Botswana COVID-19 Status Update

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Minister of Health and Wellness

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Chronology of Events on Botswana’s Response to Covid-19

January: Screening stated at major Ports of Entry
National Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response activated

February: Botswana COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan formulated

March: First case of Covid-19 reported in Botswana
Botswana declares Public Health Emergency.
Botswana imposed mandatory 14 days facility-quarantine
Presidential Task Force on Covid-19 appointed

April: State of Public Health Emergency declared
Extreme Social distancing introduced
End of Extreme Social Distancing

May: Introduction of Zones for Control of Covid-19
Mandatory use of masks
Structure for Presidential Task Force on Covid-19

- Ministries/Departments
- Private Sector
- Statutory Voluntary Agencies, Universities
- International Bodies
- Relevant Regulators
- Development Partners

- Incidents Posts
  - Screening
  - Movement Control
  - Processing
### Thematic Areas and Objectives

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<th>Thematic Areas</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
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| Coordination                                             | • Build capacity of PHEOC  
• Identify districts to prioritise for COV-19 preparedness  
• Strengthen coordination and management of all Public health emergency activities during the COV-19 outbreak |
| Surveillance, rapid response teams, and case investigation| • Early detection of people exposed to corona virus                                                                                       |
| Laboratory support                                       | • Ensure preparedness of the laboratory for COVID19                                                                                       |
| Case Management                                          | • To capacitate all health care-worker cadres and stakeholders on management and prevention of coronavirus  
• Isolation and management of suspected and confirmed coronavirus cases                                                                  |
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<td>Infection Prevention and Control</td>
<td>• Use of harmonized assessment tools to measure and improve the performance of health facilities.</td>
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<td>• Strengthen IPC in the community and in health facilities.</td>
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<td>Port health</td>
<td>• Focus on supporting surveillance and risk communication activities.</td>
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<td>• Screening of travellers at PoEs enable early identification of suspect cases and raising of alerts.</td>
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<td>• Disseminating COVID-19 prevention and control messages to travellers at PoEs.</td>
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<td>Risk Communication and Community Engagement.</td>
<td>• To sensitize and educate the public about the Novel Coronavirus</td>
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<td>• To detect and respond to concerns, rumours and misinformation</td>
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<td>Logistics</td>
<td>• To procure all the commodities needed for coronavirus prevention and control</td>
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<td>• To avail transportation of patients and staff during the outbreak</td>
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ACHIEVEMENTS

● Political-will (led by H.E. the President)

● Early detection of cases through testing and contact tracing

  ○ Increased testing capacity: **Government (6):** National Health Laboratory, Francistown, Kasane, Palapye*, Botswana Vaccine Institute, Botswana Veterinary Laboratory

  ○ **Partners (2):** Botswana-Harvard Reference Laboratory, University of Botswana

  ○ Testing Currently estimated at **4,000/day**

● Reduced spread of the Corona virus (48 cases)

  ○ Low local transmission

● Public adherence to lockdown regulations.

● Improved coordination of interventions with stakeholders

● Support from international organisations, NGOs and the private sector.
Emerging Challenges

- Number of cases detected at the border among **Truck drivers** stands at a total of 25 cases, signifying an ongoing risk of **importation** of COVID-19.
- Limited access to supplies, including PPE, reagents etc
- Shortage of blood in the blood banks
- Addiction, withdrawal and cravings due to tobacco and alcohol restrictions
- Gender Based Violence
- Incidents of crowding
- Disruptions in provision of essential health services
Way Forward

- Strengthen the health care system – e.g. preparation of Isolation sites, equipping facilities and Human Resource
- Testing expansion at regional level and points of entry
  - Testing projected to increase to 10,000 test/day
- Private Laboratory Testing to initiate
- Surveillance and active case finding
- Maintenance of health protocols such as hand washing, wearing masks and social distancing
- Focus on Research and Development and explore the potential for traditional medicine
- Explore local manufacturing for PPE and other essential commodities
Thank you