



Ministry of Health and Social Services  
Republic of Namibia

| NAMIBIA COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT NO. 44 |                   |                          |               |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Outbreak Name                            | COVID-19          | Country affected         | Namibia       |
| Date & Time of report                    | 01 May 2020 20:00 | Investigation start date | 13 March 2020 |
| Prepared by                              | Surveillance Team |                          |               |

Date of outbreak declaration in Namibia: 14 March 2020.

1. SITUATION UPDATE / HIGHLIGHTS

- No new confirmed case was reported in the last 27 days (5 April – 1 May 2020).
- Cumulatively, 16 confirmed cases have been reported in the country, to date.
- Of the 16 confirmed cases, eight (8) have recovered.
- Supervised quarantine for all people arriving from abroad, for 14 days is ongoing.
- On 30 April 2020, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia announced that stage 1 of the lockdown will be lifted on 5 May 2020 and stage 2 will be implemented until 3 June.
  - All borders will remain closed except for essential/critical services and humanitarian support to the response.
  - All other prevention measures are applicable to the entire country
  - Wearing of mask in public will be mandatory

2. BACKGROUND

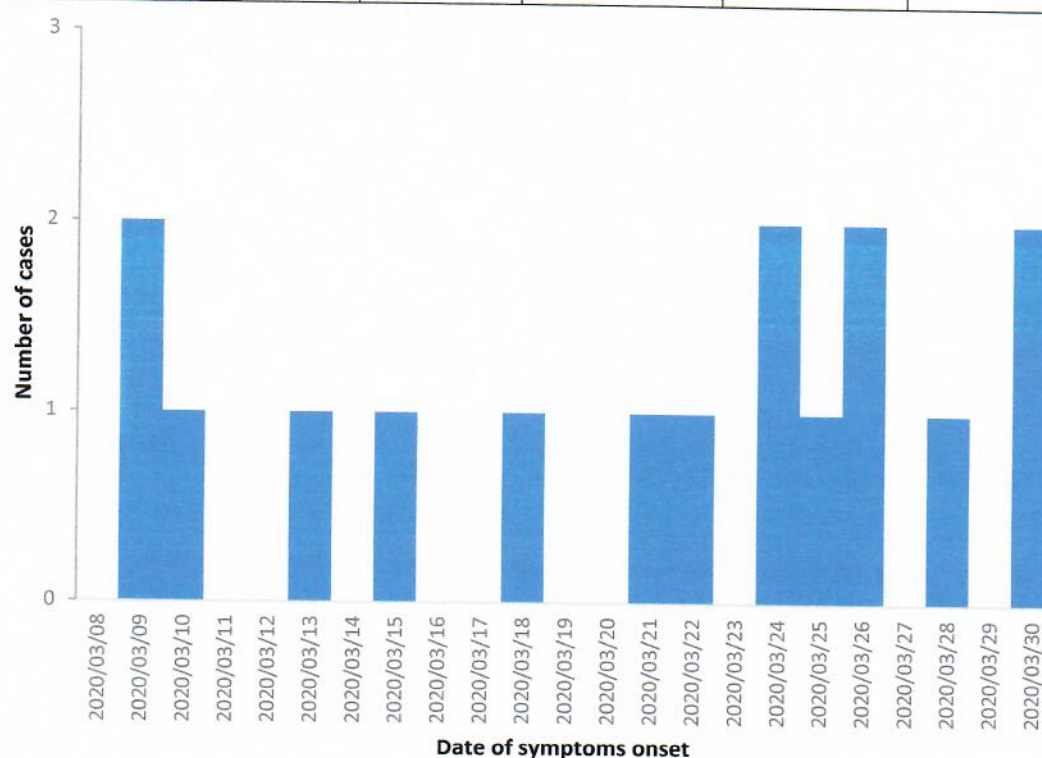
Description of the cases

- **Index cases:** Two confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported in Windhoek district on 13 March 2020. The married couple; a 35-year-old male and a 25-year-old female, arrived from Madrid, Spain on 11 March 2020.

