



# PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY

Issue 91 | Thursday, 06 August 2020

**GREATER GABORONE ZONE  
UNDER LOCKDOWN**

**Day 126**

**ALCOHOL SALE  
SUSPENDED WITH  
IMMEDIATE EFFECT**



**H**is Excellency the President, Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, acting in accordance with regulation 30G of the Emergency Powers (COVID-19) Regulations, 2020, has with immediate effect suspended all liquor licenses issued in terms of the Liquor Act.

The suspension of the sale of alcohol is based on evidence that consumption of alcohol increases the risks posed by COVID-19 due to its negative effects on adherence to COVID-19 protocols.

All liquor stores in Botswana shall therefore remain closed and **liquor shall not be sold or consumed in public places until further notice.**

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide

**18,609,287**

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 05/08/20



duma FM

**A CONVERSATION WITH  
DR MATSHABA**

**ABOUT ALL THINGS COVID-19  
ON SIXTENSTREET (DUMA FM)**

**WITH BONJO**

**7:15AM | 06 THURSDAY AUGUST 2020**

**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.



# COVID-19 Outbreak in Greater Gaborone Zone Worsens

**P**residential (COVID-19) Task Force Team Deputy National Coordinator, Professor Mosepele says the situation of the COVID-19 outbreak in Greater Gaborone Zone is worsening.

Updating the nation on Botswana Television (BTV) last night regarding the evolving situation in Greater Gaborone Zone, professor Mosepele said the country is experiencing a sharp spike in new COVID-19 cases.

Professor Mosepele said following the Mogoditshane - Private school case, a patient (student) was seen at Bokamoso Private Hospital and tested positive for COVID-19 and the results

led to a contact tracing which led to 21 confirmed cases in the original student's class, with 18 cases across other classes. "Further, one (1) friend, one (1) teacher and two (2) parents tested positive" explained the Deputy Coordinator.

"The total number of infections from this case alone so far stands at 46 infections that translate into 36% of the cases under contact tracing investigation", explained Professor. He said the remaining cluster from the Mogoditshane case remains under quarantine and await final assessment.

In the Gaborone case, he said a

Motswana adult male, from a family of three (3) was diagnosed with COVID-19 at Gaborone Private Hospital, and consequently the rest of the family tested positive.

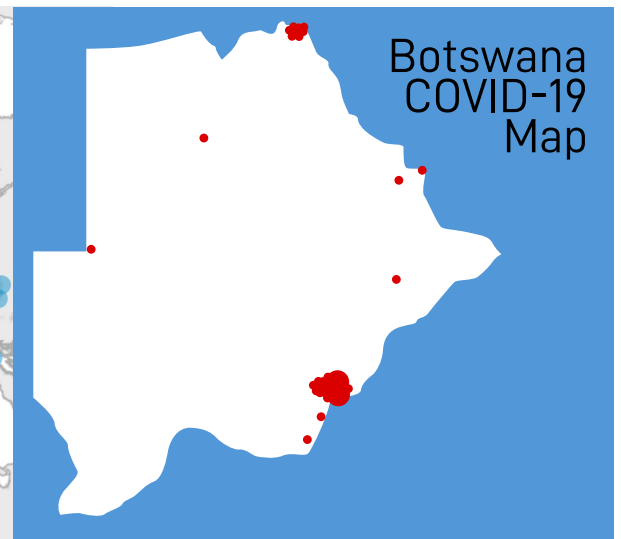
He explained that Contact tracing of the male adult led to an evaluation and assessment of 32 contacts, who all tested negative.

