



# PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | LOCKDOWN PHASE III Issue 34 | Tuesday, 19 May 2020

Day 48

## BATSWANA URGED TO GUARD AGAINST ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSING

~ PS MDJS, MS BOKOLE



**P**ermanent Secretary in the Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security, Ms Matshidiso Bokole says Botswana should not be tempted into illegal border crossing during this time.

Briefing the media on the easing of Covid-19 restrictions yesterday, Ms Bokole said if Botswana engage in illegal border crossing, it will be detrimental to the efforts already made by Government of Botswana in combating Covid-19.

She said as a way of combating Covid-19, the general public is not allowed to cross the border except for delivery of essential service supplies like food and health commodities.

*Continues on Page 2*

*"It is such a humbling thing to put the faces to what the public views as just statistics. To be able to help them get better so that they can join their families"*

**Dr Veronica Moshokgo**

*Medical Officer, Isolation ward  
Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital*

### CURRENT SITUATION IN NUMBERS

18/05/2020

Lab Tests Performed & resulted	14103
Negative Cases	14078
Positive Cases	25
Total Deaths	1
Recoveries	17
Active Cases	6

SAY NO TO TOBACCO  
IN THE TIME OF COVID-19 AND ALWAYS



HIGHER CHANCE OF TRANSMISSION  
FROM HAND TO MOUTH

# BATSWANA URGED TO GUARD AGAINST ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSING

From Page 1

Ms Bokole reiterated that she is aware that some locals have relatives in nearby countries especially along the borderline which in most cases tempt them to visit. Ms Bokole therefore advised them against harboring such acts.

In other issues, Ms Bokole said her Ministry has repatriated about 300 Zimbabweans who voluntarily wanted to go back to their country. For his part, Chairman of Law Society of Botswana Mr Diba Diba called for additional judges to expedite the backlog of court cases. He said government should try by all means to expedite resumption of court cases.

Mr Diba said he want all tried cases to have judgements, saying this will make it possible for judges to attend to new cases.



TRUCK MONITORING		17-18 MAY 2020	
BORDER	Arrival	Departure	
Tlokweng	79	84	
Ramatlabama	32	71	
Martin's Drift	62	45	
Pioneer	57	33	
Mamuno	73	64	
Kazungula Road Border	16	7	
Kazungula Ferry	1	26	
Ngoma	3	5	
Ramokgwebana	4	17	
Mohembo	1	2	
Sub Total	328	354	
<b>Total</b>		<b>682</b>	

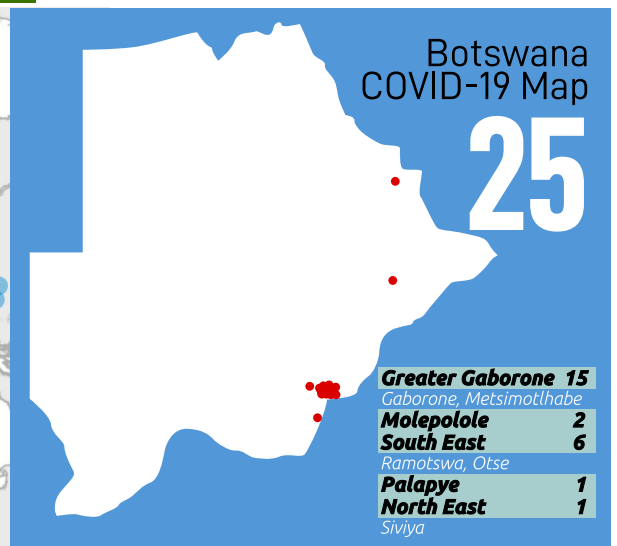
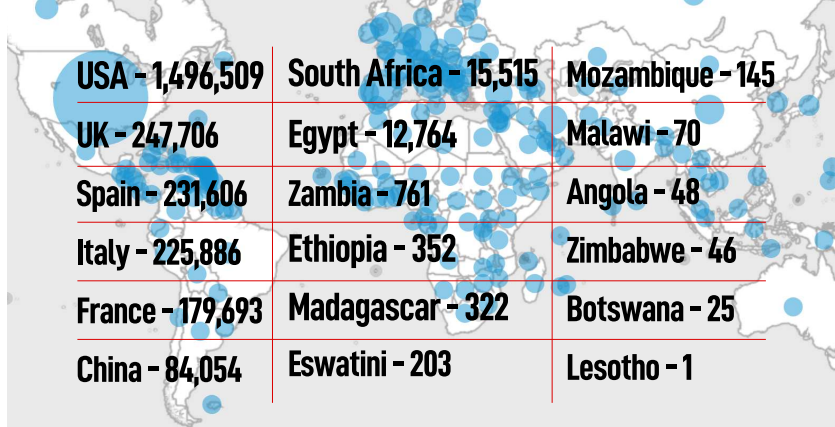
### HOW TO PUT ON, USE, TAKE OFF AND DISPOSE OF A MASK

