



Ministry of Health and Social Services  
Republic of Namibia

| NAMIBIA COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT NO. 63 |                   |                          |               |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Outbreak Name                            | COVID-19          | Country affected         | Namibia       |
| Date & Time of report                    | 20.05.2020 23:00  | Investigation start date | 13 March 2020 |
| Prepared by                              | Surveillance Team |                          |               |

**Date of outbreak declaration in Namibia: 14 March 2020.**

**1. SITUATION UPDATE / HIGHLIGHTS**

- Two new confirmed cases were reported today (20 May 2020).
- Cumulatively, 18 confirmed cases have been reported in the country, to date.
- Of the 18 confirmed cases, fourteen (14) have recovered
- Supervised quarantine for all people arriving from abroad, for 14 days is ongoing.
- Stage 1 of the state of emergency ended on 4 May 2020, and stage 2 is ongoing from 5 May until 2 June 2020;
  - Wearing a mask in public is mandatory
  - 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

**2. BACKGROUND**

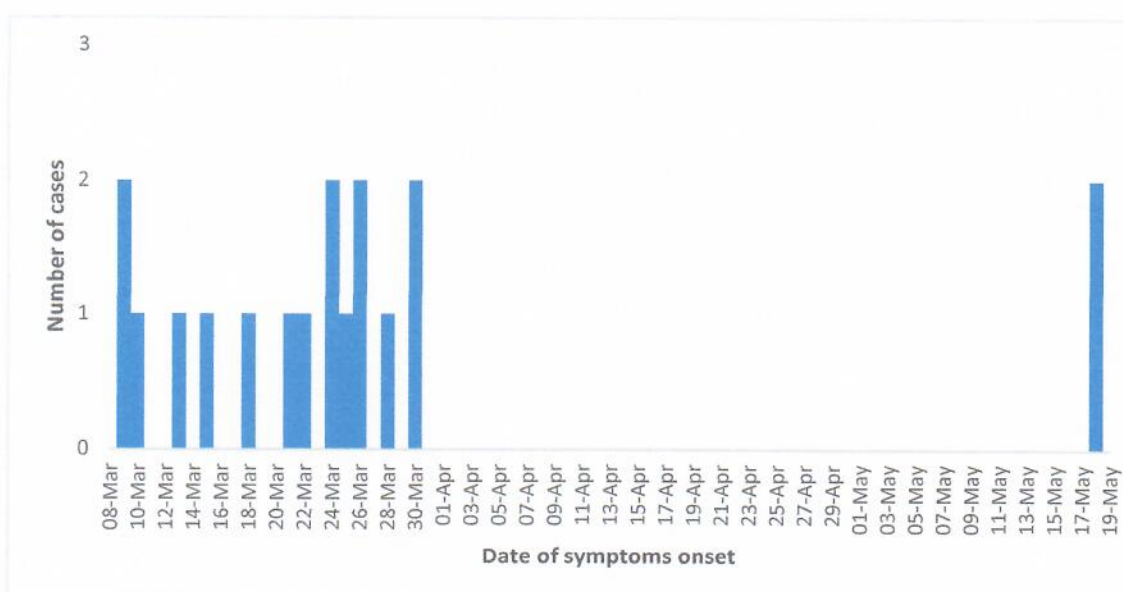
**Description of the cases**

- **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.
- The two cases who were confirmed on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2020, both arrived in the country from South Africa via Noordoewer border post in different private vehicles.
  - They are both females aged 28 and 66 years old.

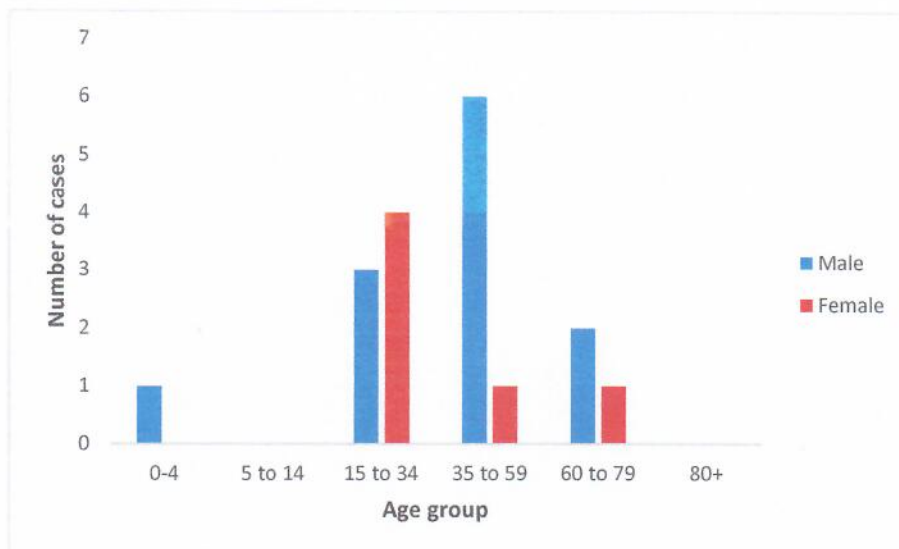
- They were taken into mandatory quarantines in Karasberg District and their samples were collected on 18 May 2020 as they were due for release on 21 May 2020.
- Total number of imported cases currently stands at 15 while 3 cases are local transmissions.
- There is no evidence of community transmission in the country at the moment.

