

Zambia COVID-19 Situational Report No. 01

Disease Outbreak/Event: COVID-19

Response start date: 30th January, 2020

Date of report: 19th March, 2020

1. CURRENT SITUATION UPDATE

- **2 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 on 18th March 2020;
- **No new cases** were recorded in the past 24hrs.
- **No deaths recorded.**

Highlights

- There are currently five patients (2 confirmed COVID-19 positive) quarantined at Tubalange Hospital in Chilanga; 5 suspected cases were discharged on 17th March 2020.
- A case management team of specialist doctors is on site
- Close contacts who were on board the same flight as the cases have been contacted and placed on home quarantine. Contact tracing has been initiated
- **Surveillance:** passenger screening at Points of Entry (POEs) and follow up of surveillance alerts remain in effect
- **Laboratory testing:** the University Teaching Hospital Virology Lab (UTHVL) is the designated primary diagnostic laboratory for COVID-19, with additional capacity at the School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM), UNZA
- **Statutory Instruments:** The Minister of Health issued SI 21 and 22 outlining government directives in response to the outbreak, including the mandatory notification of all COVID-19 cases and additional regulations to facilitate management and control of COVID-19 such as heightened sanitation and provision of handwashing facilities in all public places
- **Africa Situation:** As of 19th March 2020, there had been 640 total confirmed cases recorded in 34 African countries (with 16 deaths recorded in 5 countries). Proposal to remove the Africa situation consider adding a map of Zambia for case distribution

Zambia Current Numbers

 2 confirmed (0 new)
 0 deaths (0 new)

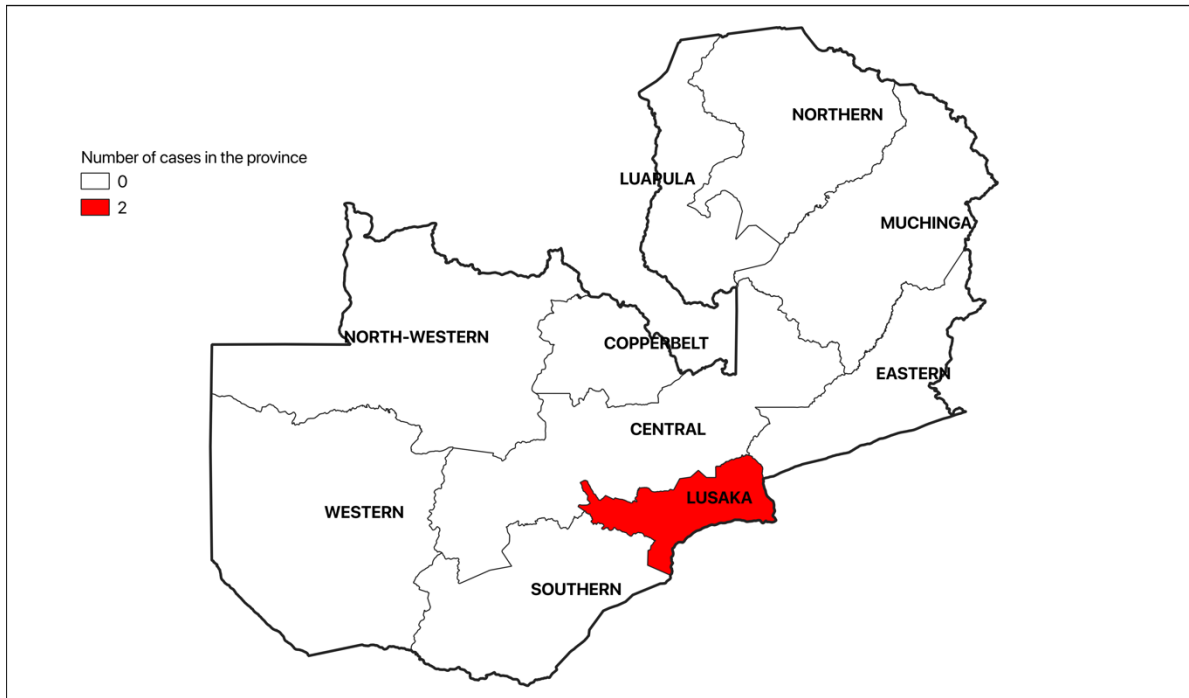
Global Numbers as of 19/03/20

(Source: WHO)

 **209,839** confirmed (16,556 new)
 8,778 deaths (828 new)

**New: in last 24hrs*

Map of Zambia showing provinces with confirmed COVID-19 cases as at 18 March 2020



2. ACTIONS TO DATE

2.1 CO-ORDINATION

➤ Ministerial Level:

- High level inter-ministerial coordinating meetings, chaired by the Secretary to the Cabinet have been held.
- K57,000,000 contingency emergency fund has been set up to strengthen response and enhance public health security.
- The National Epidemic Preparedness, Prevention Control and Management Committee (NEPPC&MC), chaired by the Hon. Minister of Health, Dr Chitalu Chilufya, hold regular meetings
- Press briefings have been held regularly since declaration of outbreak by the Hon. Minister of Health, Dr. Chitalu Chilufya.

