



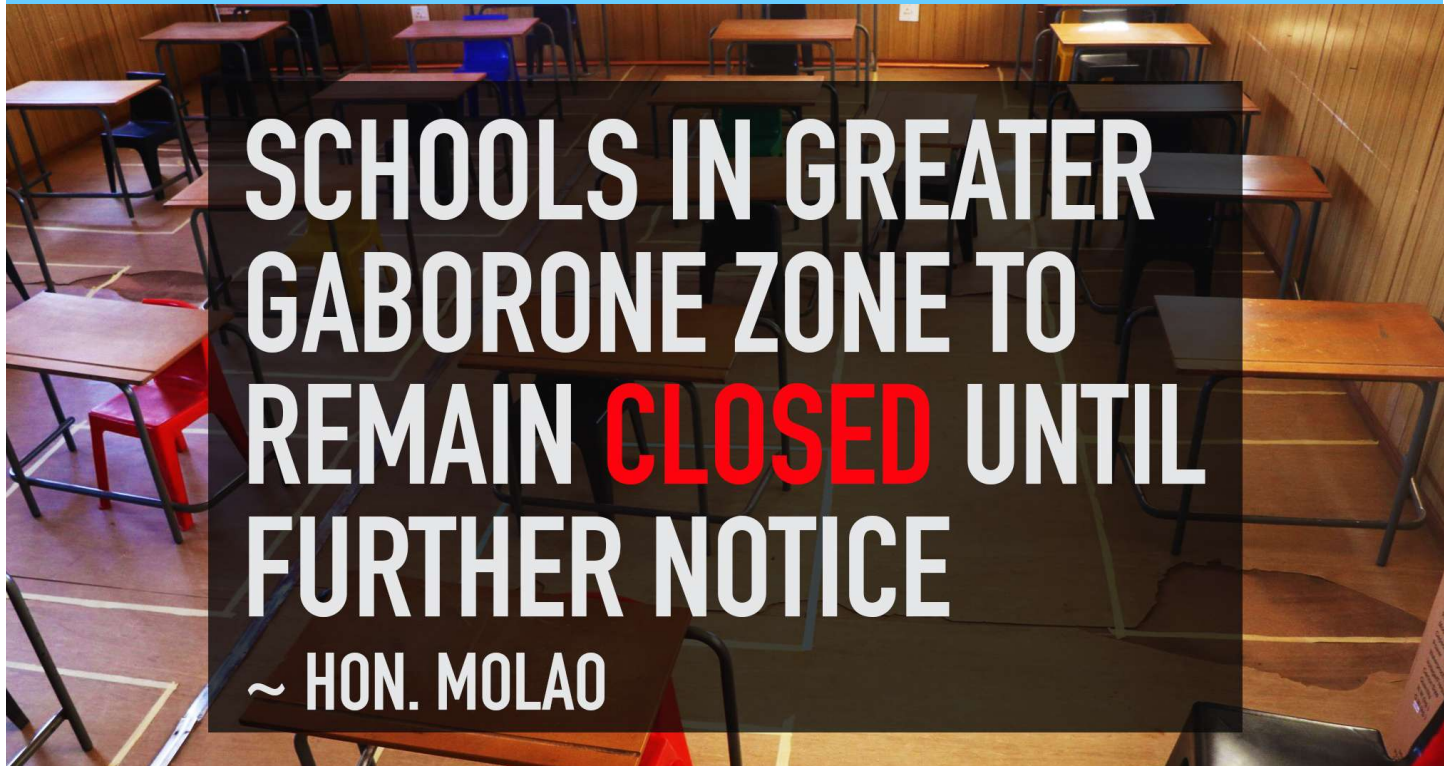
PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY

Issue 88 | Monday, 03 August 2020

Day 123 **GREATER GABORONE ZONE
UNDER LOCKDOWN**

WORLD BREAST FEEDING WEEK
1-7 August 2020
THEME: 'Support Breast feeding for a Healthier Planet'



**SCHOOLS IN GREATER
GABORONE ZONE TO
REMAIN **CLOSED** UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**
~ HON. MOLAO

Minister of Basic Education, Honourable Fidelis Molao, says the recent update by the Presidential Taskforce on Covid-19 demonstrates that the number of Batswana who have tested positive to Covid-19 has increased drastically.

In a media briefing on Botswana Television, Mr Molao said his ministry was in consultation with stakeholders to deal with impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Continues on Page 2*



Republic of Botswana

**LET'S STOP
THE SPREAD!**

STAY AWAY FROM GATHERINGS!

IKGAPHENG!

Own your space. Own your health!

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide

17,839,641

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 02/08/20

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.

“In light of the latest developments I would like to urge all schools including those outside Greater Gaborone to be extra vigilant...” Honourable Molao



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Minister Molao said as Greater Gaborone Zone has been placed under lockdown for a period of two weeks, all schools in the Zone will remain closed until further notice.

He regrettably said some teachers and students have tested positive to COVID-19 and subsequently placed into quarantine while some hospitalized.