**Table 1: Confirmed cases by region as of 20 May 2020**

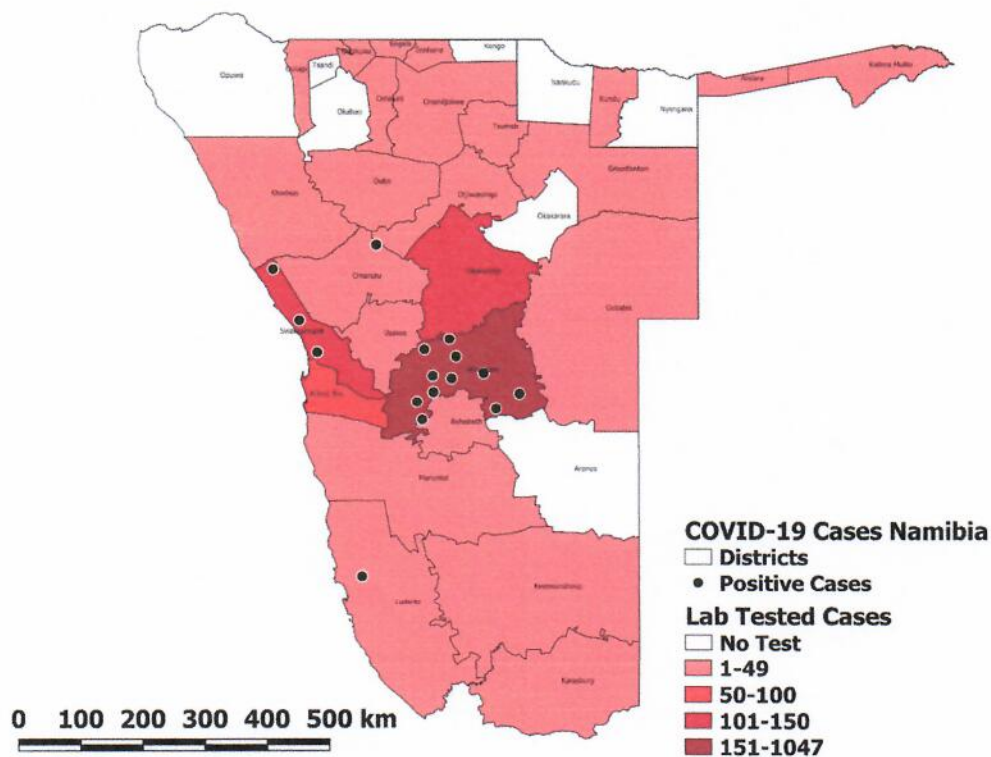
| Reporting region | Total Cases | New cases | Active cases | Recovered | Death    |
|------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| Khomas           | 11          | 0         | 1            | 10        | 0        |
| //Karas          | 3           | 2         | 2            | 1         | 0        |
| Erongo           | 4           | 0         | 1            | 3         | 0        |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>18</b>   | <b>2</b>  | <b>4</b>     | <b>14</b> | <b>0</b> |



**Figure 1: Epi-curve for COVID-19 confirmed cases in Namibia as of 20 May 2020**



**Figure 2: Age and sex distribution for COVID-19 confirmed cases in Namibia as of 20 May 2020**



**Figure 3: Suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases in Namibia per District, 20 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 on daily progress, gaps and way forward;
- Call centre continue operations for 24 hours every day.
- Data entry is ongoing and real-time data dashboard has been completed and planned to be launched on 22 May 2020.
- Continuous support for the COVID-19 integrated online training in partnership with WHO.

- Active case search in all regions for searching for possible community transmission is ongoing.
- Weekly ZOOM sessions with regional teams is on going, last meeting held 17 May 2020
- Contact tracing and monitoring is ongoing (see table 2).
- People under mandatory quarantine are being monitored daily (see table 3) and will be tested on day 12 before release on day 15 if they test negative.