➤ Technical level

- An Incident Management Structure (IMS) was set up at the Zambia National Public Health Institute following the declaration of the outbreak as a PHEIC. The IMS meets twice weekly to

receive updates on preparedness efforts around the country. (Refer to Annex 2 for the IMS structure

- Technical co-ordinating meetings are being held with cooperating partners and other stakeholders. The meetings are chaired by the Director, ZNP HI.

2.2 SURVEILLANCE

- **Standard Case Definitions are being used**
- **Contact Tracing:**
- **The electronic contact tracing form has been uploaded to enhance data collection**
 - Eight (8) close contacts who were on the same flight as the confirmed cases- have been identified and contact tracing initiated. Contact tracing is being conducted using mobile phones and by home visit when unable to establish contact by phone.
 - The flight with two confirmed cases arrived at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport in Lusaka on Sunday 15th March, 2020 before it proceeded to Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwean officials have been notified through the Africa CDC.

As of 20th March 2020, the COVID-19 status for Zambia is summarised in the tables 1 and 2 below;

Table 1 COVID-19 surveillance and monitoring report as of 18hrs on 19th March 2020

Parameter	Number
Total screened to date	29,902
Risk persons currently being monitored	2,302
Risk persons that have completed 14 days	460
Number of alerts notified & verified as non-cases	62
Risk persons under investigation	2
Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases	2

Table 2 COVID-19 situation in the past 24 hrs.

PROVINCE/DISTRICT	ISOLATION CENTRE	Situation in past 24 hours				
		Suspected cases	confirmed cases	Total Admissions	Discharges	Deaths
LUSAKA/Lusaka	Tubalange	5	2	7	0	0
	LMGH	0	0	0	0	0
	UTH	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		5	2	7	0	0

2.3 LABORATORY CAPACITY

- The University Teaching Hospital Virology Lab (UTHVL) a WHO-certified National Influenza Centre, is the designated primary diagnostic laboratory for COVID-19, with additional capacity at the School of Veterinary Medicine, at the university of Zambia (UNZA).
- Forty-seven (47) samples have been received to date; 28 have been tested, two of which were positive. Twenty-six (26) samples were negative and 17 results were pending
- The test turn-around time is 24 hours, and can take up to 36-48 hours where repeat or confirmatory testing is required
- **Criteria for testing:** individuals who meet the case definition *or* individuals who have had contact/been exposed to a confirmed positive case and are symptomatic

2.4 CASE MANAGEMENT

- Ten (10) patients have been admitted to the facility to date; two of whom were confirmed positive.
- Five suspected cases were discharged on 18th March 2020.
- Plans have been initiated to transfer the cases to Levy Mwanawasa Hospital in Lusaka.
- Drill have been conducted for 24 nurses assigned to the Tubalange facility.
- Two temporary screening structures have been set up at UTH and Levy for COVID-19 screening in order to decongest the facilities and reduce the risk of COVID-19
- Needs assessment and onsite critical care and IPC training has been scheduled for all the larger hospitals

2.5 HEALTH PROMOTION AND RISK COMMUNICATION

- Interactive risk communication and health promotion programmes have been broadcast on a number of radio and television stations; regular press statements and press briefs have also been issued



- Three hotlines (0953-898941; 0964-638726; 0974-493553) have been set up at the ZNPHI for the public to call for information regarding COVID-19.
- The developed IEC materials are available at the following link: <http://znphi.co.zm/news/new-coronavirus-covid-19-travelers-guide-and-fact-sheet/>

➤ Table 2: Distribution of IEC materials as of 19th March 2020

IEC Material	Number Printed	Number issued
Brochures	140,000	130,000
Factsheets	145,000	135,000
Fliers	145,000	135,000
Poster 1	44,000	42,000
Poster 2	42,000	42,000

3. GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- Continued global market shortage of lab reagents and other logistical requirements
- Lack of positive controls for COVID-19 platform is hampering the number of tests performed
- Needs assessment of hospitals not finalised
- Toll free line goes unanswered and at times staff are not helpful
- Additional thermal scanners required at the POEs (quantify number needed)

4. PRIORITY ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Clinical guidelines to be continually updated as the outbreak evolves.
- Possible use of RNA from local or South African confirmed cases to produce positive controls for testing
- Continued screening of travellers from affected regions; home quarantine and follow up for asymptomatic persons, and isolation at designated facility for symptomatic persons. Stricter instructions must be provided to all people screened.
- Update and share contingency plan with all partners
- Use of tele-conferencing/virtual meeting for IMS meetings
- Assign trained staff to the toll-free line to respond to COVID-19 queries
- Relocate staff and patients currently at Tubalange to Levy Mwanawasa Hospital
- Staff mapping of critical care staff and other emergency staff

5. CONCLUSION



Ministry of Health



Zambia has reported two confirmed cases of COVID-19. The Ministry will continue to coordinate efforts across sectors to ensure the health security of the Zambia population. All efforts must be heightened to ensure the outbreak is contained and no local transmission is recorded. Early identification, isolation and care for patients as well as interrupting transmission by reducing secondary infection among close contacts and health care workers is cardinal.

ANNEX 2: NATIONAL LEVEL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS RESPONSE

