



Ministry of Health and Social Services  
Republic of Namibia

Situational Report No.28 for COVID-19 Namibia			
Outbreak Name	COVID-19	Country affected	Namibia
Date & Time of report	15 April 2020 19:40	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 10 days (5 – 15 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 abroad for 14 days is ongoing.
- The honourable Vice president visited the Public Health Emergency Operation Centre
- The lockdown has been extended until 4 May for entire country, as announced on 14 April 2020 by His Excellency, the President.
  - All borders will remain closed except for essential/critical services and humanitarian support to the response.
  - All others prevention measures are applicable to the entire country

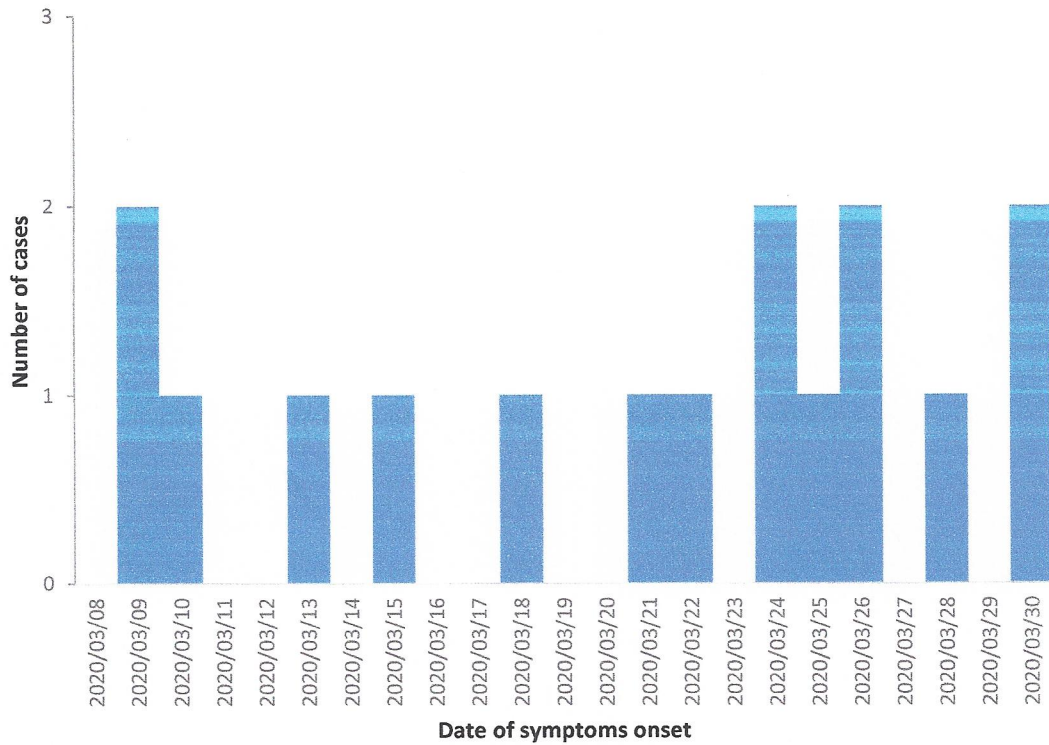
### 2. BACKGROUND

#### Description of the latest cases

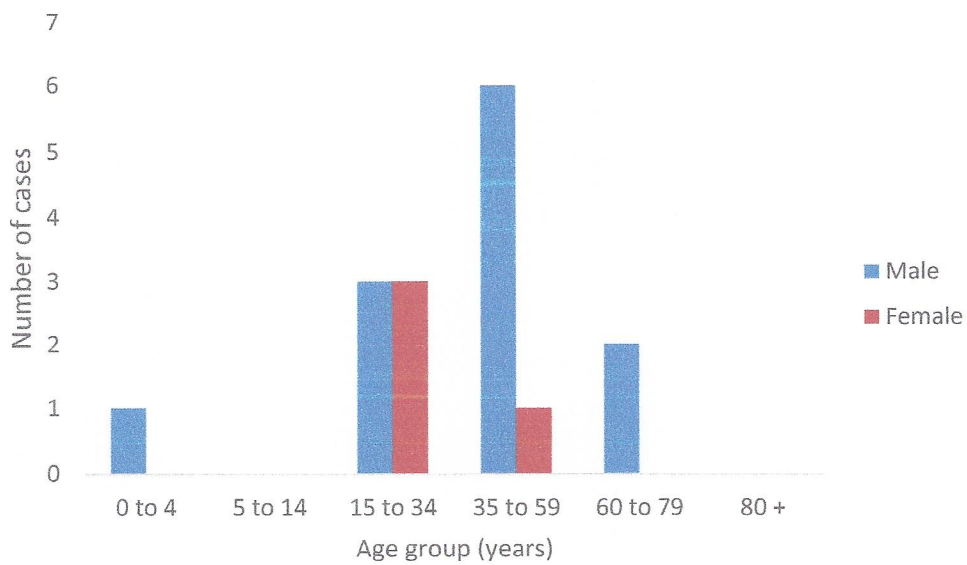
- **Index cases:** Two confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported in Windhoek district on 13 March 2020. The married couple; a 35-year-old male and a 25-year-old female, arrived from Madrid, Spain on 11 March 2020.
- Total number of imported cases currently stands at 13 and 3 cases local transmission.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

