

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.

20 August 2020

WINDHOEK

**Check Against Delivery*

1. Good afternoon fellow Namibians. I would like to remind the public that the movement restrictions which were instituted on the 12 August 2020 for Windhoek including Rehoboth and Okahandja Local Authority Areas, in addition to that applied to Walvis Bay, Swakopmund and Arandis Local Authority Areas, are intended to reduce the number of people each confirmed case infects.
2. The goal is to keep the Basic Reproduction Ratio below one, which means that each case infects fewer than one other person, on average. This is a measure which ensures that the pandemic is brought under control.
3. The lockdown aims to reverse epidemic growth by reducing case numbers to low levels, thereby suppressing the transmission rate. As painful as it may be for many of us, it does work. Therefore, we should not see these measures as punitive, but let's embrace them and comply. This is the weapon we have to curb further transmission.
4. The trend we have observed is people sneaking out of restricted areas to other parts of the country. It is a known fact that the month of August, has become a popular month for weddings, and I am aware that, there are lots of weddings scheduled for the next weekends. Remember that, when we travel to the villages, we are potentially transporting the virus along, and that is where most of the elderly people are. We should be cautious as these are highly vulnerable people and we need to protect them as much as possible.
5. I wish again to remind the public that the major drivers of the epidemic are public gatherings. The most prominent of these are weddings, funerals and religious events. The other major driver of transmission is movement of people from one place to another. Therefore, the current measures in place are intended to mitigate these drivers of the pandemic in Namibia.
6. Today, a total record number of **1 754** results were received from the laboratories. Of these, **247** samples tested positive for COVID-19. Today's figure is the same highest as the one recorded in a day, like the one we recorded on the 16 August 2020. Hundred and forty-nine (149) are males and ninety-eight (98) are females. The youngest is 2 months old, while the oldest is 82 years.

7. The cases are spread as follows:

Table 1: New Covid-19 positive cases

Region	Town	Number
Khomas (149)	Windhoek	149
Erongo (57)	Walvis Bay	46
	Swakopmund	10
	Omaruru	1
Oshana (15)	Oshakati	15
Oshikoto (7)	Onandjokwe	4
	Tsumeb	3
Otjozondjupa (4)	Grootfontein	2
	Otjiwarongo	1
	Okahandja	1
Ohangwena (4)	Engela	4
Zambezi (3)	Katima Mulilo	3
Kavango East (3)	Rundu	3
Hardap (2)	Rehoboth	2
Omaheke (2)	Gobabis	2
//Karas (1)	Keetmanshoop	1
Total		247

8. **Windhoek** maintains the highest number of cases. Sixty percent of cases reported today are from Windhoek. On average, 130 cases were reported from Windhoek during the last four days. We have observed that most cases being reported from other regions are linked or have travelled from Windhoek. Hence, the need to adhere to the set measures of restricted travels.
9. Today, we report 15 cases from **Oshana region, Oshakati district**. As reported yesterday, Oshakati cases are increasing rapidly, with today's number having doubled the number we reported yesterday. Of the 15 cases, ten are males and five are females with ages ranging between 10 and 53 years. Four are contacts to known cases.
10. Of the six cases reported from **Oshikoto region**, four are from **Onandjokwe and three from Tsumeb districts**.

11. All three cases reported from Tsumeb district have travelled from Windhoek. One is a contacts to confirmed cases and two presented with COVID-19 related symptoms.
12. All four cases reported from **Otjozondjupa** region travelled recently from Windhoek. One is a contact to a confirmed case while three presented with COVID-19 related symptoms.
13. Of the four cases reported from **Ohangwena region, Engela District**, three of them have travelled from Windhoek after lockdown was instituted on the 12 August 2020. One travelled on the 13 August 2020 and two travelled on the 14 August 2020.
14. All three cases reported from **Zambezi Region** travelled from Windhoek, two on the 7 August 2020 and one on the 13 August 2020. They all presented with COVID-19 related symptoms.
15. The two cases reported from **Hardap region**, are both from Rehoboth district. Both presented with COVID-19 related symptoms.
16. Twelve cases are in severely sick conditions while six are in critically sick conditions. They are distributed as follows:

Table 2: Distribution of Severity of cases per region

Region	Severe	Critical	Total
Erongo	6	2	8
Khomas	6	4	10
Total	12	6	18

17. I am pleased to announce that thirteen (13) cases from Khomas region, and three from //Karas Region have recovered.
18. It is with sadness that I inform the nation that two more lives were lost due to COVID-19. They are both from **Windhoek**.
- 18.1. A 72-year old male from Windhoek who was admitted to a local health facility with symptoms consistent with COVID-19. The patient was

tested on the 16 August 2020. His condition deteriorated and he died on the 19 August 2020.

18.2. An 82-year old female from Windhoek was initially seen at a private health facility on the 18 August 2020 with symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Her condition deteriorated and she died on the 18 August 2020. A specimen was taken from the deceased posthumous on the 19 August 2020.

18.3. From the 30 July 2020 to the 19 August 2020 Windhoek has recorded seventeen deaths in a space of just three weeks!

19. We extend our sincere condolences to the bereaved families.

20. Table 3: Summary

Cumulative confirmed cases	4 912
Newly confirmed	247
Recoveries	2 442
Active cases	2 429
Deaths	41
Total samples tested	45 744
Active contacts	5 181
Cumulative number of people quarantined	8 809
Number of quarantined people discharged	7 653
Number of people in quarantines	1 156

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