



PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY

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GREATER GABORONE ZONE UNDER LOCKDOWN

Day 133

TEAMWORK

-Key to COVID-19 Triumph

~Dr Palai



There is a boundless cloud of uncertainty prevailing across the globe over the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Clinicians and Scientists are working around the clock to find a cure to treat this disease. It is a general norm in the field of medicine that as new emerging infectious disease are identified, clinicians have to find the remedy. Doctors in Botswana are also working tirelessly remedying this deadly disease.

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COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide

20,423,897

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 12/08/20



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.

TEAMWORK – Key to COVID-19 Triumph

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One of the first health professionals to heed the calling was the then Princess Marina Hospital Doctor and now the University of Botswana Lecturer and Consultant Physician Dr Tommy Palai.

Dr Palai told The Presidential Task Force Bulletin in an exclusive interview that it was a scary and unsettling experience as they had little knowledge about the deadly virus. "All we knew is that it caused pneumonia and Death," said Dr Palai.

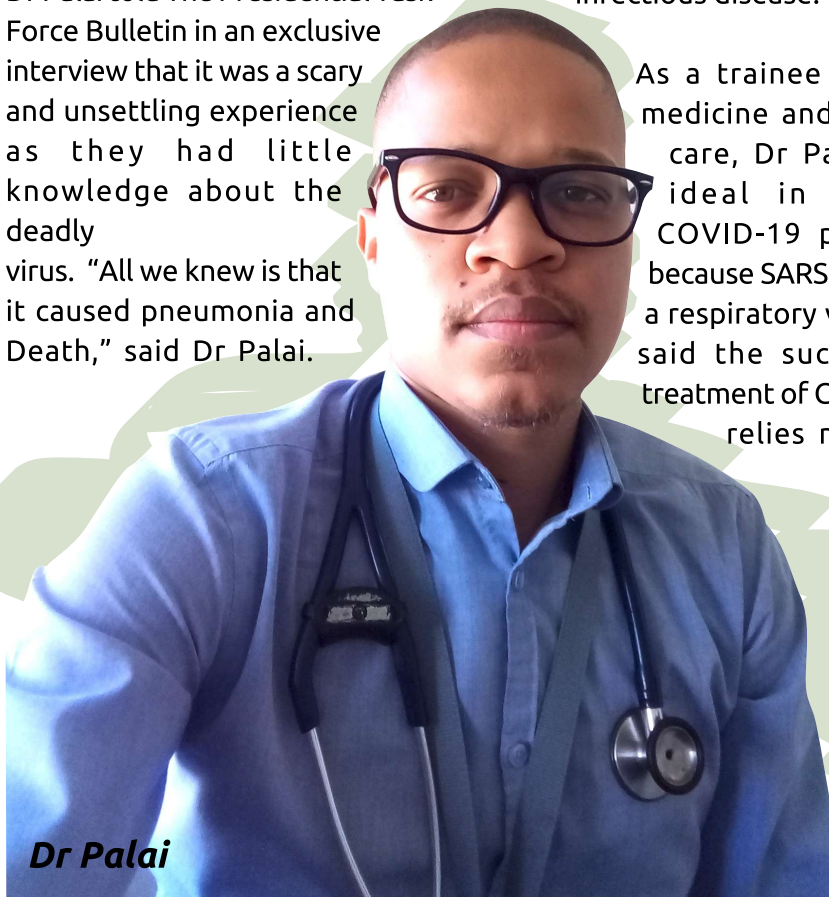
Dr Palai said he started the project with the Acting Task Force Coordinator Prof. Mosepele Mosepele who is an Infectious Disease Specialist, adding that they banked on his experience because SARS COV 2 is an infectious disease.

As a trainee in lung medicine and critical care, Dr Palai was ideal in seeing COVID-19 patients because SARS COV 2 is a respiratory virus. He said the success of treatment of COVID-19 relies more on

efficient team work. Dr Palai said as health care workers braving hospitals to treat COVID-19 patients, there is a need for dedicated Anesthetists or Critical Care Specialist, Intensivists, Nurses, Laboratory and Pharmacy staff among others to swiftly offer hope to hopeless.

"Our Critical care team amongst them Consultants Anesthetist Prof Farai, and Intensivist Dr Alexei Milan have been very vigilant to ensure we keep an eye of cases that may worsen" explained Dr Palai. "We have responded swiftly to severe cases and acted quickly to ensure a coordinated response and management is executed," said Dr Palai.