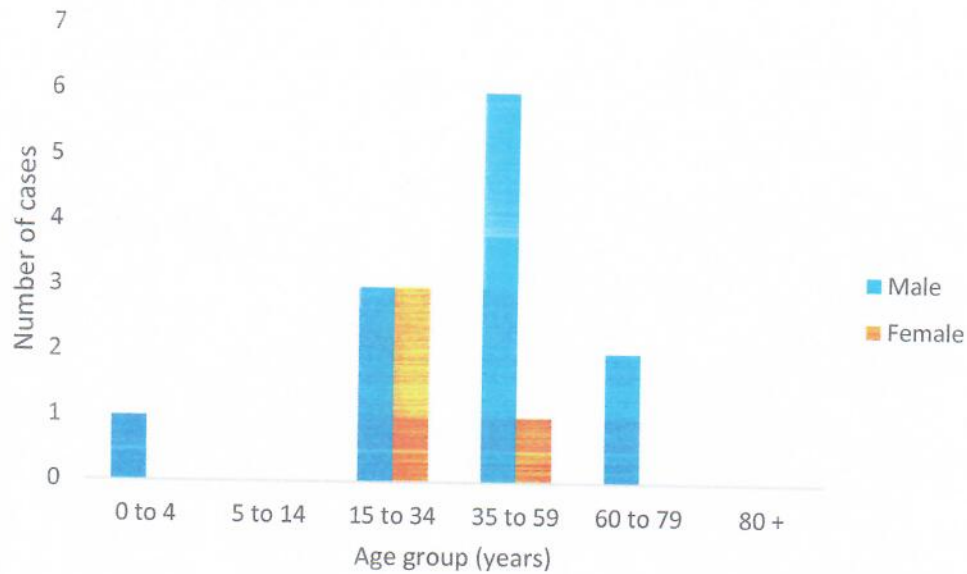
- Total number of imported cases currently stands at 13 while 3 cases are local transmissions.
- There is no evidence of community transmission in the country at the moment.

**Table 1: Confirmed cases by region as of 01 May 2020**

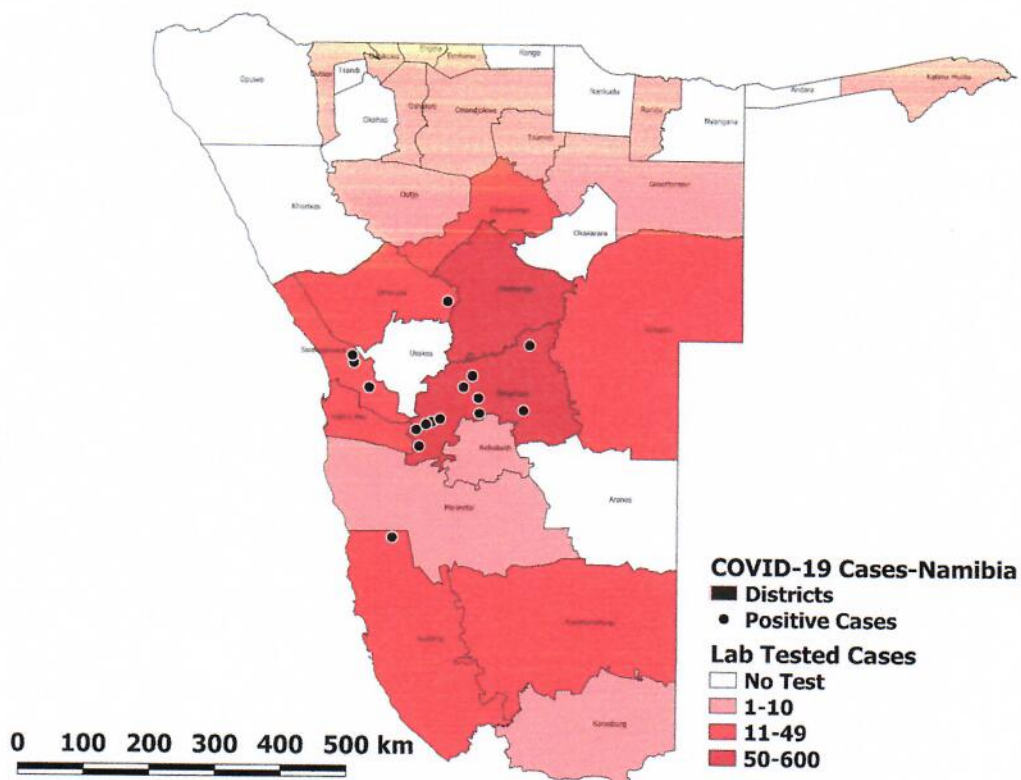
| Reporting region | Total Cases | New cases | Active cases | Recovered | Death    |
|------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| Khomas           | 11          | 0         | 4            | 7         | 0        |
| //Karas          | 1           | 0         | 1            | 0         | 0        |
| Erongo           | 4           | 0         | 3            | 1         | 0        |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>16</b>   | <b>0</b>  | <b>8</b>     | <b>8</b>  | <b>0</b> |



**Figure 1: Epi-curve for COVID-19 confirmed cases in Namibia as of 01 May 2020**



**Figure 2: Age and sex distribution for COVID-19 confirmed cases in Namibia as of 01 May 2020**



**Figure 3: Suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases in Namibia per District, 01 May 2020**

### 3. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTION / RESPONSE INTERVENTIONS EPIDEMIOLOGY & SURVEILLANCE

- **Case definitions as of 20 March 2020:**

**Suspect case:**

A. A patient with acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g., cough, shortness of breath), AND a history of travel to or residence in a location reporting community transmission of COVID-19 disease during the 14 days prior to symptom onset;

OR

B. A patient with any acute respiratory illness AND having been in contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case in the last 14 days prior to symptom onset;

OR

C. A patient with severe acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g., cough, shortness of breath; AND requiring hospitalization) AND in the absence of an alternative diagnosis that fully explains the clinical presentation.

