



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Strict Compliance with the National COVID-19 Public Health Regulations

The COVID-19 situation around the world and here in Namibia continues to evolve. Several countries are experiencing new COVID-19 waves, worse and more severe than the initial outbreaks. New variants, some more virulent in nature, have also been recorded. Namibia is not immune to these developments. According to the latest genome sequencing results conducted by the University of Namibia, the variants of concern initially identified in South Africa (B.1.351) and in the United Kingdom (B.1.1.7)) are now present in Namibia. The Ministry of Health and Social Services is also concerned about new variants which have initially been identified in India (B.1.617) and have now been reported to be circulating in other parts of the world. Through genome sequencing, we are currently monitoring if these variants are present in Namibia.

Recent weeks have witnessed a steep spike in the numbers of new COVID-19 infections around the country. On average, COVID-19 infections are reported in all 14 Regions daily. Of concern is the fact that, more severe cases, higher numbers of hospitalizations and deaths have been recorded. Increased hospitalizations have exerted pressure on the available capacity of Intensive Care treatment, both in the public and private sectors. In this context, and the observed lax compliance with the COVID-19 Public Health Regulations in all parts of the country, the Ministry of Health and Social Services strongly cautions all members of the public to strictly comply with ALL COVID-19 Public Health Regulations in order to suppress and prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

To date, 51,218 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been recorded in Namibia. More than 710 persons have died due to COVID-19 complications. We can prevent the infections and deaths due to COVID-19 when we all exercise the required discipline, care for others and patriotism to protect our nation. We have no other choice but to strictly comply with all public health guidelines; and to get vaccinated. We must all practice the correct wearing of face masks, observe social distancing of at least 1 meter apart and frequently wash our hands with soap and clean water or sanitize with an alcohol-based hand rub.

Families and attendants are encouraged to fully comply with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on COVID-19 burials. All community-, traditional-, and religious leaders as well as law enforcement agencies are called upon to support all efforts aimed at promoting compliance with the Public Health Regulations. This is particularly important as the winter season approaches. Let us all do our part and work together to protect the nation against COVID-19.


BEN NANGOMBE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



All official correspondence must be addressed to the Executive Director.