To remove the mask: **remove it from behind** (do not touch the front of mask); **discard immediately in a closed bin**; **clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water**



@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 18/05/20

## COVID-19 Confirmed Cases



### THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTRE

Tollfree: 0800 600 111 | Telephone: 369 8337 | E-mail: neoc@gov.bw  
 The NEOC is located on the 4th floor at the Ministry of Defence Justice and Security.

# The Lockdown Extended in Phases

## Phase I

The current lockdown conditions period will be extended by one week, from May 1st to May 8th, 2020. During this period, the Government will develop and finalize regulations for a phased lifting of lockdown rules in low risk sectors.

## Phase II

Starting from May 8th to May 14th, Government, will lift in a phased manner, some lockdown rules while at the same time introducing additional plans for further lifting of the remaining lockdown rules.

## Phase III

From May 15th to May 22nd, which will be the final week of the lockdown extension, Government will lift the remaining rules from the original lockdown rules implemented on March 30th, 2020.

## Ministry of Health and Wellness Approves Five Research Protocols on COVID-19

**H**ealth Research and Development Committee (HRDC) through Health Research and Development Division in the Ministry of Health and Wellness reviewed and appraised 16 protocols submitted for ethical clearance as of 17th May 2020.

Speaking to the Presidential (Covid-19) Task Force Daily Bulletin, Head of Research in the Ministry of Health and Wellness (Health Policy Research Development Division) Ms Seeletso Mosweunyane said HRDC is a semi-autonomous team of 17 reviewers mandated to assess the acceptability of proposed research in terms of institutional commitment, professional conduct, safety and beneficence to those participating or wishing to explore on the field of Research.

She said following the outbreak of Covid 19, HRDC adopted guidelines developed by Office of Human Research and Protection (OHPD) in the USA to prioritise and fast-track review of protocols submitted for ethical clearance. HRDC is affiliated to OHRP as well as a member of African Vaccine Regulatory Forum (AVAREF) which is a subsidiary of World Health Organisation.

She explained that guidelines were adopted by HRDC in a meeting held on 18 April 2020. Her Division's turnaround for receiving and responding to research protocols on Covid 19 has been minimised from 6 weeks to 2 weeks to ensure access to data and ensure evidence based planning.

"Five (5) Protocols have been approved while 11 are undergoing the ethical clearance process and these protocols range from Clinical trials, Knowledge Attitudes and Practice (KAP) as well as basic research", she narrated.

### Summary of approved protocols including implementing institutions;

(HRDC 00906)

#### 1. EVALUATING SARS-COV-2 INFECTION AND SUSCEPTIBILITY AMONGST HEALTHCARE WORKERS IN BOTSWANA

The purpose of this study is to rapidly establish a cohort of health care workers (HCWs) for prospective follow-up in the sub-Saharan African setting of Botswana. The study will compare the incidence rates of SARS-CoV-2 in a sample of HCWs in Botswana who provide clinical care compared with HCWs who do not provide clinical care.