### Contact tracing Summary

**Table 2: National contacts tracing summary for COVID-19 as of 20 May 2020**

| Variables                                                      | High | Medium | Low | Total |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------|-----|-------|
| Total Number of contacts listed (potential)                    | 70   | 52     | 137 | 259   |
| Total number of Contacts never reached                         | 0    | 0      | 16  | 16    |
| Total Number of contacts identified                            | 70   | 52     | 121 | 243   |
| Total Number of contacts that developed signs & symptoms       | 25   | 8      | 7   | 40    |
| *Total Number contacts without signs & symptoms TESTED         | 20   | 5      | 27  | 52    |
| © Total Number of contacts lost to follow up                   | 0    | 2      | 5   | 7     |
| Total Number of contacts tested positive (became cases)        | 3    | 1      | 0   | 4     |
| Number of active contacts monitored/followed in the last 24hrs | 2    | 0      | 0   | 2     |
| Total number of Contacts completed 14-days follow up           | 65   | 49     | 116 | 230   |

*\*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 20 May 2020**

| Region       | Newly quarantined 24hrs | Cumulative number of people | Number of people discharged | Number of people in quarantine now |
|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Kunene       | 0                       | 42                          | 26                          | 16                                 |
| Omaheke      | 0                       | 56                          | 27                          | 29                                 |
| Kavango      | 0                       | 13                          | 4                           | 9                                  |
| Omusati      | 0                       | 74                          | 52                          | 22                                 |
| Oshana       | 0                       | 9                           | 6                           | 3                                  |
| Ohangwena    | 0                       | 131                         | 73                          | 58                                 |
| Hardap       | 0                       | 102                         | 72                          | 30                                 |
| Otjozondjupa | 0                       | 215                         | 168                         | 47                                 |
| Khomas       | 0                       | 308                         | 226                         | 82                                 |
| Zambezi      | 22                      | 247                         | 134                         | 113                                |
| //Karas      | 0                       | 190                         | 99                          | 91                                 |
| Erongo       | 5                       | 52                          | 39                          | 13                                 |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>27</b>               | <b>1439</b>                 | <b>926</b>                  | <b>513</b>                         |

## LABORATORY INVESTIGATIONS

- As of 20 May 2020, a total of 2540 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 20 May 2020**

| Variables                                  | Laboratory  |            |              | Total       |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
|                                            | NIP         | Path care  | South Africa |             |
| Total sample received by the Laboratory    | 2041        | 706        | -            | 2747        |
| <b>Total sample tested</b>                 | <b>1864</b> | <b>676</b> | -            | <b>2540</b> |
| Total sample re-tested                     | 119         | 22         | -            | 141         |
| Total results positive                     | 11          | 6          | *1           | 18          |
| Total results negative                     | 1853        | 670        | -            | 2523        |
| Total sample discarded                     | 58          | 8          | -            | 66          |
| Total results pending                      | 0           | 0          | -            | 0           |
| Total results inconclusive/indeterminate   | 0           | 0          | -            | 0           |
| Total new suspected cases in last 24 hours | 81          | 13         | -            | 94          |

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

## COORDINATION AND LEADERSHIP:

- Feedback meetings of pillar leads and Incident manager (IM) are ongoing (3 times a week), to share accomplishments and to address key challenges.

- Integrated online trainings started on 6 May 2020 and are ongoing until 26 May 2020.
- Submitted final inputs on SOPs and indicators to pillars for finalisation and submission to management for endorsement.

#### **CASE MANAGEMENT :**

- Out of the 18 cumulative confirmed cases, 14 have recovered after testing negative twice for COVID-19 at 48 hours' interval.
- The remaining 4 active cases are all asymptomatic.

#### **INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL:**

- IPC activities are on going to address the specific activities in the terms of reference
- Completed IPC Facility Readiness Checklist from regions and continue engaging the Case Management team.
- Distribution of PPE according to the plan for the regions is ongoing.

#### **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.

#### **POINTS OF ENTRY:**

- Screening and inspection of incoming travellers and trucks at points of entry and check points is ongoing
- Points of Entry pillar is currently setting up the regions for receiving daily reports on the activities at all Points of Entry.
- Conducted two online integrated training session on SOPs at POE in the country

#### **RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

- The COVID-19 Communication Centre continues to give updates on COVID-19 and clarify miscommunications on a daily basis.

- The media continue to communicate messages on COVID-19 and the lifting of the lockdown to stage 2.
- The RCCE continues to share messages on COVID-19 prevention measures through mass media.
- The National Youth Council has mobilised resources to enable youth volunteers host educational sessions at household level in all 121 constituencies.
- The Community Engagement toolkit has been printed and being distributed to all community health workers countrywide.

#### **PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES:**

- Continuous provision of health education, psychosocial support services, as well as food to people in need of shelter.

#### **4. CHALLENGES:**

- Inadequate isolation units at health facilities in the regions.
- Unavailability of probes and primers for NIP laboratory to start testing for Seasonal Influenza (H1N1).
- Insufficient PPE and swabs to conduct active case search in some districts.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS AND WAY FORWARD:**

- Establish fully equipped isolation units at health facilities in the regions.
- NIP to fast track procurement process for laboratory testing kits ( probes and primers) for Seasonal Influenza (H1N1) testing.
- Logistics pillar to continue with the procurement and distribution of sufficient PPE to the regions to ensure that response is not interrupted.
- NIP to continue sourcing for swabs to provide adequate swabs needed for all districts.

**Approved:**

PP 

Incident Manager  
Date: 20 May 2020



Secretariat