Special Education Units for learners with special needs which was scheduled for the 4th of

August 2020 is postponed until further notice for the whole country. He said the decision is to accord the Ministry of Health and wellness and the Presidential Task Force Team to monitor the situation.

“In light of the latest developments I would like to urge all schools including those outside Greater Gaborone to be extra vigilant, schools should continue to comply to Covid-19 protocols and guidelines which include frequent washing of hands,

proper wearing of masks and social distancing”, cautioned Minister Molao.

He pleaded with students to refrain from crowding outside or within school premises when waiting for their parents or at break time.

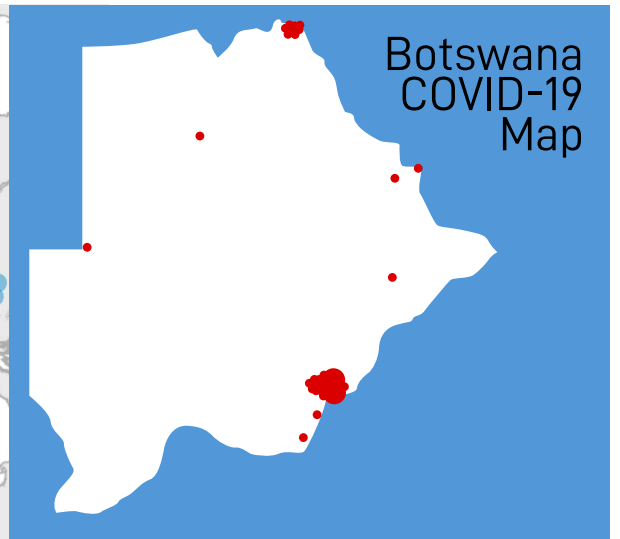
He also advised that they should not go to shopping centres after school but rather go straight home.

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 03/08/20

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

USA - 4,639,005	Egypt - 94,316	Zimbabwe - 3,659
South Africa - 503,290	China - 87,942	Eswatini - 2,706
UK - 306,315	Ethiopia - 17,999	Namibia - 2,224
Spain - 288,522	Madagascar - 11,528	Mozambique - 1,907
Italy - 248,070	Zambia - 6,347	Angola - 1,664
France - 225,198	Malawi - 4,186	Lesotho - 718

Botswana
COVID-19
Map



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BOTSWANA EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

Botswana Examination Council Chief Executive Officer Professor Brian Mokopakgosi says 2020 standard 7s, Form 3s and Form 5s examinations will go on as planned.

He said BEC is mandated to conduct school examinations and any other examinations for the Ministry of Education and Skills Development and issue certificates in respect of the examinations.

Professor Mokopakgosi said this yesterday when briefing members of the media, adding that the examination council is ready to conduct the examinations in all aspect.

He said they will observe the situation and engage the Ministry to assess if the examination dates need to be changed based on how the virus will be managed at the time.

The Director in the Ministry of Basic Education Mr Ndondo Koosele says they will see how they will compensate time lost to lockdowns.

Final Examinations To Go On as Planned



to conduct national examinations as planned. He however said the national mock examinations which were scheduled to start on the 5th August 2020 will be rescheduled to begin on the 17th August 2020 for Primary, Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary levels.

“We hope that this will also allow for Greater Gaborone schools to participate in these examinations. In the event that the lockdown is extended, a way forward will be determined”, narrated the Minister.

The Minister said there are concerns over the final examinations for Standard 7s, Form 3s and Form 5s. He however said the Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) is alive to the fact that the closure of schools has impact on coursework. “Children can be reassured that they will not be disadvantaged in their final examinations due to these interruptions,” explained the Minister.

Minister Molao reassured that as the situation unfolds all possible options will be explored including the adjustment of the school calendar, assessment time table and other approaches of assessment.

He said although they are facing a mammoth task of preparing pupils for examinations under the current circumstances, the Ministry is working around the clock to ensure that students are psychologically ready for exams.

Mr Koosele said what is important is ensuring that students write these exams because they determine whether a student graduates to the next stage or get admitted to university or college.

Meanwhile Minister of Basic Education, Honourable Fidelis Molao reaffirmed his ministry's commitment

EFFECT OF COVID-19 TO BE FELT FOR DECADES

COVID-19 The Emergency Committee on COVID-19, convened by the WHO Director-General under the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR), held its fourth meeting on 31 July.

In its statement following the meeting, published today, it expressed "appreciation for WHO and partners' COVID-19 pandemic response efforts, and highlighted the anticipated lengthy duration of this COVID-19 pandemic, noting the importance of sustained community, national, regional, and global response efforts."

After a full discussion and review of the evidence, the Committee unanimously agreed that the outbreak still constitutes a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) and offered this advice to Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

Dr Tedros accepted the advice of the Committee and confirmed that the outbreak of COVID-19 continues to constitute a PHEIC. The Director-General declared a PHEIC-WHO's highest level of alarm under IHR on 30 January at a time when there were fewer than 100 cases and no deaths outside China. He issued the Committee's advice to States Parties as Temporary Recommendations under the IHR.

