

**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

**UPDATE BY DR. KALUMBI SHANGULA, MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES ON COVID-19 IN NAMIBIA.**

**19 April 2021**

**WINDHOEK**

*\*Check against Delivery*

1. We announce one hundred and eighteen (118) new COVID-19 confirmed cases identified from one thousand one hundred and twenty-two (1 122) results received from the laboratories in the last twenty-four (24) hours, which represents 11% positivity ratio. The gender distribution of the reported cases is seventy-one (71) females and forty-seven (47) males. The age ranges from one (1) year to eighty-eight (88) years. The new COVID-19 cases are geographically distributed as follows:

*Table 1: New COVID-19 positive cases, 19 April 2021*

REGIONS	NEW CASES	DISTRICTS	NEW CASES
Otjozondjupa	27	Grootfontein	12
		Otjiwarongo	8
		Okahandja	5
		Okakarara	2
Ohangwena	19	Eenhana	18
		Okongo	1
Hardap	18	Mariental	11
		Rehoboth	7
Khomas	14	Windhoek	14
Erongo	14	Walvis Bay	12
		Swakopmund	2
Omusati	9	Okahao	5
		Tsandi	3
		Outapi	1
Oshikoto	5	Tsumeb	4
		Onandjokwe	1
Omaheke	3	Gobabis	3
Kavango East	3	Rundu	3
Kunene	2	Outjo	2
Oshana	2	Oshakati	2
Karas	1	Keetmashoop	1
Kavango West	1	Nankudu	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>		<b>118</b>

2. We continue to report COVID-19 cases from all corners of the country. Today we recorded cases from thirteen (13) regions, except Zambezi. Among the confirmed cases are thirty (30) learners and fifteen (15) teachers from different schools. Six (6) health care workers also tested positive for COVID-19.
3. Six regions recorded two hundred and thirty-five (235) recoveries as follow:

*Table 2: Distribution of new recoveries by region, 19 April 2021*

<b>Region</b>	<b>Number</b>
Hardap	118
Erongo	83
Kavango East	22
Omaheke	6
Karas	5
Omusati	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>235</b>

4. The total number of active cases currently stands at one thousand three hundred and ninety-eight (1 398). One hundred and five (105) are hospitalized, of which thirty-six (36) are in ICUs.

*Table 3: Distribution of hospitalization of confirmed cases per region, 19 April 2021*

<b>Region</b>	<b>Hospitalized confirmed cases</b>	<b>Intensive Care Unit</b>
Khomas	47	26
Erongo	19	8
Oshana	6	2
Hardap	6	0
Omusati	5	0
Zambezi	5	0
Karas	4	0
Ohangwena	4	0
Kavango East	3	0
Otjozodjupa	2	0
Oshikoto	2	0
Omaheke	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>36</b>

5. The tables below shows the number of people vaccinated.

*Table 4: Summary of COVID-19 vaccines administered, 1<sup>st</sup> dose 19 April 2021*

<b>Region</b>	<b>New persons vaccinated with 1<sup>st</sup> dose in the last 24 hrs (AstraZeneca /Covishield &amp; Sinopharm)</b>	<b>Cumulative number vaccinated with 1<sup>st</sup> doses (AstraZeneca /Covishield &amp; Sinopharm)</b>
Erongo	0	1 093
Karas	0	51
Khomas	0	3 476
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4620</b>

6. *Table 5: Summary of COVID-19 vaccines administered, 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, 19 April 2021*

<b>Region</b>	<b>Persons vaccinated with 2<sup>nd</sup> dose in the last 24 hours Sinopharm</b>	<b>Cumulative number vaccinated with 2<sup>nd</sup> dose Sinopharm</b>
Erongo	0	85
Karas	0	0
Khomas	0	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>128</b>

7. *Table 6: Summary of the national update, 19 April 2021*

Cumulative confirmed cases	46 773
Newly confirmed	118
Recoveries	44 760
Recovery rate	96%
Active cases	1 398
Cumulative COVID-19 vaccines doses administered	4 620
COVID-19 Deaths	490
COVID-19 Related Deaths	114
Total Deaths	604
Total samples tested	372 188
Active contacts	3 693
Cumulative number of people quarantined	43 632
Number of quarantined people discharged	42 154
Number of people in quarantines	1 478

8. **Key messages**

8.1. We are experiencing an increase in the number of hospitalisation and deaths due to Covid-19. As we are approaching winter time, where people tend to be closer together and in close settings, we anticipate further increase in the number of cases with subsequent increase in hospitalization and deaths. At the same we are seeing non compliance with regulations made under the Public and Environmental Health Act of 2015, especially in respect of curfew and public gatherings. We have seen visuals of church events with the number of attendees way beyond the permissible number who are not even bothered to observe mandatory public health measures.

8.2. I applaud the efforts of the law enforcement officers in enforcing the curfew. This is commendable indeed. We have always advocated for voluntary compliance on the side of the church. We thank those churches who have rendered their cooperation. In the event of failure by some churches and organisers of public events to comply, we will be compelled to invoke Section 29(3) of the Public and Environmental Act of 2015 which provides as follow:

*“A person who contravenes or fails to comply with a directive issued or regulations made under subsection (1) [of the Act] commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding N\$100 000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years, or to both such fine and imprisonment”.*

- 8.3. Covid-19 has compelled us to do things differently. It has compelled us to worship, mourn our loved one, raise money and work differently. Our preoccupation should always be the preservation of lives of our citizens and our members. We see this as a responsibility of all of us. Let us all pull together in the same direction.
- 8.4. On Friday the 16 April 2021, Namibia received the first consignment of the vaccines that was bought by government. I have also launched Phase II of the vaccination campaign that have started today throughout the country. I therefore invite all Namibians to go to your nearest vaccination site in your vicinity and get vaccinated with the vaccine of your choice that fits your profile. All public hospitals are doing vaccination. We have also established mobile vaccination teams in order to ensure that nobody is left out.

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