



PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY

Issue 93 | Monday, 10 August 2020

**GREATER GABORONE ZONE
UNDER LOCKDOWN**

Day 130

PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE STAFF TESTS POSITIVE OF COVID-19 ~ PROF MOSEPELE

Eight (8) more people from the Presidential Covid-19 Task Force Coordinating Office have tested positive for Covid-19. This is in addition to the initial case of a support staff member that was reported on Thursday.

In a media release from the Presidential Covid-19 Task Force Acting National Coordinator Professor Mosepele Mosepele said a total of 46 tests have been conducted to date of which 8 are positive and 28 are negative while other tests are still being processed.

So far this brings the total number of positive cases in the Presidential Covid-19 Task Force Coordinating Office to NINE (9).

The release state further that a follow-up testing for those who tested negative will be conducted and updates will be provided.

Continues on Page 2

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide

19,680,042

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 09/08/20



Republic of Botswana

**CORONAVIRUS IS STILL
A SERIOUS THREAT!**

HAVING FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS?

CONSULT YOUR DOCTOR AND
PLEASE STAY HOME AND
AVOID CROWDS.

Own your space. Own your health!

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.

From Page 1

Meanwhile, Office of the President has issued a statement to the fact that the Deputy Coordinator of the Presidential Covid-19 Task Force Prof. Mosepele has rescinded his decision to resign from the Task Force following a meeting with His excellency the President Dr Mokgweetsi Keabetswe Masisi on Saturday.

A media release issued by the Press Secretary to the President Mr Batlhalefi Leagajang says His Excellency has once more assured the nation of Government's commitment to the fight against Covid-19 and unwavering support to the team of experts.

The release further states that Prof. Mosepele is currently the Acting Coordinator.

The President also advised the nation to abide by all the health precautions and take care of the elderly, children and vulnerable groups during the difficult period.

94 STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD RETURN HOME

The Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology Dr Douglas Letsholathebe says a total of 94 Batswana students studying overseas have returned to Botswana due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He explained that a total of 61 Government sponsored students from different countries were returned home from different countries during the COVID-19 pandemic upon completion of their studies, while 33 students who are also on Government sponsorship made their own travel arrangements to Botswana from their countries of study.

The Minister further said his Ministry through the Department of Tertiary Education Financing (DTEF) has an arrangement to assist Government sponsored students who had travelled to Botswana to travel back to their countries of study, as when they request for such and where practical.

Dr Letsholathebe said his Ministry is in consultation with the Ministry of International Affairs and



Hon Letsholathebe

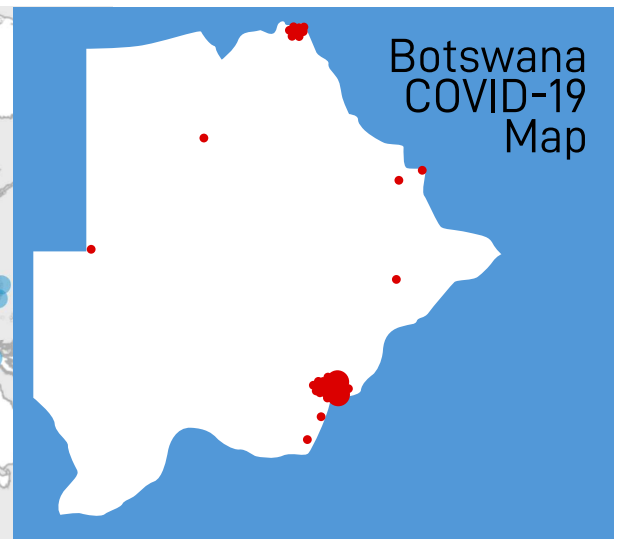
Cooperation to assist with finding flights for students. He highlighted that to date, one student has been assisted to travel back to the United States of America to continue their studies.

Minister Letsholathebe was responding to a parliamentary question from Sefhare/Ramokgonami Member of Parliament, Dr Kesetegile Gobotswang who wanted to know how many government sponsored students studying abroad travelled to Botswana due to COVID-19 outbreak and what travel arrangements were put in place by the Department of Tertiary Education Financing for the students to travel back to their respective countries of study in the advent of the current flight restrictions.

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 09/08/20

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

USA - 5,002,523	Egypt - 95,314	Zimbabwe - 4,575
South Africa - 553,188	China - 88,744	Eswatini - 3,128
Spain - 314,362	Ethiopia - 22,253	Namibia - 2,802
UK - 311,488	Madagascar - 13,086	Mozambique - 2,241
Italy - 250,103	Zambia - 8,085	Angola - 1,572
France - 235,212	Malawi - 4,624	Lesotho - 742



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.



Breastfeeding Amidst COVID-19

New Delhi - As the world marks Breastfeeding Week amidst the COVID-19 pandemic spread, WHO and partners are focusing on increasing mother's access to skilled breastfeeding support, calling on governments to protect and promote skilled counselling, a critical component of breastfeeding support.

'Now, more than ever, countries and programmes must make efforts to ensure that every mother and family receive the guidance and support they need to breastfeed their children. Skilled breastfeeding counselling is key to improving breastfeeding rates and helps extend the duration of breastfeeding and promote exclusive breastfeeding,' said Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve and accelerate, WHO has taken decisive actions to promote, protect and support breastfeeding across countries in the South-East Asia Region. Recommendations on breastfeeding have been provided, with most countries adopting the guidance.

WHO recommends that mothers with suspected or confirmed symptoms of COVID-19 should continue to breastfeed, with appropriate precautions such as wearing a mask and practicing respiratory hygiene.

Mother and child should also stay together and practice skin to skin contact including kangaroo mother care, especially immediately after the birth of a child and while establishing breastfeeding - regardless of whether mother or child are suspected of or have confirmed symptoms of COVID-19.

These recommendations have been made considering the potential risks of COVID-19 infection in an infant, as well as the risks associated with not breastfeeding, the inappropriate use of infant formula milk and the protective

effects of skin to skin contact. Mothers need to be counselled that the benefits of breastfeeding far outweigh the potential risk of transmission.

'Without sufficient attention to breastfeeding support during the COVID-19 pandemic, the successes gained across these years by countries will not be sustained. The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in health workers being diverted to respond to the pandemic and overburdened health systems.

Infection prevention measures are also making it difficult for community counselling and mother-to-mother support services to continue. All these factors together are likely to diminish breastfeeding, unless innovative solutions are put in place to support mothers' said Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh.

Dr Khetrpal Singh added, 'Countries should invest in making skilled breastfeeding counselling available through training of healthcare workers, with counselling made available as part of routine health service delivery and also through partnerships with civil society.

In South-East Asia Region, WHO has been advocating to countries to ensure breastfeeding as an essential component of nutrition and maternal care programmes, through initiatives to strengthen health systems by scaling up breastfeeding support in facilities providing maternity and newborn services, ensuring capacity-building of health care providers in being able to provide skilled breastfeeding support and promoting the implementation and monitoring of the Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes.

The World Breastfeeding Week 2020 is observed from 1 August to 7 August. This year WHO and UNICEF are together advocating for 'Support breastfeeding for a healthier planet'. [WHO](#)



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