

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.**

23 September 2020

WINDHOEK

**Check against Delivery*

1. Good afternoon fellow Namibians. Today, we have received a total number of 925 results from the laboratories. Of these, 56 samples tested positive for COVID-19. Thirty-two (32) are females and twenty-four (24) are males. The youngest is one (1) year and the oldest is sixty-eight (68) years old. The confirmed cases are distributed as follows:

Table 1: New COVID-19 positive cases

REGIONS	NEW CASES	DISTRICTS	NEW CASES
Khomas	39	Windhoek	39
Erongo	6	Swakopmund	4
		Walvis Bay	2
Hardap	6	Mariental	6
Karas	1	Keetmanshoop	1
Otjozondjupa	1	Okahandja	1
Ohangwena	1	Eenhana	1
Oshikoto	1	Tsumeb	1
Oshana	1	Oshakati	1
Total	56		56

2. Although the number of tests is low, this is because we moved a bit slow to manage the backlog. I am pleased to inform the nation that the backlog at the laboratories, specifically at NIP had been cleared. The testing capacity has increased significantly, therefore we are strategizing to expand the targeted testing moving forward.
3. Today we are reporting 72 new recoveries. This brings the total recoveries to 8 431

Table 2: New recoveries per region

Region	Number
Khomas	57
Omaheke	5
Omusati	5
Karas	6
Total	72

4. The total number of active cases now stands at 2 115. Of the active cases, sixteen (16) are in severe or in critical conditions.

Table 3: Distribution of severity of cases per region

Region	Severe	Critical	Total
Erongo	1	3	4
Khomas	5	7	12
Total	6	10	16

5. Regrettably, we are announcing one death from Windhoek district. A 38-years old male with comorbidities presented to a local health facility on the 9th September 2020 with a medical complaint. The patient was admitted to the ward and swabbed for COVID-19. His condition deteriorated and he passed away on the 16th of September 2020. The COVID-19 result came out positive. This is a COVID-19 related death. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

6. *Table 4: Summary of the update*

Cumulative confirmed cases	10 663
Newly confirmed	56
Recoveries	8 431
Active cases	2 115
Total COVID-19 Death	91
Total COVID-19 Related Death	26
Total Deaths	117
Active contacts	9 486
Total samples tested	91 902
Cumulative number of people quarantined	13 323
Number of quarantined people discharged	12 477
Number of people in quarantines	846

7. I am pleased to announce that we have made tremendous progress in building local capacity for testing for Covid-19. We now have a total number of 6 local laboratories that test for Covid-19 with a combine capacity of 2 400 tests per day. We have also liquidated the backlog of tests. Going forward, tests results will be available within 24 to 48 hours. This will go a long way in alleviating the inconveniencies associated with the long wait for the results to become available.

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