions so as to reduce contact.**



AIR BOTSWANA

Going Your Way

She said in this regard, the travelling community is assured of the following;

- **heightened cleaning of frequently touched areas such as seatbelts, arm rests and trays**

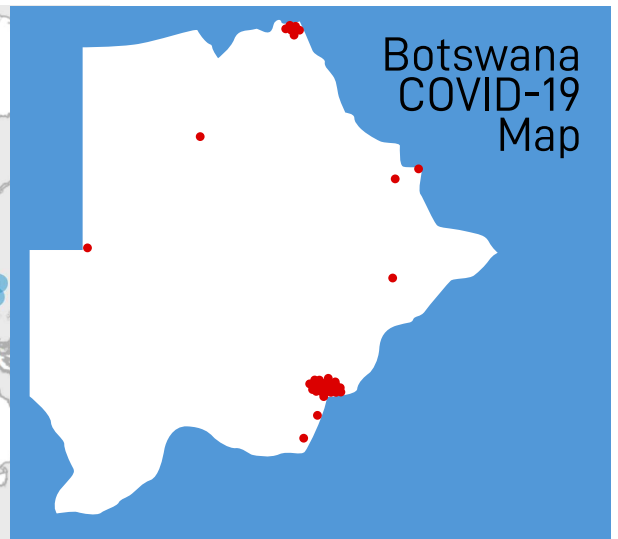
The statement said Air Botswana has put in place contactless booking and ticketing mechanisms through its online booking and ticketing platform (<https://www.airbotswana.co.bw/>) and thus encourage its patrons to take advantage of the same or call the airline's Call Centre (+267 3680900/3688550) for remote assistance with travel arrangements without visiting the Airline's offices.

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COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

USA - 3,249,826	China - 85,109	Eswatini - 1,311
UK - 290,504	Egypt - 81,158	Mozambique - 1,135
South Africa - 264,184	Ethiopia - 7,402	Zimbabwe - 982
Spain - 253,908	Madagascar - 4,867	Namibia - 785
Italy - 242,827	Malawi - 2,261	Angola - 483
France - 208,015	Zambia - 1,895	Lesotho - 184

Botswana
COVID-19
Map



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Independent evaluation of global COVID-19 response announced



...in May of next year, at the World Health Assembly, the panel will present its substantive report.

World Health Organization Director-General has announced the initiation of the *Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPR)* to evaluate the world's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In remarks to WHO Member States, Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the Panel will be co-chaired by former Prime Minister of New Zealand Helen Clark and former President of Liberia Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Prime Minister Clark went on to lead the United Nations Development Programme and President Sirleaf is a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Operating independently, they will choose other Panel members as well as members of an independent secretariat to provide support. "Prime Minister Clark and President Sirleaf were selected through a process of broad consultation with Member States and world experts. I cannot imagine two more strong-minded, independent leaders to help guide us through this critical learning process," said Dr. Tedros in his speech.

At the historic 73rd World Health Assembly in May, Member States adopted a landmark resolution that called on WHO to initiate an independent and comprehensive evaluation of the lessons learned from the international health response to COVID-19.

"This is a time for self-reflection, to look at the world we live in and to find ways to strengthen our collaboration as we work together to save lives and bring this pandemic under control," said Dr Tedros. "The magnitude of this pandemic, which has touched virtually everyone in the world, clearly deserves a commensurate evaluation."

Dr Tedros proposed that a Special Session of the Executive Board be called in September to discuss the Panel's progress. In November the Panel will present an interim report at the resumption of the World Health Assembly.

In January 2021, the Executive Board will hold its regular session, where the Panel's work will be further discussed; and in May of next year, at the World Health Assembly, the panel will present its substantive report.

The Director-General noted that the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme will also continue its existing work.

