

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.**

11 December 2020

WINDHOEK

**Check against Delivery*

1. Good afternoon fellow citizens. Today, three hundred and twenty-four (324) new COVID-19 confirmed cases were identified from two thousand one hundred and thirty-seven (2 137) results received from the laboratories. This represents a 15% positivity ratio. The gender distribution of the reported cases is one hundred and sixty-two (162) females and one hundred and sixty-two (162) males. The age range is from ten (10) months to eighty-six (86) years. The new COVID-19 cases are distributed as follows:

Table 1: New COVID-19 positive cases

REGIONS	NEW CASES	DISTRICTS	NEW CASES
Khomas	223	Windhoek	223
Erongo	53	Swakopmund	23
		Walvis Bay	19
		Omaruru	7
		Usakos	4
Otjozondjupa	31	Otjiwarongo	26
		Okahandja	4
		Okakarara	1
Oshana	6	Oshakati	6
Oshikoto	3	Onandjokwe	2
		Tsumeb	1
Kavango East	3	Andara	3
Ohangwena	2	Eenhana	2
Karas	1	Keetmanshoop	1
Kunene	1	Outjo	1
Hardap	1	Mariental	1
Total	324		324

2. A total of three hundred and twenty-four (324) positive cases were identified, this is the highest number of confirmed cases reported within 24 hours since the COVID-19 outbreak started in the country. Two hundred and twenty-three (223) of these cases are from Windhoek district only, which is 69% of the total number of confirmed cases.
3. Among the cases reported from Khomas region, thirteen (13) are learners and seven (7) teachers from different schools. Nine (9) are students from different institutions of higher learning of which five (5) are from UNAM. The rest of the identified cases are sporadically distributed across Windhoek. This observation is a matter of grave concern.

4. We are observing an increasing trend in the number of cases coming from various regions across the country, with particular concern for Erongo and Otjozondjupa whose numbers are almost double the number reported yesterday. We recorded nineteen (19) cases from the mining industries of which sixteen (16) are from Otjiwarongo district, three (3) from Swakopmund district. Eleven (11) employees from the fishing industry in Walvis Bay district are also among the reported cases. We continue to record health care worker cases with four (4) from Erongo region, two (2) from Omaruru district and one each from Walvis Bay and Swakopmund district. Six (6) learners from different schools across the districts also tested positive.
5. Today we are reporting one hundred and fourteen (114) new recoveries, with Khomas region reporting the highest number of recoveries. This brings the total number of recoveries to 14 332.

Table 2: New recoveries per region

Region	Number
Khomas	84
Erongo	15
Karas	14
Omusati	1
Total	114

6. The total number of active cases currently stands at 1602. Fifteen (15) active cases are in severe to critical conditions of whom fourteen (14) are in Khomas region and one (1) is in Erongo region. This is a 50% increase from the cases reported yesterday.

Table 3: Distribution of severity of cases per region

Region	Severe	Critical	Total
Khomas	11	3	14
Erongo	0	1	1
Total	11	4	15

7. We announce two COVID-19 deaths, one is from Khorixas and the other one is from Karasburg district.

Table 4: Summary of deaths

District	Sex	Age	Comorbidities	Place of Death	Date of Death
Karasburg	Male	38	Yes	Hospital	07.12.20
Khorixas	Female	79	Yes	Home	09.12.20

We express sincere condolences to the bereaved families.

8. *Table 5: Summary of the update*

Cumulative confirmed cases	16 097
Newly confirmed	324
Recoveries	14 332
Active cases	1 602
COVID-19 Death	120
COVID-19 Related Death	40
Total Deaths	160
Active contacts	3 416
Total samples tested	172 955
Cumulative number of people quarantined	21 216
Number of quarantined people discharged	20 483
Number of people in quarantines	733

9. We have never before recorded such a big number of new Covid-19 positive cases in a period of 24 hours since the beginning of the pandemic in Namibia. The main contributing factors to the observed high numbers of new positive cases are public gathering like election rallies, funerals, weddings, street demonstrations and religious gatherings. Such events are characterized by absence of social distancing and failure to wear masks or to wear them properly.

10. While the government is studying the situation, we urge the public to do the following:

- Wear your masks properly when in public places and protect your mouth, nose and eyes;
- Stay away from the nearest person by no less than 1.5 meters;
- Stay home as long as necessary and only go out when absolutely necessary;
- Avoid public gatherings as explained above.
- Wash your hands with running water and soap and sanitise your hands with alcohol-based sanitizers.

Remember the old axiom: “Prevention is better than cure”!

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