



Ministry of Health and Social Services  
Republic of Namibia

| NAMIBIA COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT NO. 55 |                          |                          |               |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Outbreak Name                            | <i>COVID-19</i>          | Country affected         | Namibia       |
| Date & Time of report                    | <i>12.05.2020 19:00</i>  | Investigation start date | 13 March 2020 |
| Prepared by                              | <i>Surveillance Team</i> |                          |               |

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

**1. SITUATION UPDATE / HIGHLIGHTS**

- No new confirmed case was reported in the last 38 days (5 April – 12 May 2020).
- Cumulatively, 16 confirmed cases have been reported in the country, to date.
- Of the 16 confirmed cases, eleven (11) 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

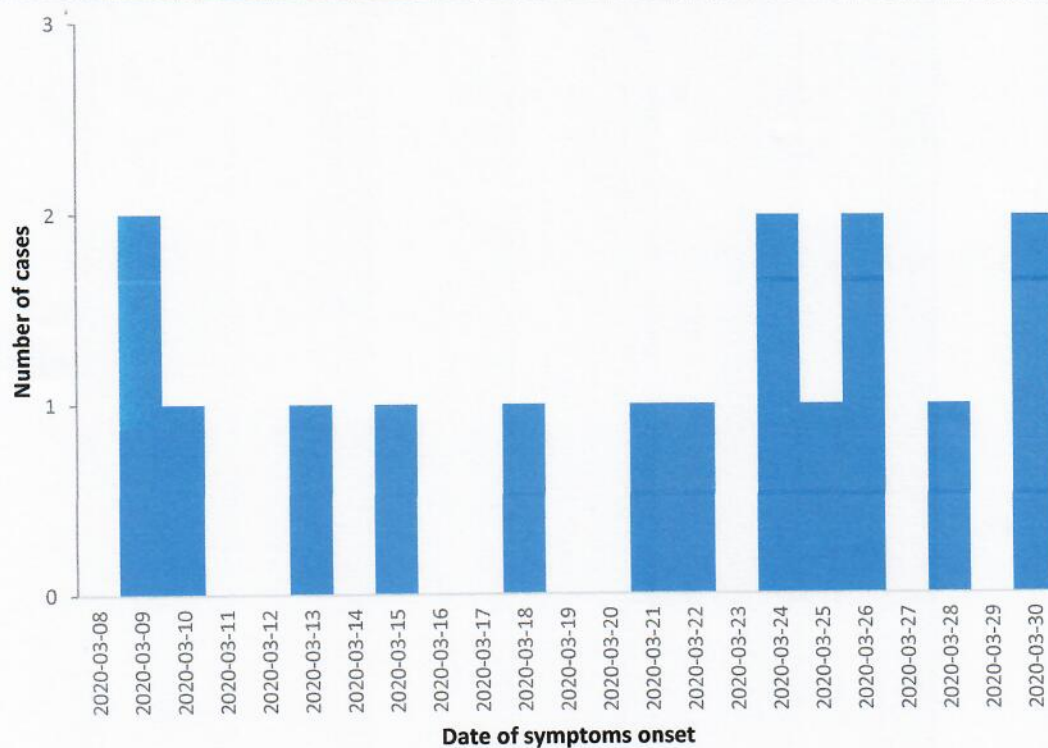
## 2. BACKGROUND

### Description of the cases

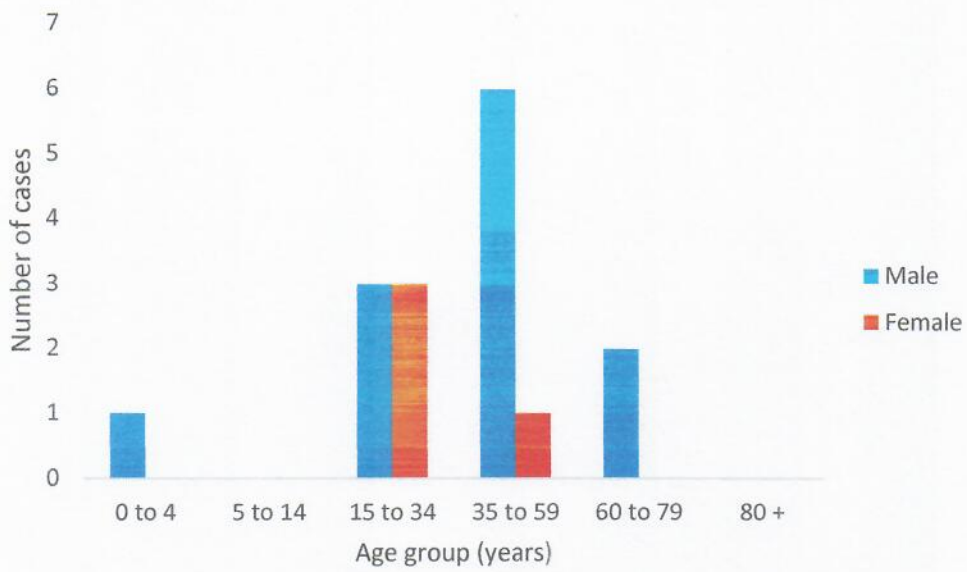
- **Index cases:** Two confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported in Windhoek district on 13 March 2020. The married couple; a 35-year-old male and a 25-year-old female, arrived from Madrid, Spain on 11 March 2020.
- Total number of imported cases currently stands at 13 while 3 cases are local transmissions.
- There is no evidence of community transmission in the country at the moment.

