



Ministry of Health and Social Services  
Republic of Namibia

Situational Report No.18 for COVID-19 Namibia			
Outbreak Name	COVID-19	Country affected	Namibia
Date & Time of report	05 April 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

- No new confirmed cases were reported today (05 April 2020).
- Cumulatively, 16 confirmed cases have been reported in the country, to date.
- Three confirmed cases have recovered and discharged to date.
- Supervised quarantine for all Namibians arriving from other countries for 14 days is ongoing.
- Partial lockdown of Erongo and Khomas regions took effect on 28 March 2020 till 16 April 2020.
  - Borders have been closed except for essential/critical services and humanitarian support to the response.
  - All others prevention measures are applicable to the entire country
- **Key Challenges include:**
  - Inadequate isolation and quarantine facilities,
  - Inadequate human resources at all levels
  - Chronic shortage of PPEs, amidst logistic supply chain problems
  - Inadequate material supplies including ICU units and ventilators.
  - Inadequate infrastructure, equipment and supplies at Points of Entry.

2. BACKGROUND

Description of the latest cases

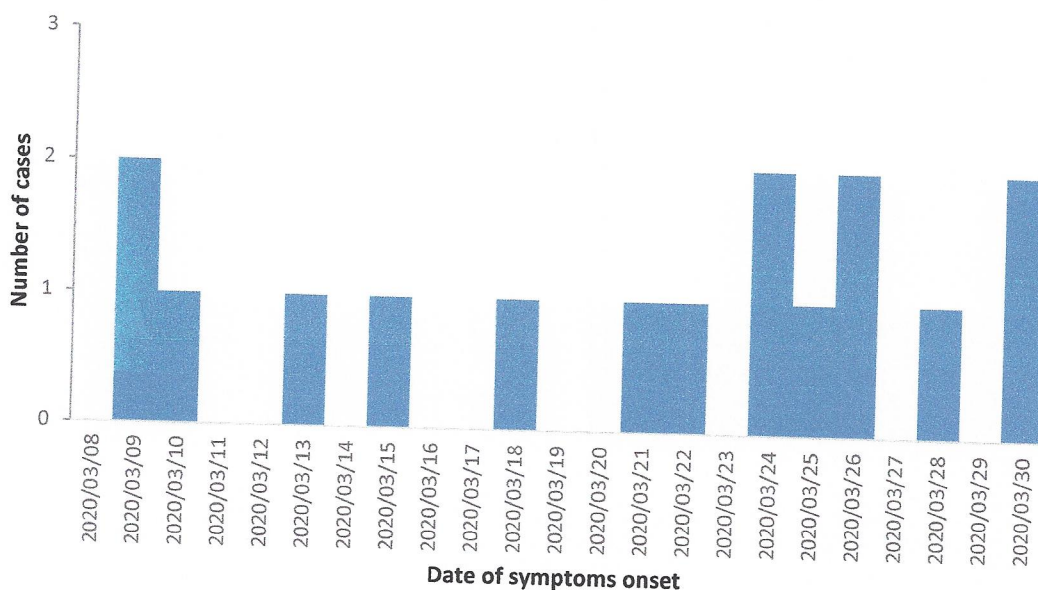
- **Index cases:** Two confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported in Windhoek district on 13 March 2020. The married couple; a 35-year-old male and a 25-year-old female, arrived from Madrid, Spain on 11 February 2020.
- Case (#15) is a 31-year-old male Namibian, who drove a friend and her family that arrived from South Africa on 26 March 2020. He reported at Robert Mugabe Clinic on 30 March 2020, complaining of cough, body pain, sore throat, and shortness of breath. The specimen was collected same day and sent to NIP.

The result came out inconclusive on the 01 April 2020 and sent to NICD SA for confirmatory test. The final result came out positive on the 04 April 2020.

