

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.**

14th September 2020

WINDHOEK

**Check against Delivery*

1. Good afternoon fellow Namibians. Today, we received a total number of **957** results from the laboratories. Of these, 99 samples tested positive for COVID-19. Forty-nine (49) are males and fifty (50) are females. The youngest is seven (7) months and the oldest is eighty-three (83) years old.
2. The confirmed cases are distributed as follows:

Table 1: New Covid-19 positive cases

REGIONS	NEW CASES	DISTRICTS	NEW CASES
Khomas	60	Windhoek	60
Oshana	6	Oshakati	6
Hardap	5	Rehoboth	5
Erongo	5	Walvis Bay	4
		Usakos	1
Oshikoto	5	Onandjokwe	4
		Omuthiya	1
Ohangwena	5	Engela	3
		Eenhana	2
Karas	5	Keetmanshoop	3
		Karasburg	1
		Luderitz	1
Otjozondjupa	4	Okakarara	2
		Okahandja	1
		Otjiwarongo	1
Omusati	2	Outapi	2
Kavango East	1	Rundu	1
Omaheke	1	Gobabis	1
Total	99		99

3. We take note of the number of confirmed cases among students, learners and teachers. Out of 9 818 confirmed cases, 732 (7%) were reported from educational institutions in eleven regions, 632 learners and students and 100 teachers. Majority, 400 (55%) were reported from Khomas followed by Erongo 149 (20%) while Hardap and Karas regions recorded 27 (4%) and 24 (3%) respectively. Few cases were reported from other regions except Kavango West and Kunene Regions. We continue monitoring the situation in schools and advise the education sector as appropriate.

4. Today we are reporting **150** new recoveries. This brings the total recoveries to **6 693**.

Table 2: New recoveries per region

Region	Recoveries
Erongo	130
Karas	12
Hardap	06
Omaheke	01
Oshana	01
Total	150

5. The total number of active cases now stands at **3 023**. Of the active cases, nineteen (19) are in severe to critically sick conditions.

Table 3: Distribution of severity of cases per region

Region	Severe	Critical	Total
Erongo	1	4	5
Khomas	5	8	13
Oshana	1	0	1
Total	7	12	19

6. Regrettably, today we are announcing two deaths, from Windhoek district, Khomas region. These two deaths bring the total number of Covid-19 deaths and Covid-19 related deaths to 103. It was on the 13th September that we crossed the 100 mark of the deaths. Namibia's case fatality ratio stands at 1.0%.

Table 4: Distribution of deaths per district

District	Age	Sex	Date of death	Place of death	Comorbidities	Classification
Windhoek (2)	57	M	14.09.2020	Hospital	Yes	COVID-19 death
	64	M	07.09.2020	Hospital	Yes	COVID-19 death
Total: 2						

7. We express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

8. *Table 5: Summary*

Cumulative confirmed cases	9 818
Newly confirmed	99
Recoveries	6 693
Active cases	3 022
Deaths	103
Total samples tested	81 307
Active contacts	9 844
Cumulative number of people quarantined	12 232
Number of quarantined people discharged	11 173
Number of people in quarantines	1 059

9. Before I conclude, I would like to address a certain narrative that is being circulated via social media, purporting that the Ministry of Health and Social Services is carrying out mandatory vaccination with the unspecified “injection” that I announced few days ago. This allegation is dangerous and must be rejected with utmost contempt. The medicine, Remdesivir which I informed the public about is used for the treatment of patients with Covid-19 as I have indicated earlier and as it was clearly explained during the panel discussion by health experts. Remdesivir is not a vaccine.
10. Despite the presence of Covid-19, the Ministry of Health and Social Services is carrying out normal programmes and activities of the Ministry. One of such activities is the Periodic Intensification of Routine Immunization (PIRI) Activities, which embodies Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and the African Vaccination Week. The two immunization weeks have since been internalised and implemented every year and form part of the Ministerial events calendar.
11. The main aim of the Periodic Intensification Routine Immunization is to increase utilization of quality mother and child health interventions, that is family planning, maternal, neonatal, and child health services; improve nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene practices. The focus of the events has been to screen and vaccinate children and women of child-bearing age that were missed through routine services as guided by routine immunization data. Other maternal and child health interventions, namely Vitamin A supplements, de-worming, nutritional assessment, counselling and condom distribution were added to the package.
12. The audio that I referred to above, seeks to instil fear in the public and to dissuade the Namibians to uptake these health services. I call on the public to maintain their faith in the government that is working tirelessly to ensure that their health and wellbeing are safeguarded. I also call on the individuals to desist from making and circulating such misguided information that have the potential to cause fear and despondency in the public and not to expose themselves to criminal proceeding as such activities are criminal offences.

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