

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

UPDATE BY DR. KALUMBI SHANGULA, MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES ON COVID-19 IN NAMIBIA.

1 June 2020

WINDHOEK
**Check Against Delivery*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kalumbi Shangula', is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

1. Good morning Moderator and good morning the people of Namibia. Today, the first day of June marks the last day of Stage 2 of the State of Emergency. On the 2nd of June 2020, Namibia will enter Stage 3 of the State of Emergency. During Stage 3, a number of activities are allowed to resume. This includes the resumption of face-to-face educational activities.
2. The decision to transit from Stage 2 to Stage 3 of the State of Emergency and for educational activities to resume is based on the following consideration:
 - 2.1. The Basic Reproduction Ratio (R_0), which is the expected number of cases directly generated by one case in a susceptible population remains less than one ($R_0 < 1$);
 - 2.2. There is no evidence of community transmission in Namibia;
 - 2.3. All the latest new Covid-19 positive cases are imported from outside Namibia;
 - 2.4. Restrictive measures in Stage 3 provide sufficient safeguards for the prevention of possible transmission;
 - 2.5. Public health measures in Stage 3 are considered adequate to prevent possible transmission of infection even in cases of face-to-face education and training settings and during limited public gatherings;
 - 2.6. Our epidemiological and surveillance tools are sensitive enough to predict and detect possible hotspots for Covid-19 transmission;
3. Notwithstanding the above, the risk of infection in a pandemic situation cannot be eliminated entirely. However, one has to weigh the probability of infection against other socio-economic imperatives and the inalienable rights to education. I would like to thank the National Union of Namibian Workers for its preparedness to partner with the Ministry of Health and Social Services in combating Covid-19. It is important that stakeholders come together and find a solution to the problem.
4. The Ministry of Health and Social Services has prescribed the following minimum conditions precedent for the educational institutions:
 - 4.1. Provision of potable water.
 - 4.2. Provision of hygienic ablution facilities.
 - 4.3. Provision of amenities for hand washing and sanitizing.
 - 4.4. Upon resumption, students, learners, teaching staff and management must wear masks and practice social distancing.
5. I am pleased to announce the recoveries of Case No 1 and Case No 2, the Romanian couple. It has taken 79 days since the couple was diagnosed with Covid-19. They were our first two cases. The couple's recoveries mark the end of the chapter involving the first 16 cases. It took 45 days before we recorded a new case. The response team is excited about this good news. We wish them well in their future endeavour.
6. I now give you an update on Case No 22 as of this morning. Case No 22 is still in ICU on a ventilator but in a stable condition. There is no new development in his condition since I briefed the nation yesterday.

7. We have recorded a new Covid-19 positive case. A 32-year old Namibian female health worker traveled to Cape Town on a bus towards the end of March 2020 and returned to Namibia by air on the 29th May 2020. She was put in quarantine upon arrival. She was tested for Covid-19 and the result came out positive. This is now Case No 25. She has a running nose but otherwise her condition is satisfactory. This is an imported case.

8. The status of Covid-19 in Namibian is as follow:

• Confirmed Cases:	25
• Recoveries:	16
• Active Cases:	9
• Deaths:	0
• Total number tested:	3 970
• Total contacts:	378
• Total quarantine:	2 189
• Total number discharged:	1 570
• Total in quarantine:	619

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