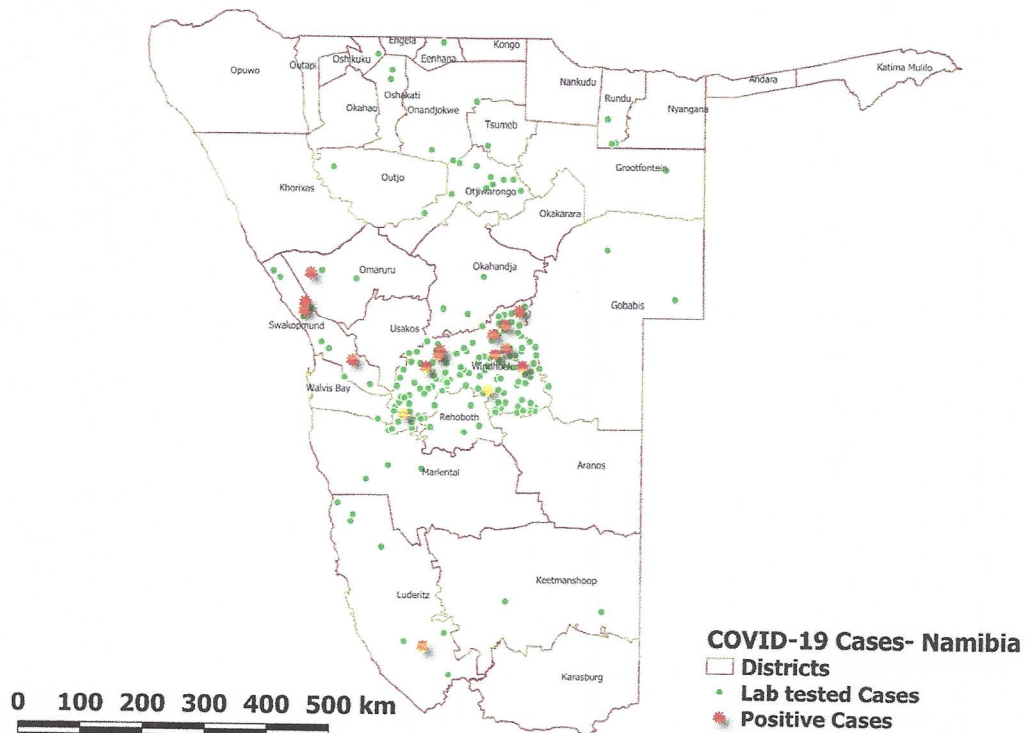
- Case (# 16) is a 46-year-old male Namibian permanent resident and health professional, with the history of travel to SA to attend a conference. He came back on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020. He developed flu like symptoms on the 19 March 2020, which solved after self-medications. He then presented at Robert Mugabe Clinic, with fever, chills, body pain, and sore throat on 30 March 2020. The specimen was collected same day and sent to NIP. The result came out inconclusive on the 01 April 2020 and sent to NICD SA for confirmatory test. The final result came out positive on the 04 April 2020.
- Total number of imported cases currently stands at 13 and local transmission is 3
- There is no evident community transmission in the country at the moment.

**Table 1: Confirmed cases by region as of 05 April 2020**

Reporting region	Total Cases	New cases	Active cases	Recovered	Death
Khomas	11	0	8	3	0
Karas	1	0	1	0	0
Erongo	4	0	4	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>



**Figure 1: Epi-curve for COVID-19 confirmed cases in Namibia as of 05 April 2020**



*Figure 2: Suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases in Namibia per District, as of 05 April 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 (see definition of contact) 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.

- *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.
- People under mandatory quarantine are being monitored daily (see table 3)
- Data entry is ongoing and data dashboards are under development using existing platforms.
- Project Active Case Finding (ACF) is currently underway in Khomas, Erongo and Karas regions, aimed to look for possible community transmission.
- Contact tracing is ongoing (see table 2)

### Contact tracing Summary

*Table 2: Contacts tracing summary as of 05 .04.2020*

Variables	Contact risk level			
	High	Medium	Low	Total
Total Number of contacts listed	44	28	102	174
Total Number of contacts identified	40	28	89	157
Total Number of active contacts (being followed)	22	11	21	54
Number of contacts monitored/followed in the last 24hrs	17	5	4	26
Total number of Contacts completed 14-days follow up	15	14	63	92
Total Number of contacts that developed signs & symptoms	8	1	5	14
Total Number of contacts tested positive	3	1	0	4
*Total Number of contacts tested without signs and symptoms	3	0	4	7
© Total Number of contacts lost to follow up	0	2	5	7
# Total number of Contacts never reached	0	0	10	10

