



**Ministry of Health and Social Services  
Republic of Namibia**

<b>NAMIBIA COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT NO. 56</b>			
<b>Outbreak Name</b>	<i>COVID-19</i>	<b>Country affected</b>	<b>Namibia</b>
<b>Date &amp; Time of report</b>	<i>13.05.2020 21:10</i>	<b>Investigation start date</b>	13 March 2020
<b>Prepared by</b>	<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 – 13 May 2020).
- Cumulatively, 16 confirmed cases have been reported in the country, to date.
- Of the 16 confirmed cases, twelve (12) have recovered
  - One confirmed case recovered today (13/05/2020)
- 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

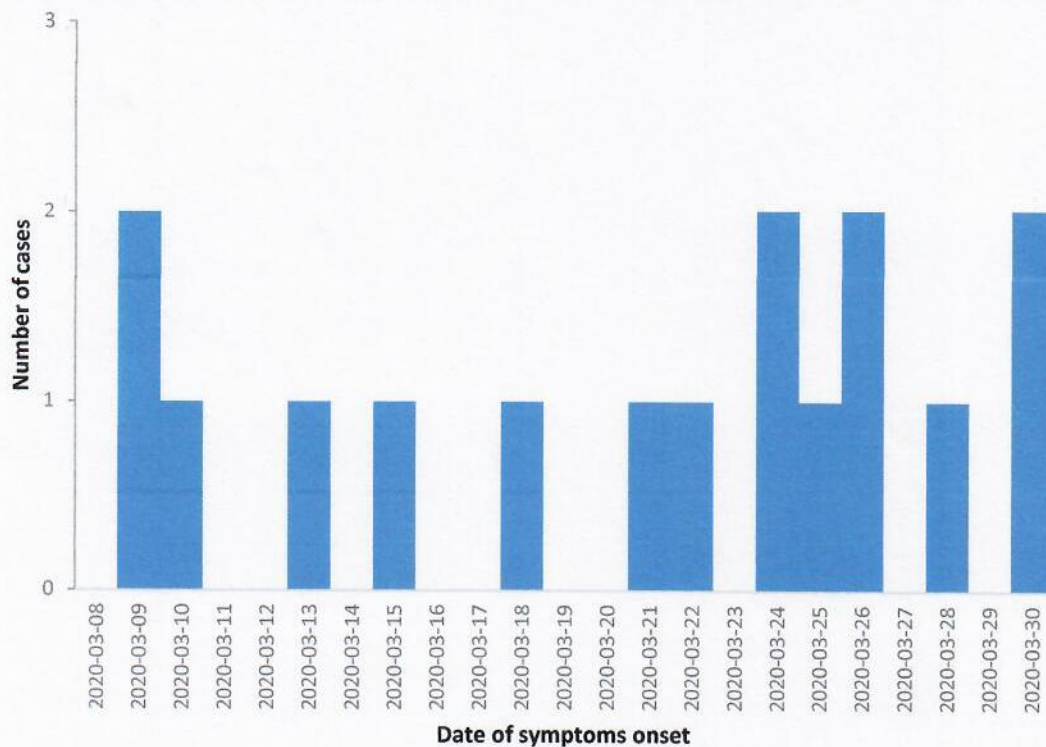
## 2. BACKGROUND

### Description of the cases

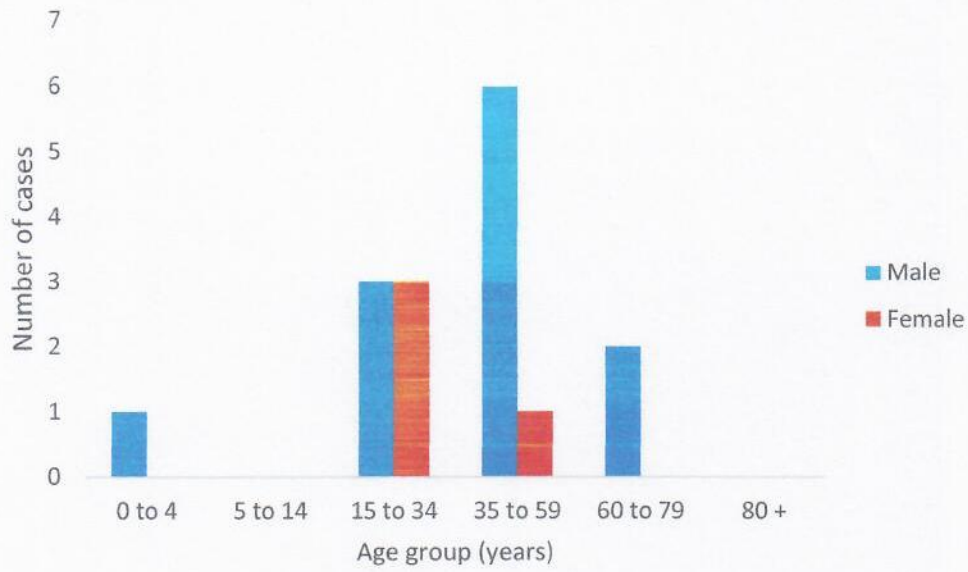
- **Index cases:** Two confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported in Windhoek district on 13 March 2020. The married couple; a 35-year-old male and a 25-year-old female, arrived from Madrid, Spain on 11 March 2020.
- Total number of imported cases currently stands at 13 while 3 cases are local transmissions.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