Implementing Institution: Rutgers Global Health Institute, Botswana Ministry of Health and Wellness and University of Botswana

Status: Approved

(HRDC 00905)

#### 2. ANXIETY SYMPTOMS AMONG HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS IN LOBATSE, BOTSWANA DURING COVID 19 PANDEMIC

Abstract: For any government to be able to successfully fight a pandemic such as the COVID-19, health care services should be functioning optimally. Mental health symptoms such as anxiety may impair functioning and therefore deter government's efforts. It is therefore important to determine risk factors for the occurrence of anxiety symptoms among MHP in order to employ appropriate measures to address such. Findings from this study will inform targeted guidelines and interventions to support frontline staff in this fight.

Implementing Institution: University of Botswana  
Status: Approved

## Ministry of Health and Wellness Approves Five Research Protocols on COVID-19

(HRDC 00902)

### 3. THE FIRST FEW X CASES AND CONTACTS (FFX) INVESTIGATION PROTOCOL FOR CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) AND SUBSEQUENT CASE AND CONTACTS

This FFX protocol outlines the process for early and rapid data collection for the first few early cases of the pandemic, which will provide critical early insight into key epidemiological characteristics such as the transmissibility and severity of COVID-19 infection.

Implementing Institution: University of Botswana  
(Department of Family Medicine & Public Health Faculty of Medicine) & Ministry of Health Wellness  
Status: Approved

(HRDC 00908)

### 4. HOW DO CITIZENS' PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT-INSTITUTED COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH CONTROL MEASURES AFFECT PARTICIPATION AND SUCCESS? A STUDY OF EIGHT SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Abstract: The study will address the following:

1. The citizens opinions of severity of COVID-19 disease
2. The citizen's perceived individual risk of being infected, and the effectiveness of the national preventive public health measures instituted by their respective government.
3. How citizens in various sub-Saharan Africa countries are responding to these preventive measures to control COVID-19 (compliance), their perceived success of the control measures being implemented as well to identify suggested recommendations to improve national response measures.

The findings of the study will assist in decision making and planning for preventive measures for work force against health hazards.

Implementing Institution: fhi 360 Nigeria  
Status: Approved

(HRDC 01002)

### 5. COVID-19 KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, PRACTICES AND BEHAVIOR SURVEY IN THREE BOTSWANA DISTRICTS

This study focuses on gaining and unpacking community perception, beliefs, and attitude about corona virus transmission, symptom identification, treatment, and prevention in order to inform control efforts.

Furthermore, response measures such as extreme social distancing as well as other promoted public health measures that are also implemented in varied and unpredictable scenarios require exploration in design and programming that is context specific results are to be achieved

Implementing Institution: Heritage Research Solutions and DHMT (Mahalapye, Serowe/Palapye)

Status: Approved



Republic of Botswana

## FUMIGATION VS DISINFECTION



**Fumigation:** To get rid of a virus in a place known to be contaminated by using specialised chemical agents as may be directed by the Director of Health Services



**Disinfection:** To clean by using different types of disinfectants which are less potent than chemicals used for fumigation

www.gov.bw



BWGovernment

**BW**  
**COVID 19**  
**TASK FORCE**  
U P D A T E S

#### EDITORIAL TEAM

Editorial Advisor: Pearl Ramokoka | Editor: Treasure Mthobi

Content Producers: Lorato Okaile | Donnell Kutlapye | Chandapiwa Baputaki | Fortune Ketlhaetse



Republic of Botswana

During this challenging time, our truck drivers put their lives on the line for us everyday to make sure we have our essential supplies.

*They are us. We are them.*



[www.gov.bw](http://www.gov.bw)



BWGovernment

**BW**  
**COVID 19**  
**TASK FORCE**  
U P D A T E S