Dr Palai said the country is doing well in the fight against COVID-19. He said with 2 deaths thus far, and patients on oxygen responding well to dexamethasone, the team at Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital is working hard to ensure all patients are discharged

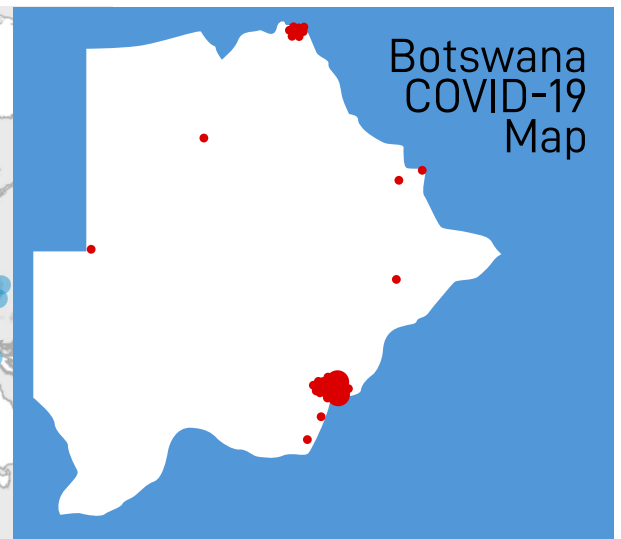


Dr Palai

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 12/08/20

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

USA - 5,168,685	Egypt - 95,834	Malawi - 4,714
South Africa - 566,109	China - 89,020	Eswatini - 3,410
Spain - 329,784	Ethiopia - 25,118	Namibia - 3,229
UK - 315,560	Madagascar - 13,397	Mozambique - 2,559
Italy - 251,713	Zambia - 8,275	Angola - 1,735
France - 244,061	Zimbabwe - 4,818	Lesotho - 781



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Director Health Services Modifies COVID-19 Testing Protocol for Inter-zonal Travelers

Dr Tshipayage

The COVID-19 testing protocol for next of kin attending Inter-Zonal funerals and returning essential services workers during the Greater Gaborone lockdown has been modified.

Director of Health Services in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Dr Malaki Tshipayage says the requirement to test has been waived until further notice.

Make their jobs easier; Stay Home.

They are exposed to Covid-19 every single day, just to keep us safe while we stay home with our families.

#WeStayHomeForThem
#TheyStayAtWorkForUs
#WeCanBeatCovid19

STOP
THE SPREAD

BOTSWANA
Our pride, your destination.



Republic of Botswana

YOUR DAILY CHECK-IN GUIDE

- Ensure to register and check your temperature at service points
- Ensure to sanitize or wash your hands frequently
- Maintain social distance

Own your space. Own your health!

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He explained that inter-zonal permits will be issued to people who will be pressed to attend a next of kin funeral in a different zone, returning essential services personnel and those who may be exempted for various reasons deemed necessary.

He advised the public that if a COVID-19 contact is planning to embark on a trip outside the zone they reside in, they will be required to undergo a COVID-19 test at the nearest District Health Management Team (DHMT), before they are granted an inter-zonal permit.

Dr Tshipayage cautioned the nation that travel escalates one's chance of getting and spreading COVID-19. "Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 and you can get COVID-19 during your travels", explained Director Health Services.

Botswana has lately been recording high daily increase of COVID-19 cases.

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FIGHTING COVID-19 IN SCHOOLS

11 AUGUST 2020 (83 PEOPLE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19)

RECENTLY AFFECTED SCHOOLS

64	Terrence Private School	13	Masa Primary School
01	Diphetogo Primary School	01	Mophane Primary School
01	Boikhutsho Primary School	01	Segoditshane Primary School
01	Moselewapula CJSS	01	Botswana Open University

PRECAUTIONS FOR TEACHERS

Implement social distancing practices.

Establish procedures in case students or staff become unwell. Directly contact health facility, depending on the situation/context.

Mandatory wearing of masks for all students.

Put up posters that encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene practices.

Clean and disinfect school buildings, at least twice a day.

Ensure soap and clean water is available and promote regular hand washing.

Implement targeted health education.

PRECAUTIONS FOR PARENTS

Monitor your child's health and keep them home if ill.

Coordinate with the school to receive information - through parent - teacher associations.

Encourage children to ask questions and express their feelings with you and teachers.

