

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.**

18th September 2020

WINDHOEK

**Check against Delivery*

1. Good afternoon fellow Namibians. Today, we have received a total number of 1 404 results from the laboratories. Of these, 129 samples tested positive for COVID-19. Sixty-seven (67) are females and sixty-two (62) are males. The youngest is two (2) months and the oldest is seventy-three (73) years old. The confirmed cases are distributed as follows:

Table 1: New COVID-19 positive cases

REGIONS	NEW CASES	DISTRICTS	NEW CASES
Khomas	67	Windhoek	67
Hardap	27	Mariental	15
		Rehoboth	12
Erongo	9	Walvis Bay	5
		Swakopmund	2
		Omaruru	2
Otjozondjupa	8	Okahandja	6
		Grootfontein	1
		Otjiwarongo	1
Oshana	6	Oshakati	6
Oshikoto	4	Tsumeb	2
		Omuthiya	2
Karas	4	Keetmanshoop	3
		Luderitz	1
Omaheke	2	Gobabis	2
Zambezi	2	Katima Mulilo	2
Total	129		129

2. We have now surpassed the ten thousand after six months of the pandemic in Namibia. The total number of confirmed cases now stands at 10 207. As you may well recall, we have recorded the highest daily number of cases, that is 316 on the 23 August 2020. The number of confirmed daily new cases continue to decrease across all the regions. However, there are variations on the number of cases reported from different regions. The table below highlight the highest number of cases recorded per region compared to the cases recorded today.

Table 2: Highest daily COVID-19 cases recorded per region

Region	Highest number of confirmed cases recorded	Date of Highest number	Today cases (18/09/2020)
Khomas	254	23/08/2020	67
Erongo	102	07/08/2020	9
Kharas	36	11/09/2020	4
Hardap	27	18/09/2020	27
Oshana	19	27/08/2020	6
Otjozondjupa	15	11/09/2020	8
Zambezi	15	27/08/2020	2
Oshikoto	14	22/08/2020	4
Kavango East	13	05/09/2020	0
Ohangwena	12	30/08/2020	0
Omaheke	10	18/08/2020	2
Omusati	5	26/08/2020	0
Kunene	3	04/09/2020	0
Kavango West	2	01/09/2020	0
National	316	23/08/2020	129

3. Today we are reporting 262 new recoveries. This brings the total recoveries to 7 947.

Table 2: New recoveries per region

Region	Number
Oshana	87
Erongo	65
Khomas	58
Hardap	32
Ohangwena	19
Omusati	1
Total	262

4. The total number of active cases now stands at 2 152. Of the active cases, fourteen (14) are in severe to critical conditions.

Table 3: Distribution of severity of cases per region

Region	Severe	Critical	Total
Erongo	0	4	4
Khomas	2	6	8
Oshana	2	0	2
Total	4	10	14

Table 5: Summary of the update

Cumulative confirmed cases	10 207
Newly confirmed	129
Recoveries	7 947
Active cases	2 152
Deaths	108
Active contacts	9 834
Total samples tested	86 092
Cumulative number of people quarantined	13 061
Number of quarantined people discharged	12 180
Number of people in quarantines	881

5. I wish to remind ourselves that today is the first day after the end of the State of Emergency that was declared by the President on account of Covid-19 and which subsisted for six months. As I mentioned yesterday at the press conference at State House, although the State of Emergency has come to an end, Covid-19 has not. We have now put in place the legal instruments that allows for the continuation of public health measures to prevent further spread of infection and also to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on the individuals, families and communities.
6. I would like to share with you a quote from social media which I deem to be relevant to our situation today. It describes the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic. *“The most severe pandemic in history was the Spanish Flu of 1918. It lasted for 2 years, in three waves with 500 million people infected and 50 million deaths. Most of the fatalities happened in the second wave. The people felt so bad about the quarantine and social distancing measures that when they were first lifted, the people rejoiced in the streets with abandon. In the coming weeks, the 2nd wave occurred with tens of millions dead. Let us not repeat the history in the time of Covid-19. Relaxation is only given by Government. Corona hasn’t given relaxation”*. Let these words be our guide in the post State of Emergency period.

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