*Table 1: Confirmed cases by region as of 12 May 2020*

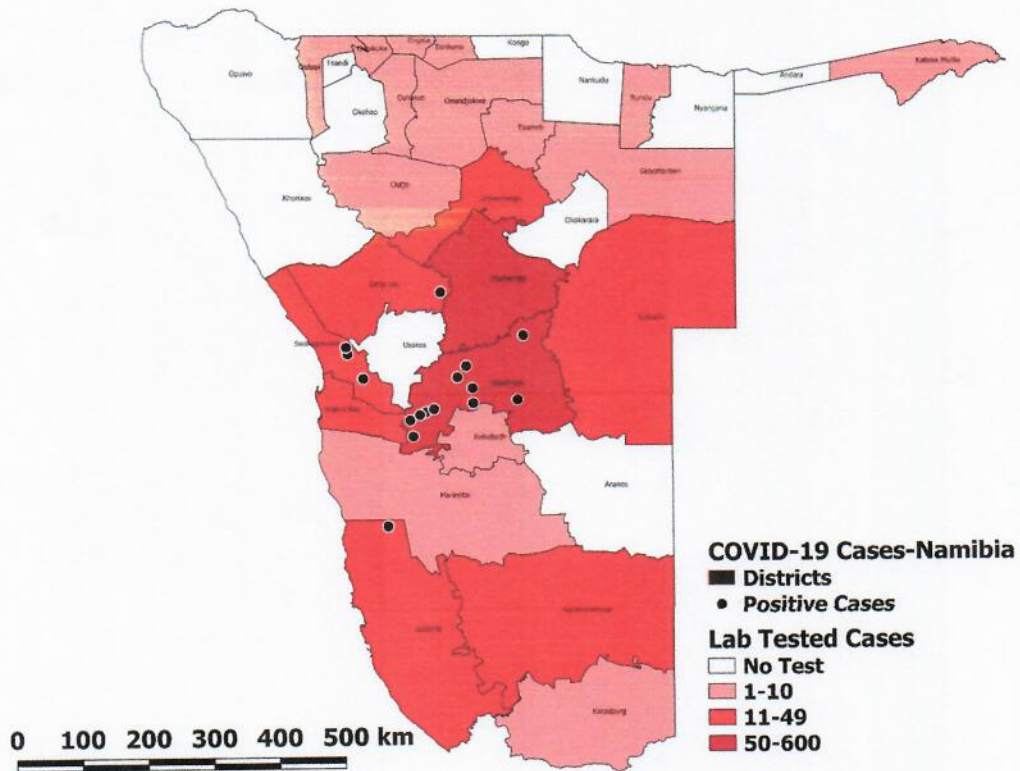
| Reporting region | Total Cases | New cases | Active cases | Recovered | Death    |
|------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| Khomas           | 11          | 0         | 2            | 9         | 0        |
| //Karas          | 1           | 0         | 1            | 0         | 0        |
| Erongo           | 4           | 0         | 2            | 2         | 0        |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>16</b>   | <b>0</b>  | <b>5</b>     | <b>11</b> | <b>0</b> |



*Figure 1: Epi-curve for COVID-19 confirmed cases in Namibia as of 12 May 2020*



**Figure 2: Age and sex distribution for COVID-19 confirmed cases in Namibia as of 12.05.2020**



**Figure 3: Suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases in Namibia per District, 12 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 every day.
- Erongo Covid-19 hotline number (0800460460) launched on 9 May 2020

- 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 is on going last meeting held on 07.05.2020
- Contact tracing 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 12.05.2020**

| Variables  | High | Medium | Low | Total |
|--|------|--------|-----|-------|
| Total Number of contacts listed (potential)                    | 68   | 52     | 138 | 258   |
| Total number of Contacts never reached                         | 0    | 0      | 16  | 16    |
| Total Number of contacts identified                            | 68   | 52     | 122 | #242  |
| 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           | 64   | 49     | 116 | 229   |