Teach good hygiene practices – Washing hands, wearing masks and social distancing.

Prevent stigma by using facts and reminding students to be considerate of one another.

Recognize the symptoms of COVID-19 (coughing, fever, shortness of breath) and seek medical advice immediately.

PRECAUTIONS FOR STUDENTS

Maintain social distancing.

Mandatory wearing of masks.

Make sure to voice concerns and raise questions to teachers.

Regular hand washing practices – especially during break time.

Always share with teachers and parents when unwell.

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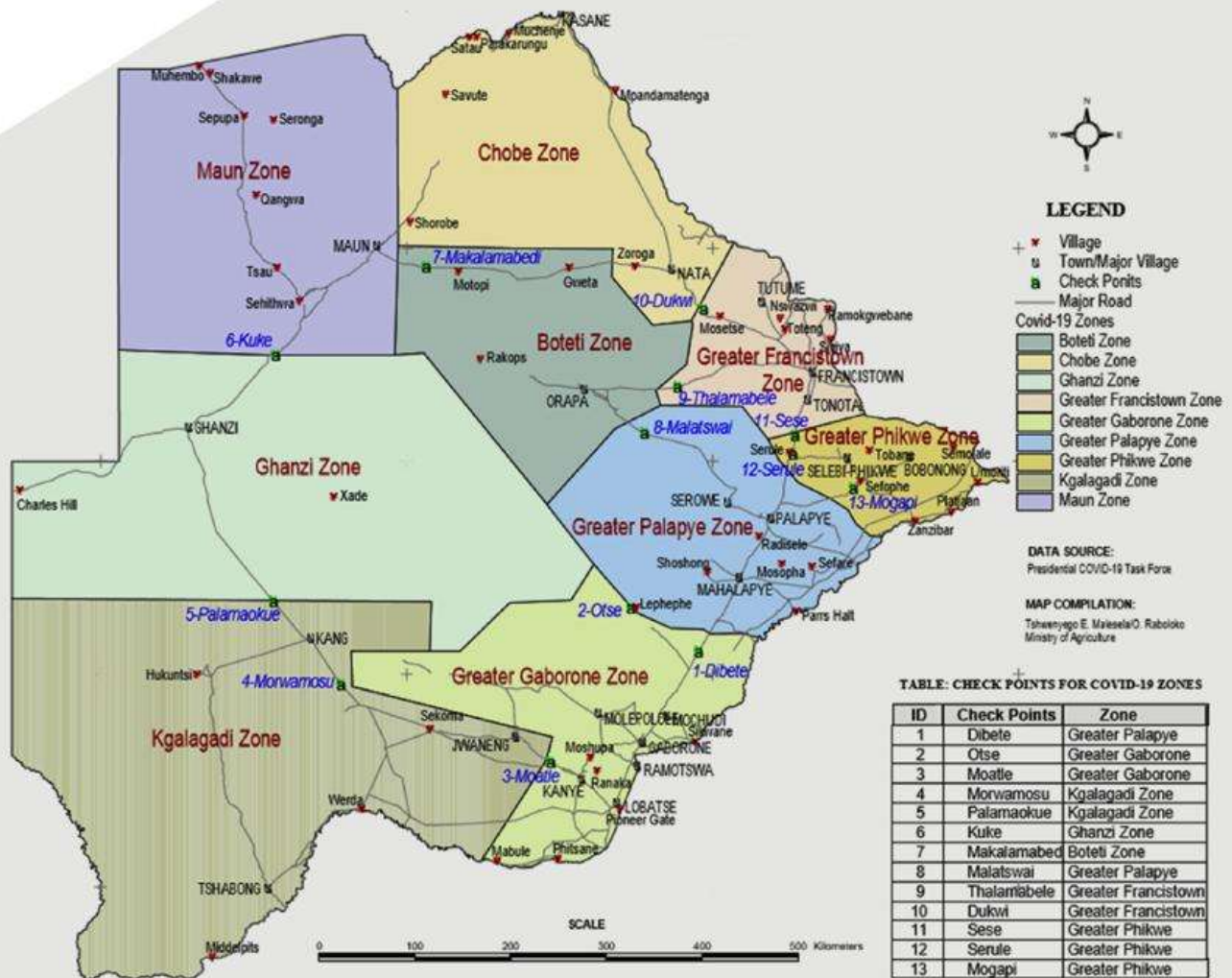
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COVID-19 ZONAL MAP



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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