**Probable case:** A suspect case for whom testing for COVID-19 is inconclusive. Inconclusive being the result of the test reported by the laboratory.

**Confirmed case:** A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.

**Active surveillance working case definition as of 20 April 2020**

A patient diagnosed with Upper/Lower Respiratory Infection (Mild or Severe) presenting any of the following signs and symptoms: cough, sore throat, fever, chills, myalgia/body pains or shortness of breath in the past 7 days.

- ***Surveillance activities***

- Daily pillar and intra-pillar discussions are held to deliberate daily progress, gaps and way forward;
- Call centre continue operations for 24 hours per day.

- Data entry is ongoing and real-time data dashboard has been completed and ready to be launched soon.
- Active case search in all regions aimed at looking for possible community transmission is ongoing.
- Weekly ZOOM sessions with regional teams set to be held every Thursday, last meeting held on 30.04.2020
- Contact tracing is ongoing (see table 2) and all contacts will be tested.
- People under mandatory quarantine are being monitored daily (see table 3) and will be tested on day 12 before release on day 15.

### Contact tracing Summary

**Table 2: National contacts tracing summary for COVID-19 as of 01.05.2020**

| Variables                                                   | Contact risk level |        |     |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------|-----|-------|
|                                                             | High               | Medium | Low | Total |
| Total Number of contacts listed (potential)                 | 68                 | 48     | 118 | 234   |
| Total Number of contacts identified                         | 68                 | 48     | 102 | 218   |
| Total Number of active contacts (being followed)            | 1                  | 0      | 0   | 1     |
| Number of contacts monitored/followed in the last 24hrs     | 1                  | 0      | 0   | 1     |
| Total number of Contacts completed 14-days follow up        | 64                 | 45     | 97  | 206   |
| Total Number of contacts that developed signs & symptoms    | 25                 | 8      | 7   | 40    |
| Total Number of contacts tested positive                    | 3                  | 1      | 0   | 4     |
| *Total Number of contacts tested without signs and symptoms | 20                 | 1      | 8   | 29    |
| © Total Number of contacts lost to follow up                | 0                  | 2      | 5   | 7     |
| Total number of Contacts never reached                      | 0                  | 0      | 16  | 16    |

\*Number of contacts without signs & symptoms tested. One tested positive.

© Seven contacts are lost to follow up, all are non-Namibians and have travelled back to their countries of origin.

**Table 3: Number of people in mandatory quarantine facilities as of 01.05.2020**

| Region       | Newly quarantined 24hrs | Cumulative number of people | Number of people discharged | Number of people in quarantine now |
|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Kunene       | 0                       | 15                          | 0                           | 15                                 |
| Omaheke      | 0                       | 20                          | 0                           | 20                                 |
| Kavango      | 1                       | 3                           | 0                           | 3                                  |
| Omusati      | 5                       | 34                          | 1                           | 33                                 |
| Oshana       | 0                       | 5                           | 2                           | 3                                  |
| Ohangwena    | 1                       | 43                          | 18                          | 25                                 |
| Hardap       | 0                       | 40                          | 40                          | 0                                  |
| Otjozondjupa | 51                      | 151                         | 100                         | 51                                 |
| Khomas       | 22                      | 214                         | 148                         | 66                                 |
| Zambezi      | 0                       | 113                         | 98                          | 15                                 |
| //Karas      | 0                       | 102                         | 87                          | 15                                 |
| Erongo       | 0                       | 28                          | 11                          | 17                                 |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>80</b>               | <b>768</b>                  | <b>505</b>                  | <b>263</b>                         |

## LABORATORY INVESTIGATIONS

- As of 01 May 2020, a total of 978 COVID-19 specimens were tested in the two laboratories (NIP and Path Care) as per table 4. below:

**Table 4: COVID-19 specimens recorded at NIP and Path care Laboratories as of 01.05.2020**

| As of 01/05/2020                            | Laboratory |            |              | Total      |
|---------------------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|
|                                             | NIP        | Path care  | South Africa |            |
| Total sample received by the Laboratory     | 892        | 211        | -            | 1103       |
| <b>Total sample tested</b>                  | <b>770</b> | <b>208</b> | -            | <b>978</b> |
| Total results received                      | 770        | 208        | -            | 978        |
| Total sample re-tested                      | 81         | 1          | -            | 82         |
| Total results positive                      | 9          | 6          | *1           | 16         |
| Total results negative                      | 761        | 202        | -            | 963        |
| Total sample discarded                      | 41         | 2          | -            | 43         |
| Total results pending                       | 0          | 0          | -            | 0          |
| Total results inconclusive/indeterminate    | 0          | 0          | -            | 0          |
| @Total new suspected cases in last 24 hours | 50         | 0          | -            | 50         |

\*1 Patient specimen collected and tested in South Africa, he travelled back before results came out

@ Total new suspected cases laboratory results received within 24 hours

## **COORDINATION AND LEADERSHIP:**

- Daily feedback meetings between pillar leads, coordination team and Incident manager (IM) ongoing, to share daily accomplishments and to address key challenges.
- Final inputs to the organogram, incorporated and final version submitted to IM for clearance.
- Inputs to the SOPs, TORs, M&E, Contingency Response Plan and sentinel surveillance protocol being incorporated in the final draft

## **CASE MANAGEMENT**

- Out of the 16 cumulative confirmed cases, 8 recovered, and have been discharged after testing negative for COVID-19 at 48 hours' interval.
- The other 8 confirmed cases are in stable condition and all are asymptomatic.
- Conversion of casualty department at Windhoek Central Hospital (WCH) into a highly infectious referral ICU is nearing completion with a total of 8 beds.
- Construction of WCH isolation facility complete, installation of oxygen and slophopper completed, while interlocks still being installed.
- Katutura State Hospital (KSH) TB ward being re-purposed into a COVID-19 ward. Completion date set for 08 May 2020.
- Pre-fabricated isolation units being constructed in Opuwo, Oshakati, and Rundu.
- Bi-weekly ZOOM training sessions for Health Care Workers is ongoing.

## **INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC)**

- Conducted a training on Overview of COVID-19 and IPC for HCWs in Correctional facilities and from Ministry of Defence
- Finalised IPC materials as part integrated training package
- SOP for management and handling of remains of people who die from COVID-19 is in progress.

**LOGISTICS:**

- Facilitation of the allocation of quarantine facilities in the country and transportation for discharged people from quarantine facilities is ongoing.
- Provision of commodities' specifications and verification for procurement is being done regularly.
- A total of 1263 people were appointed to the outbreak response team to date.

**POINTS OF ENTRY:**

- Continuing to work on the training content of the planned integrated training for COVID-19 response.
- Developed a strategy on managing and monitoring trucks and other vehicles using POEs in the Country
- A concept note on establishing truck ports in major towns and along the borders has been finalized.
- Screening and inspection of incoming travellers and trucks at points of entry and check points are ongoing

**RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

- The communication hub continues to give updates on COVID-19 and clarify miscommunications on a daily basis this is done concurrently with the social media updates.
- The Media continue to communicate messages on COVID-19 and the extension of the lockdown.
- The RCCE continues to share messages on COVID-19 prevention measures.

**PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES:**

- Health education, psychosocial support and post counselling services to people under quarantine, COVID-19 confirmed cases and their families are ongoing.
- A total of 513 persons in need of shelter housed at two sites in Windhoek.

- Provision of health education, psychosocial support services, as well as food at places where persons in need of shelter are placed are ongoing.
- Draft leaflet was developed on messages for gender-based violence, alcohol and drug abuse, suicide prevention and prevention of elder abuse during COVID-19.
- Draft SOP for bereavement amidst COVID-19 finalized.

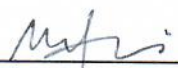
#### 4. CHALLENGES

- Inadequate and at some places lack of isolation units at health facilities and at points of entry in the regions.
- Unavailability of probes and primers for NIP laboratory to start testing for Seasonal Influenza (H1N1) from beginning May 2020.
- Regions need training addressing all pillars of the response team, but travelling seems unfeasible due to the lockdown.
- Inadequate viral swabs and PPE at different regions such to implement active case search testing.

#### 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish fully equipped isolation units at health facilities and at some points of entry in the regions.
- NIP to fast track procurement process laboratory testing kits (probes and primers) for Seasonal Influenza (H1N1) testing.
- Complete assessment for readiness for regions and districts to start virtual training on COVID-19 by 5 May 2020.
- Continue to provide technical guidance regarding the post-lockdown period measures.

**Approved:**

  
 Incident Manager  
 Date: 01.05.2020

  
 Secretariat