*Table 1: Confirmed cases by region as of 15 April 2020*

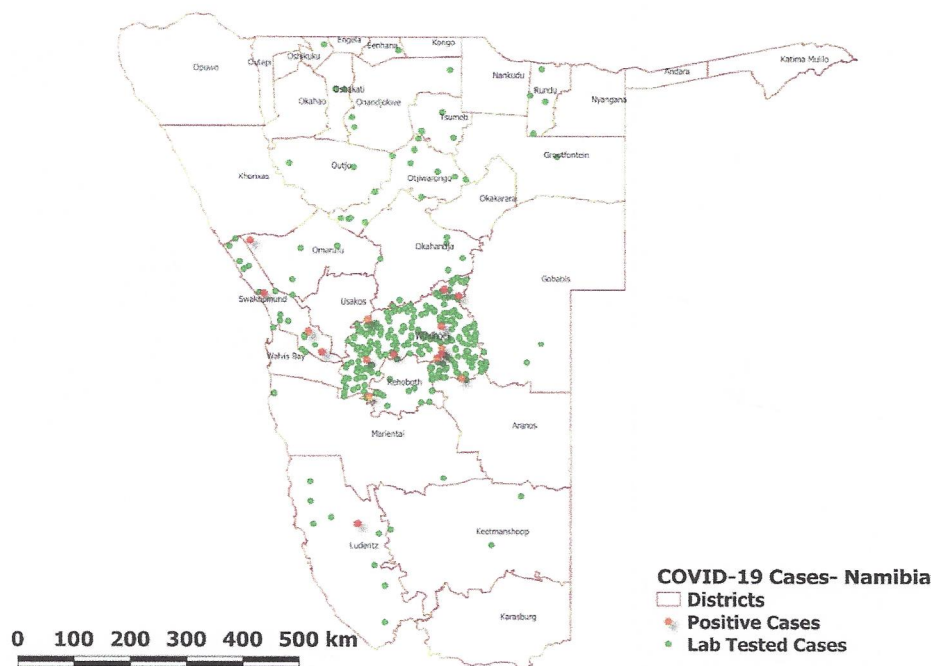
Reporting region	Total Cases	New cases	Active cases	Recovered	Death
Khomas	11	0	8	3	0
//Karas	1	0	1	0	0
Erongo	4	0	4	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>



**Figure 1: Epi-curve for COVID-19 confirmed cases in Namibia as of 15 April 2020**



**Figure 2: Age and sex for COVID-19 confirmed cases in Namibia as of 15 April 2020**



**Figure 3: Suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases in Namibia per District, 15 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 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 suspected case definition

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.

- **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 data dashboards are under development.
  - Active case finding is currently underway in Khomas, Erongo and Karas regions, aimed to look for possible community transmission.
  - Contact tracing is ongoing (see table 3)
  - People under mandatory quarantine are being monitored daily (see table 4) and will be tested before discharge, starting after 15 April
  - Testing will expand to include outpatients with symptoms (any one of cough, sore throat, fever, chills, myalgia/body pains or shortness of breath)

**Table2: Number of suspected cases of COVID-19 from active case search, 15.04.2020**

Region	Number of suspected cases	Laboratory results	
		Positive	Negative
Khomas	22	0	22
Erongo	5	0	5
//Karas	2	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>

### Contact tracing Summary

**Table 3: National contacts tracing summary as of 15.04.2020**

Variables	Contact risk level			
	High	Medium	Low	Total
Total Number of contacts listed (potential)	67	46	116	229
Total Number of contacts identified	66	46	100	212
Total Number of active contacts (being followed)	20	4	4	28
Number of contacts monitored/followed in the last 24hrs	20	4	4	28
Total number of Contacts completed 14-days follow up	43	39	91	173
Total Number of contacts that developed signs & symptoms	23	6	7	36
Total Number of contacts tested positive	3	1	0	4
*Total Number of contacts tested without signs and symptoms	10	1	4	15
© Total Number of contacts lost to follow up	0	2	5	7
# Total number of Contacts never reached	1	0	16	17

\*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.

