

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.

18 August 2020

WINDHOEK

**Check Against Delivery*

1. Good afternoon fellow Namibians. It is that time again that I update the nation on the COVID-19 situation in Namibia. Today, a total number of **1 078** results were received from the laboratories. Of these, **120** samples tested positive for COVID-19. Sixty-eight (68) are males and fifty-two (52) are females. Ages range from one year to eighty-four.

2. The cases are spread as follows:

Table 1: New Covid-19 positive cases

| Region | Town | Number |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Khomas (72) | Windhoek | 72 |
| Erongo (26) | Walvis Bay | 8 |
| | Swakopmund | 18 |
| Omaheke (10) | Gobabis | 10 |
| Otjozondjupa (4) | Okahandja | 3 |
| | Grootfontein | 1 |
| Hardap (3) | Mariental | 2 |
| | Rehoboth | 1 |
| //Karas (3) | Keetmanshoop | 1 |
| | Karasburg | 1 |
| | Luderitz | 1 |
| Omusati (1) | Oshikuku | 1 |
| Oshana (1) | Oshakati | 1 |
| Total | | 120 |

3. Of the seventy-two cases reported from **Windhoek**, thirteen (13) are from Windhoek Correctional Services. It is imperative that people in secluded places like prisons, holding cells, hospitals, hostels, police camps, military barracks, etc., observe more precautionary measures, as the risk of fast transmission to a number of people is very high in these settings.

4. Since the 12th August 2020, we have been observing the downward trend in the number of cases from **Erongo** region, especially Walvis Bay, with cases declining from 97 to 26 today. It is our hope that the curve is starting to come down. However, we should not lower our guards yet. We need to be more motivated to adhere to preventative measures, for this dream to come true.

5. I know, compatriots in Erongo, especially in the restricted areas of Walvis Bay, Swakopmund and Arandis, have really endured a lot of hardship as a result of measures introduced to curb the transmission. These measures may just be bearing fruit!

6. Ten cases reported from **Omaheke region**, Gobabis district are as follows:

6.1. Nine are contacts to the same confirmed case as they live in the same household.

- 6.2. One case is that of an 84 years old female from Aminuis, with no known contact to a confirmed case. She was tested on the 13th August 2020 as she presented with COVID-19 related symptoms. She has multiple co-morbidities and is currently admitted at the Gobabis hospital.
- 6.3. We have observed with concern the raising number of cases in Omaheke region, since the 7th of August 2020. This call for an increased vigilance throughout the country in order to stem the tide.
7. Four cases reported from **Otjozondjupa** region are as follows:
- 7.1. Three are a 42 years old female, a 36 years old male, and a 24 years old male who are all are residents of Okahandja. All presented with COVID-19 related symptoms. One is a contact to a confirmed case. The remainder two commute daily between Windhoek and Okahandja, one is a student while one works in Windhoek.
- 7.2. A case from Grootfontein, is that of a 36 years old female who was tested on the 11th August 2020 after she developed symptoms consistent with COVID-19 on the 3rd August 2020. She reported no contact with a confirmed case and has no travel history.
8. Three cases are reported from **Hardap**, one from Rehoboth and two from Mariental districts.
- 8.1. The case from Rehoboth is that of a 48 years old female, with no known contact to a confirmed case. She was tested on the 15 August 2020 as she presented with COVID-19 related symptoms.
- 8.2. Of the two cases from Mariental one is a 50 years old female, with no contact to a confirmed case. She was tested on the 13th August 2020 as she presented with COVID-19 related symptoms.
- 8.3. The other one is a 36 years old male, a Health Care Worker, who was tested as part of active case search. He does not have a known contact of a confirmed case.
9. Three cases are reported from **//Karas region**, one each from Keetmanshoop, Karasburg and Luderitz districts.
- 9.1. The case from **Keetmanshoop** is that of a 30 years male, a health care worker and a contact of a known case. He had been in a quarantine.
- 9.2. The case from **Karasburg** is that of a 27 years old female with no known contact to a confirmed case. She was tested on the 10 August 2020 as part of active case search. She works at the quarantine facility.
- 9.3. The case from Luderitz is that of 51 years old male, with no known contact to a confirmed case. He was tested on the 16th August 2020 as part of targeted testing.
- 9.4. The case reported from **Omusati**, Oshikuku district is that of 33 years old male from Okaku area (Oshikuku). He was tested on the 11th August 2020 as he presented with COVID-19 related symptoms. He was admitted in an isolation unit on the same day, while awaiting for the result. He travelled from Windhoek on the 6th August and was in contact with a known case in Windhoek.

10. Of the active cases, fourteen cases are in severely sick condition while four are in critically sick conditions. They are as follows:

Table 2: Severity of confirmed case per region:

| Region | Severe | Critical | Total |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Erongo | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Khomas | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| Total | 14 | 4 | 18 |

11. I am pleased to announce that twenty-eight (28) cases from Khomas have recovered.
12. The devastating effects of COVID-19 pandemic continues. Sadly, another live was lost, in Oshana Region. This is a 65 years old male, a resident of Ongwediva, originally from Outapi, known to have multiple comorbidities. He was admitted and tested on the 4th August 2020 at a local private hospital, as he presented with symptoms consistent with COVID-19. The result came out positive on the 5th August 2020. On the 15th August 2020, his clinical condition deteriorated and he passed away on 16th August 2020.
13. We express our sincere condolences to the bereaved family.

14. Table 3: Summary

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|---|--------|
| Cumulative confirmed cases | 4 464 |
| Newly confirmed | 120 |
| Recoveries | 2 407 |
| Active cases | 2 020 |
| Deaths | 37 |
| Total samples tested | 42 945 |
| Active contacts | 4 647 |
| Cumulative number of people quarantined | 8 186 |
| Number of quarantined people discharged | 6 589 |
| Number of people in quarantines | 1 597 |

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