He said with respect to the son's contacts, the assessment and evaluation led to 179 contacts at Bonnington Community Junior Secondary School, and 90% of them tested negative, while the rest are still awaiting confirmation of results and remain in quarantine. *Continues on Page 3*

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 05/08/20

## COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

|                        |                     |                    |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| USA - 4,793,950        | Egypt - 94,752      | Zimbabwe - 4,221   |
| South Africa - 521,318 | China - 88,291      | Eswatini - 2,909   |
| UK - 307,252           | Ethiopia - 20,336   | Namibia - 2,540    |
| Spain - 305,767        | Madagascar - 12,222 | Mozambique - 2,079 |
| Italy - 248,803        | Zambia - 7,022      | Angola - 1,344     |
| France - 228,576       | Malawi - 4,426      | Lesotho - 726      |



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**Minister of Finance and Economic Development Honourable Thapelo Matsheka says an amount of two hundred and ten million, six hundred and fifty-six thousand, three hundred and sixty-nine (P210,656,369) was disbursed for health supplies with a value of more than P1 million through direct appointment since the declaration of the State of Emergency.**

Hon Matsheka was responding to a question asked by MP for Maun West Hon Dumelang Saleshando who wanted to know the companies engaged and the goods procured as well as details of medical supplies worth over P2.4 billion procured from China.

Hon Matsheka said initially the Ministry of Health and Wellness had submitted a request for an amount of two point four billion Pula (P2.4 billion) in April 2020, for lab commodities, PPEs and equipment based on the worst case scenario on how the disease will impact the country.

## Over P 210 million spent on health commodities so far

He however said as a result of Government's prompt response to the Pandemic, including lockdown, the spread of the disease was contained.

Hon Matsheka said as a result, the worst case scenario did not come to pass adding that there were donations that were provided, which reduced the amount that was originally requested.

Minister Matsheka said a total of one hundred and forty-one million, three hundred and eighty-two thousand, six hundred and eighty (P141,382,680) worth of medical supplies were procured from three companies in China, namely, BGI Health Co. Ltd, MGI International Sales and DAAN Gene Co. Ltd.



## COVID-19 Outbreak in Greater Gaborone Zone Worsens

*From Page 2*

Deputy Coordinator said the wife's network at a primary school in Gaborone led to six (6) students, five (5) colleagues (teachers), and five (5) others, who are a husband and four (4) children of one of the teachers.

He said the cluster currently stands at 16 positive cases. "The recently reported Serowe case is part of this cluster of investigations, and 18 contacts from that investigation have so far tested negative" said Professor Mosepele.

In Oodi, Professor Mosepele said there were two (2) confirmed positive cases of COVID-19, being an adult male and

his wife. He explained that a Motswana who transported goods from a neighboring country was not quarantined at the company he works for, as required by the COVID - 19 regulations, however together with his spouse, they reported flu like symptoms on the 15th and 18th of July 2020 respectively.

He said they subsequently tested positive for COVID-19. He added that their primary contacts have thus far tested negative and remain in quarantine.

Professor Mosepele said there are other cases at Princess Marina Referral

Hospital where a mother who had accompanied a child to undergo an operation tested positive for COVID-19. He said another case, a male patient came to Princess Marina Hospital to seek medical attention and had difficulty in breathing.

He said the patient was later tested for COVID-19 and the results came positive. The patient is admitted at Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital and he is placed on a life supporting machine and is in Intensive Care Unit.

Professor Mosepele urged the nation to religiously adhere to the COVID-19 protocols and guidelines.

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# ICU mortality reduced by at least 25% since the introduction of dexamethasone - Mkhize



***South Africa is said to have benefitted from various treatment developments that have led to a reduction in the mortality rate, as COVID-19 infections surge countrywide.***

"It appears we may have benefitted from treatment developments as we were experiencing our surge," Health Minister Zweli Mkhize said during a virtual Covid-19 briefing yesterday.

"Our indications are that there has already been an improvement in the survival rate from intensive care units [ICU], where the mortality has been reduced demonstrably. One study shows ICU mortality has been reduced by about 25% since the introduction of dexamethasone on 16 June," Mkhize said.

In another study undertaken by the South African Medical Research Council, ICU survival rates showed a dramatic

improvement at 30% to 40%, whereas the ICU mortality rate at the beginning of the pandemic was around 80%.

In its assessment on the availability of beds, oxygen and staff, the health department said it has not breached its bed capacity and continues to fill vacancies where there are gaps.