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide

12,751,882

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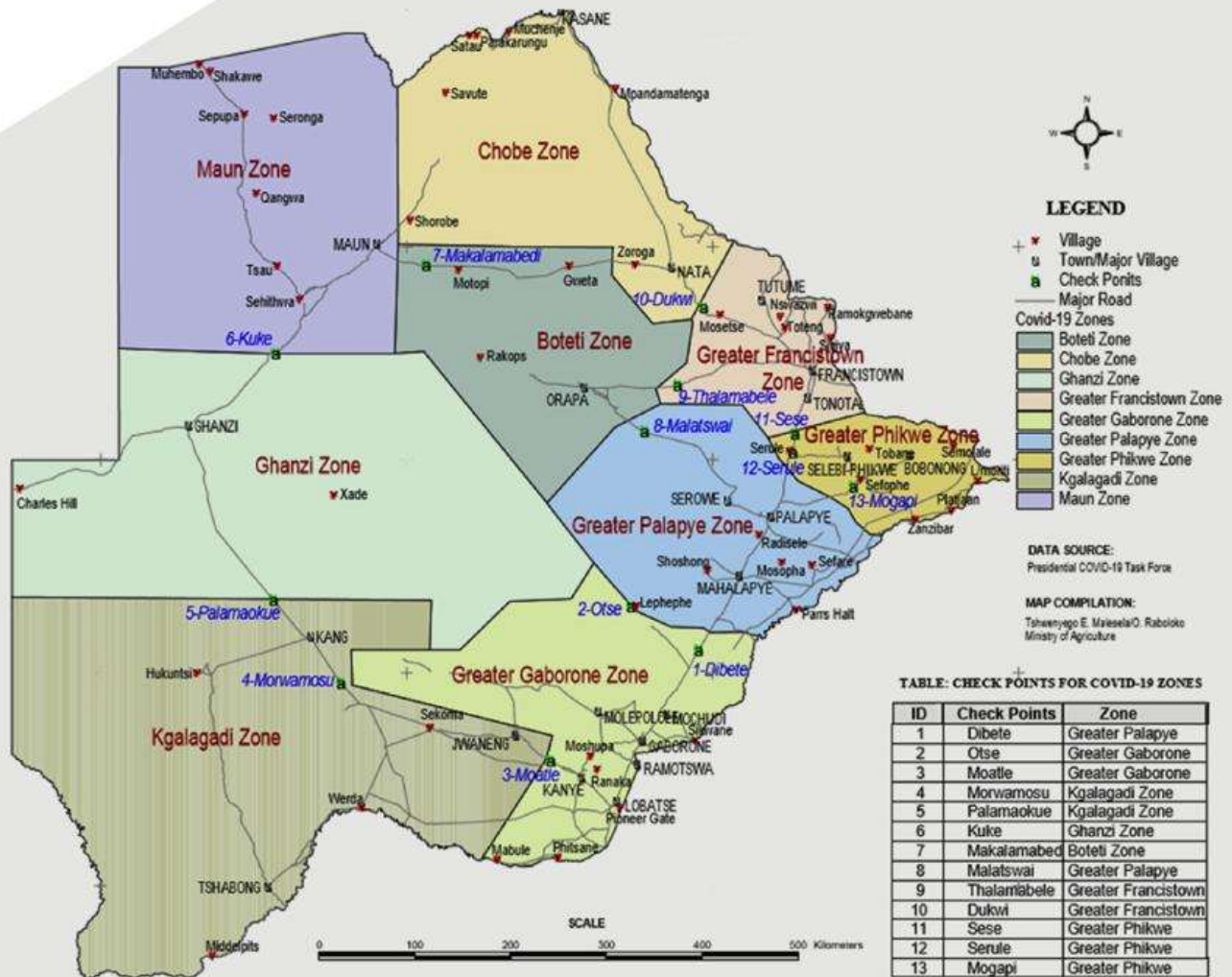
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COVID-19 ZONAL MAP



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

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in step. Let US all:**

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- Maintain social distancing.
- Wear masks.
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