*\*Number of (highly exposed) 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.*

*# Three contacts could not be reached as they did not provide contact numbers.*

**Table 3: Number of people in mandatory quarantine facility of 05.04.2020**

Name of the Facility	Cumulative number of people	Number of people who developed signs & symptoms and tested	Test results	Number of people discharged
Hardap Resort	40	0	0	0
Rock Lodge (Debmarine)	39	0	0	0
*Other places in Windhoek	141	4	4 Negative	35
Zambezi Waterfront park	76	3	3 Negative	0
Gross Barman	22	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>35</b>

#### LABORATORY INVESTIGATIONS

- Stock level of testing kits (laboratory extraction phase) at NIP is 700 and confirmation tests are about 400
- As of 5 April 2020, a total of 366 COVID-19 specimens were recorded for testing in the two laboratories (NIP and Path Care) as per table below:

**Table 4: COVID-19 specimens recorded in at NIP and Path care as of 05.04.2020**

As of 05/04/2020	Laboratory			Total
	NIP	Path care	South Africa	
Total sample received by the Laboratory	206	160	-	366
Total sample tested	158	158	-	316
Total results received	157	158	-	315
Total results positive	9	6	*1	16
Total results negative	147	152	-	299
Total sample discarded	28	2	-	30
Total results pending	1	0	-	1
Total results inconclusive/indeterminate	1	0	-	1
Total new suspected cases in last 24 hours	0	4	-	4

*\*1 Patient specimen collected and tested in South Africa*

#### COORDINATION AND LEADERSHIP:

- Coordination and other pillar team meetings on COVID-19 response are held daily.
- A Media Centre for providing up-to date and accurate information has been established at the Khomas Regional Council offices and provides daily updates twice a day – 10am and 4pm by the MoHSS and key stakeholders.
- Monitoring and Evaluation is being conducted regularly to ensure smooth coordination of COVID-19 interventions.
- Various partners are actively participating in different pillar groups for COVID-19 response.
- Many efforts to increase isolation and quarantine facilities ongoing.

## **CASE MANAGEMENT**

- Out of the 16 cumulative confirmed cases, 3 recovered, and have been discharged, after tested negative for COVID-19.
- The other 13 confirmed cases are in stable conditions. None with severe symptoms.
- Conversion of casualty department at WCH into a highly infectious referral ICU underway.
- A 12-bed Isolation Unit is under construction at final stage of completion at WCH.
- Ramatex renovation underway to be repurposed as an isolation facility
- Repurposed hotels/lodges/resorts identified for accommodation of front-liners and asymptomatic/mild suspect/probable/confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- Consultations with UNAM to avail a clinic for COVID-19 patients is ongoing.
- More screening sites have been identified in the regions.

## **LOGISTICS:**

- Facilitated the allocation of quarantine facilities in the country.
- Procurement of PPE, Medical suppliers and pharmaceuticals is ongoing
- Provision of commodities' specifications and verification for procurement is being done constantly

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

- Educational sessions continue to be conducted in various media
- The MoHSS in-conjunction with other sectors continues to give daily updates and prevention measures on COVID-19 at the communication hub.
- The MoHSS continue to conduct press briefing as the situation progresses.

## **PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES:**

- Mapping of 3 shelters for placement of persons without shelter in Windhoek completed
- Rapid assessment on persons without shelter conducted
- Provision of food, water, as well as psychosocial support and public health education were provided to a group of 900 persons in need of shelter in Windhoek
- Psychosocial support and post counselling services offered to people under quarantine, COVID-19 confirmed cases and their families are ongoing




## CHALLENGES


- Inadequate and at some places lack of isolation units at health facilities and at points of entry in the regions.
- Inadequate PPE and printed IEC materials on COVID-19
- Insufficient COVID-19 laboratory testing kits
- Need for health information and education materials in multiple languages.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish fully equipped isolation units at health facilities and at points of entry in the regions.
- Fast track procurement process for Personal Protective Equipment and COVID-19 laboratory testing kits.
- Expedite printing of IEC materials in different vernacular languages.
- Continue to build capacity of response workers.

**Approved:**

  
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Incident Manager  
Date: 05.04.2020

  
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Secretariat