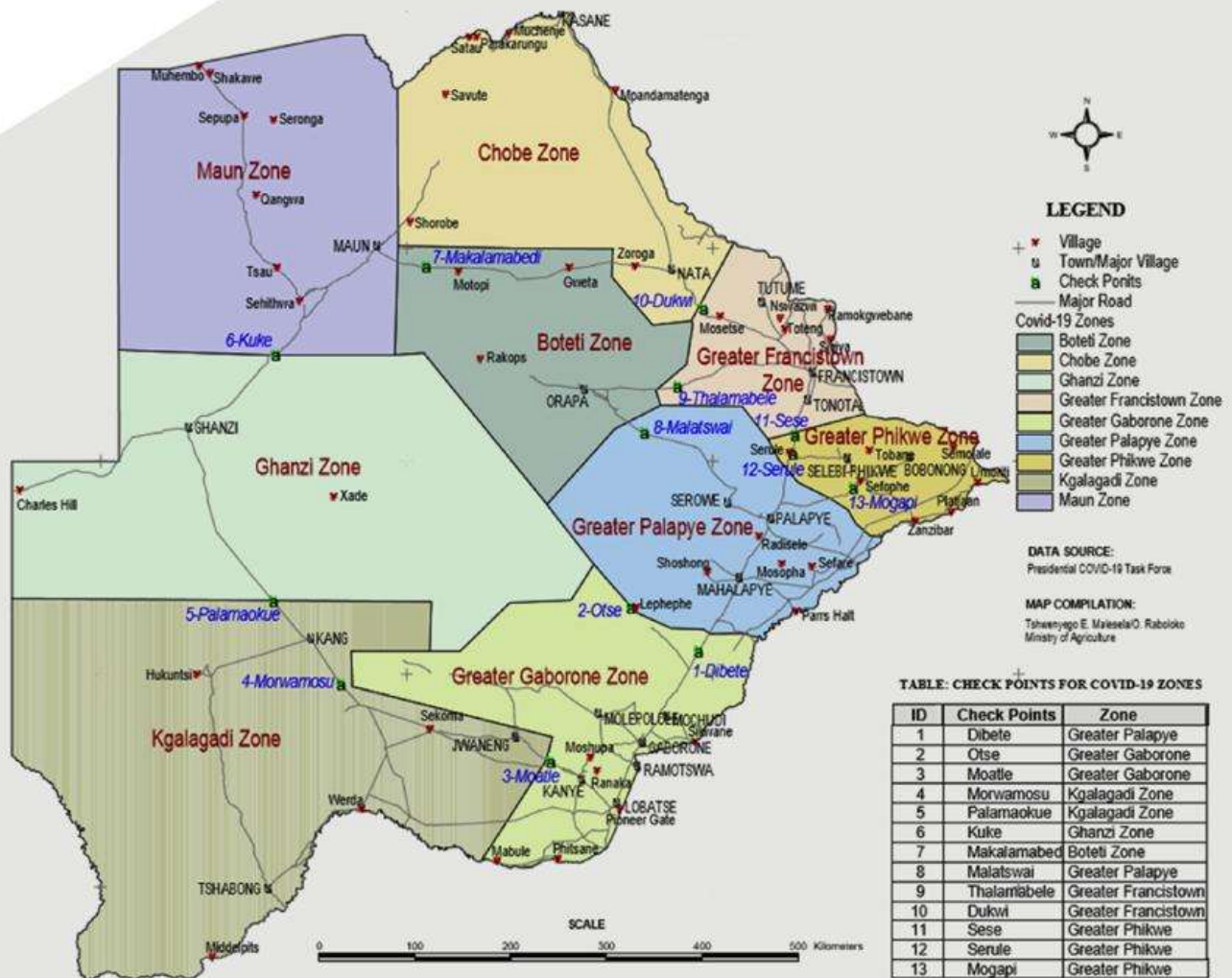
"While there have been constraints, work has been done to ensure vacancies are filled. However, we can also confirm that we have not breached our bed capacity and many of our field hospitals are not filled to capacity. We continue to monitor this as we manage the surge," said Minister Mkhize.

While the country has experienced challenges, Minister Mkhize said South Africa has so far coped with the surge.



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

### EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor: Treasure Mothobi

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