"The pandemic is a once-in-a-century health crisis, the effects of which will be felt for decades to come," Dr Tedros told the Committee in his opening remarks on Friday.

"Many countries that believed they were past the worst are now grappling with new outbreaks. Some that were less affected in the earliest weeks are now seeing escalating numbers of cases and deaths. And some that had large outbreaks have brought them under control."



World Health Organization

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,
WHO Director-General

The Committee made a range of recommendations to both WHO and State Parties. It advised WHO to continue to mobilize global and regional multilateral organizations and partners for COVID-19 preparedness and response, to support Member States in maintaining health services, while accelerating the research and eventual access to diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.

It advised countries to support these research efforts, including through funding, and to join in efforts to allow equitable allocation of diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines by engaging in the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator among other initiatives.

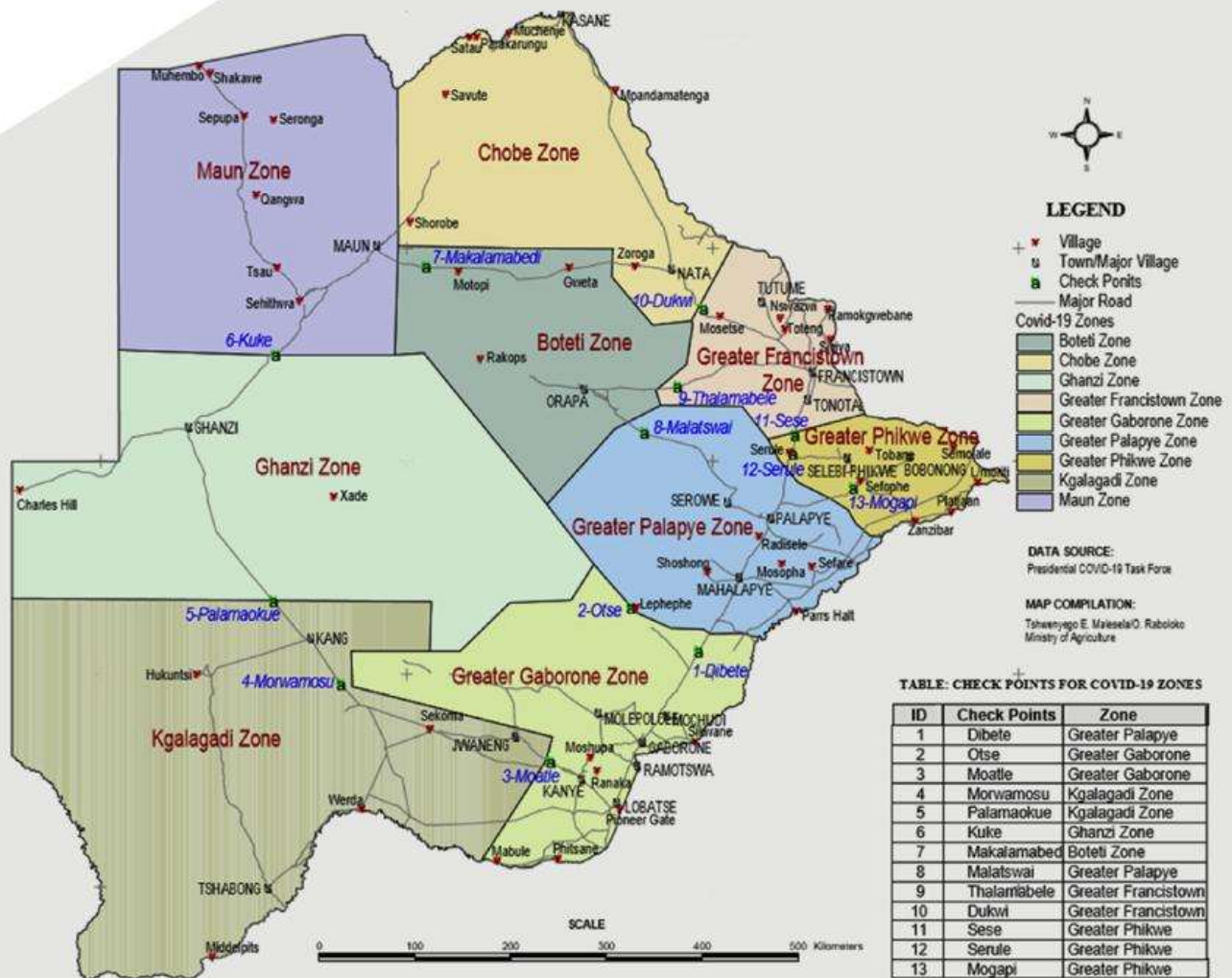
The committee also advised countries to strengthen public health surveillance for case identification and contact tracing, including in low-resource, vulnerable, or high-risk settings and to maintain essential health services with sufficient funding, supplies, and human resources.

Countries were advised to implement proportionate measures and advice on travel, based on risk assessments, and to review these measures regularly. W.H.O



Republic of Botswana

COVID-19 ZONAL MAP



KNOW YOUR ZONES

Extreme Social Distancing ended on 20th May 2020 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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