*Table 1: Confirmed cases by region as of 13 May 2020*

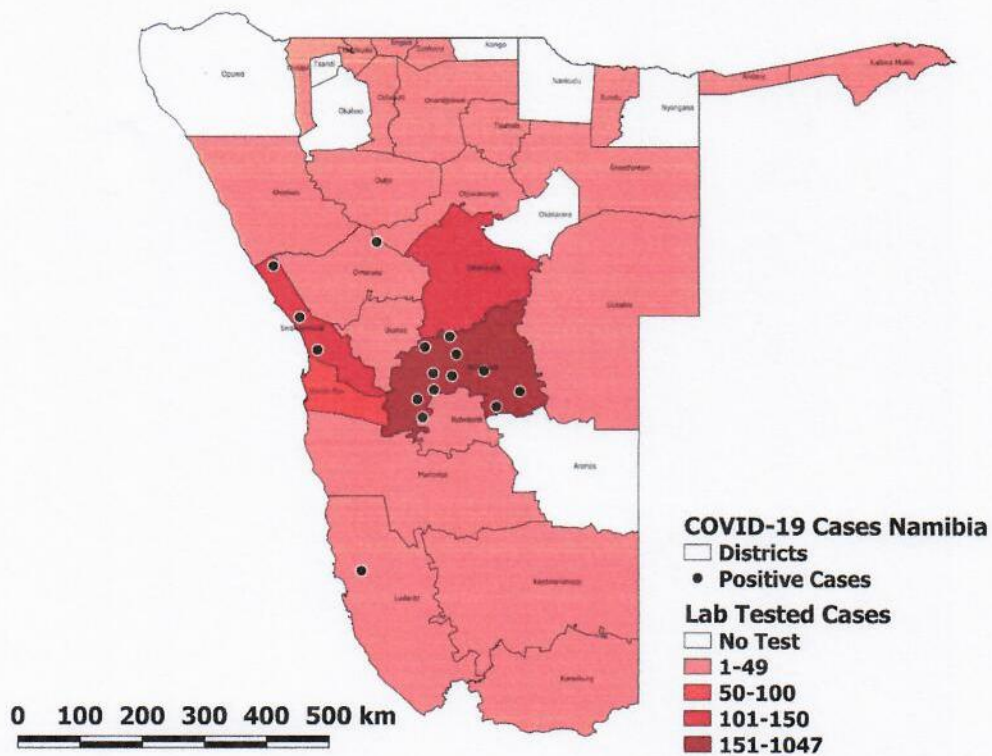
Reporting region	Total Cases	New cases	Active cases	Recovered	Death
Khomas	11	0	2	9	0
//Karas	1	0	1	0	0
Erongo	4	0	1	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>



*Figure 1: Epi-curve for COVID-19 confirmed cases in Namibia as of 13 May 2020*



**Figure 2: Age and sex distribution for COVID-19 confirmed cases in Namibia as of 13.05.2020**



**Figure 3: Suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases in Namibia per District, 13 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.
- 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 13.05.2020*

<b>Variables</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Total</b>
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.*



**Table 3: Number of people in mandatory quarantine facilities as of 13.05.2020**

Region	Newly quarantined 24hrs	Cumulative number of people	Number of people discharged	Number of people in quarantine now
Kunene	0	26	0	26
Omaheke	3	41	18	23
Kavango	0	4	2	2
Omusati	0	61	8	53
Oshana	0	6	4	2
Ohangwena	0	131	54	77
Hardap	0	70	40	30
Otjozondjupa	0	215	100	115
Khomas	5	288	188	100
Zambezi	3	165	111	54
//Karas	32	189	99	90
Erongo	7	44	35	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1240</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>581</b>

There are currently **220** cross border truck drivers in **transit** (quarantined for less than 14 days) in **Walvis Bay**.

#### LABORATORY INVESTIGATIONS

- As of 13 May 2020, 1872 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 13.05.2020**

Variables	Laboratory			Total
	NIP	Path care	South Africa	
Total sample received by the Laboratory	1554	503	-	2057
<b>Total sample tested</b>	<b>1386</b>	<b>486</b>	-	<b>1872</b>
Total sample re-tested	110	9	-	119
Total results positive	9	6	*1	16
Total results negative	1377	480	-	1857
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	130	81	-	211

\*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.

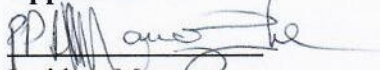
## **4. CHALLENGES**

- 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: 13.05.2020

  
Secretariat