*\*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.*

*# Number includes all contacts (24) for the truck driver who was confirmed in Zambia 23 were tested and were all negative.*

**Table 3: Number of people in mandatory quarantine facilities as of 12.05.2020**

| Region       | Newly quarantined 24hrs | Cumulative number of people | Number of people discharged | Number of people in quarantine now |
|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Kunene       | 0                       | 26                          | 0                           | 26                                 |
| Omaheke      | 0                       | 38                          | 18                          | 20                                 |
| Kavango      | 0                       | 4                           | 2                           | 2                                  |
| Omusati      | 2                       | 61                          | 8                           | 53                                 |
| Oshana       | 0                       | 6                           | 3                           | 3                                  |
| Ohangwena    | 0                       | 131                         | 54                          | 77                                 |
| Hardap       | 0                       | 70                          | 40                          | 30                                 |
| Otjozondjupa | 1                       | 215                         | 100                         | 115                                |
| Khomas       | 29                      | 283                         | 158                         | 125                                |
| Zambezi      | 6                       | 162                         | 111                         | 51                                 |
| //Karas      | 4                       | 157                         | 96                          | 61                                 |
| Erongo       | 0                       | 37                          | 35                          | 2                                  |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>42</b>               | <b>1190</b>                 | <b>625</b>                  | <b>565</b>                         |

#### LABORATORY INVESTIGATIONS

- As of 12 May 2020, 1662 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 12.05.2020**

|   | Laboratory  |            |              | Total       |
|---|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
|   | NIP         | Path care  | South Africa |             |
| Total sample received by the Laboratory     | 1419        | 414        | -            | 1833        |
| <b>Total sample tested</b>                  | <b>1256</b> | <b>406</b> | -            | <b>1662</b> |
| Total sample re-tested                      | 105         | 1          | -            | 106         |
| Total results positive                      | 9           | 6          | *1           | 16          |
| Total results negative                      | 1247        | 400        | -            | 1647        |
| Total sample discarded                      | 58          | 7          | -            | 65          |
| Total results pending                       | 0           | 0          | -            | 0           |
| Total results inconclusive/indeterminate    | 0           | 0          | -            | 0           |
| @Total new suspected cases in last 24 hours | 90          | 75         | -            | 165         |

\*1 Patient specimen collected and tested in South Africa, he travelled back before results came out  
 @ Total new suspected cases laboratory results received within past 24 hours

## **COORDINATION AND LEADERSHIP:**

- Daily feedback meetings of pillar leads and Incident manager (IM) are ongoing, to share daily accomplishments and to address key challenges.
- Integrated online trainings started on 6 May 2020 and ongoing.
- Submitted final inputs on SOPs and indicators to pillars for finalisation and submission to management for endorsement.
- A plan/concept note for assessing current readiness and capacity gaps being drafted for strengthening covid-19 response in the regions

## **CASE MANAGEMENT**

- Out of the 16 cumulative confirmed cases, 11 have recovered, and have been discharged after testing negative twice for COVID-19 at 48 hours' interval.
- The remaining 5 active cases are in stable condition and are all asymptomatic.

## **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.
- Cumulative number of recruitments to date 1444 (790 Temporary staff & 654 Permanent staff)

## **POINTS OF ENTRY:**

- A meeting was held with other stakeholders, after which the SOP for the management and monitoring of trucks and other cross border vehicle drivers was finalized.
  - The implementation of the SOP will be enhanced once the Transport Sector directives to combat the spread of COVID-19 has been gazetted.
- Conducted a training through integrated training via Zoom on COVID-19 response.
- 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 lifting of the lockdown to stage 2.
- The RCCE continues to share messages on COVID-19 prevention measures.

## **PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES:**

- A total of 523 persons in need of shelter housed at two sites in Windhoek, while a total of 102 still on the street.
- Provision of health education, psychosocial support services, as well as food at places where persons in need of shelter are placed are ongoing.

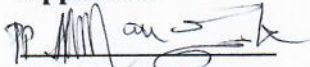
## **4. CHALLENGES**

- Inadequate isolation units at health facilities in the regions.
- Unavailability of probes and primers for NIP laboratory to start testing for Seasonal Influenza (H1N1) from beginning May 2020.
- Delayed distribution of viral swabs to different regions

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

- Establish fully equipped isolation units at health facilities in the regions.
- NIP to fast track procurement process laboratory testing kits (swabs, probes and primers) for Seasonal Influenza (H1N1) testing.
- NIP to fast track the distribution of viral swabs to regions
- IPC and logistics pillar to continue maintaining the procurement and supplies of sufficient PPE to the regions to ensure response is not interrupted.

**Approved:**



Incident Manager

Date: 12.05.2020

  
Secretariat