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

**Table 4: Number of people in mandatory quarantine facility as of 15.04.2020**

Region	Newly quarantined 24hrs	Cumulative number of people	Number of people who developed signs & symptoms and tested	Test results	Number of people discharged
Ohangwena	0	12	0	0	2
Hardap	0	40	0	0	40
Otjozondjupa	39	100	0	0	39
Khomas	1	143	5	5 -ve	125
Zambezi	3	89	3	1 -ve 2 discarded	60
//Karas	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>266</b>

#### LABORATORY INVESTIGATIONS

- As of 15 April 2020, a total of 532 COVID-19 specimens were recorded for testing (38 re-tests to see if the cases have recovered) in the two laboratories (NIP and Path Care) as per table below:

**Table 5: COVID-19 specimens recorded at NIP and Path care Laboratories as of 15.04.2020**

As of 15/04/2020	Laboratory			Total
	NIP	Path care	South Africa	
Total sample received by the Laboratory	357	175	-	532
Total sample tested	290	173	-	463
Total results received	290	173	-	463
Total sample re-tested	38			38
Total results positive	9	6	*1	16
Total results negative	281	167	-	448
Total sample discarded	29	2	-	31
Total results pending	0	0	-	0
Total results inconclusive/indeterminate	0	0	-	0
@Total new suspected cases in last 24 hours	5	0	-	5

\*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 ongoing, to share daily accomplishments and to address key challenges
- Efforts to increase isolation and quarantine facilities are ongoing.
- Finalizing needs assessment and integrated capacity training plans for the responders at National and regional levels.
- Consolidating IMS/EOC organogram and harmonizing SOPs and TORs from all thematic pillars for submission to IM and senior management.

- Issues regarding HR and risk allowance for clinicians are being deliberated on

### **CASE MANAGEMENT**

- Out of the 16 cumulative confirmed cases, 3 recovered, and have been discharged, after testing negative for COVID-19.
- The other 13 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 underway.
- A 12-bed Isolation Unit has been constructed at WCH, awaiting inauguration.
- Ramatex renovation underway to be repurposed as an isolation facility
- Katutura State Hospital (KSH) TB ward being re-purposed into a COVID-19 ward.
- Four Private hospitals in Windhoek (Mediclinic, Lady Pohamba Private Hospital, Rhino Park Private Hospital, and Roman Catholic Hospital) have been designated as the private hospitals for the response of COVID-19 with a combined total of 8 ICU beds and 32 for moderate to severe cases.
  - COVID-19 patients with health insurance cover are eligible to access care in any of the 4 designated facilities
- Training of Health care workers (from different wards and from private facilities) on case management and IPC occurs every day at WCH, KSH, and Robert Mugabe Clinic.
- Bi-weekly ZOOM training sessions for Health Care Workers is ongoing.
- Plan to visit Regions to assess readiness is underway.
- PPE available in stock: 616

### **LOGISTICS:**

- Facilitation of the allocation of quarantine facilities in the country and transport for discharged people from quarantine facilities is ongoing.
- 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:**

- The communication hub continues to give updates on COVID-19 and also clarify miscommunications on a daily basis this is done concurrently with the social media updates.
- Distribution of printed IEC materials to the regions is ongoing.
- A mass media campaign on lockdown has commenced with updates of previously material produced on lockdown.
- Media cards with messages on why an extension of a lockdown is developed and shared on social media.

- The RCCE is discussing the impact of COVID on different thematic social welfare areas such as stigma & discrimination, GBV, child rights etc. The idea is to identify the appropriate messages to targeted groups.
- The RCCE is also continuing sharing advocating messages on ‘social distancing’

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

- Conduct daily planning and feedback meeting team members.
- Health education, psychosocial support and post counselling services to people under quarantine, COVID-19 confirmed cases and their families are ongoing
- Daily orientation to regional social workers on their role in the COVID-19 response continue
- Health education, psychosocial support services provided, as well as food and other material distributed at places where persons in need of shelter are placed is ongoing.
- Health education and psychosocial support services at places where persons in need of shelter are placed is ongoing
- Equipped persons at the sites for persons in need of shelter in doing their own laundry and cooking
- Received 120 two-men tents, 240 blankets and 240 mattresses from MTC Namibia for persons in need of shelter.
- MTC will continue to provide lunch for the persons without shelter at the two sites (278 + 73 persons).
- Total of 160 persons in need of shelter still to be placed.
- Received 50 wood pallets to be used at sites for persons in need of shelter.

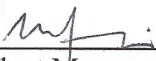
#### **4. CHALLENGES**

- Inadequate and at some places lack of isolation units at health facilities and at points of entry in the regions.
- Inadequate PPE
- Insufficient COVID-19 laboratory testing materials

#### **5. 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.
- Continue to build capacity of response workers.

**Approved:**

  
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 Incident Manager  
 Date: 15.04.2020

  
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 Secretariat