

ZAMBIA SITUATION REPORT NO. 44

Disease Outbreak: COVID-19 **Response start date:** 30th January, 2020 **Outbreak Declared:** 18th March, 2020
Date of report: 1st May, 2020 **Prepared by:** MOH/ZNPPI/WHO **Correspondence:** ims.covid@znphi.co.zm

1. SITUATION UPDATE

1.1 CURRENT CASE NUMBERS

➤ As of 12:00 hours on Friday, 1st May, 2020:

- There were **3 new confirmed cases of COVID-19, 19 recoveries and 0 deaths** recorded in the past 24 hours.
- The total number of confirmed cases recorded to date is **109, with 3 deaths (CFR=2.75%) and 74 recoveries.**
- There are currently **32 active cases – 25 in Lusaka and 7 on the Copperbelt**

Zambia Numbers

👤 **109 Confirmed (3 new)**
 🚰 **3 Deaths (0 new)**
 🌿 **74 Recoveries (19 new)**

Global Numbers

(Source: JHU)

👤 **3,308,323 Confirmed (87,353 new)**
 🚰 **234,101 deaths (5,850 new)**
 🌿 **1,042,874 recoveries (120,052 new)**

*New: in the last 24hrs

2. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Table 1: COVID-19 Surveillance and case management summary, based on 1st May 2020 report

Parameter	Number
Cumulative number of high risk persons observed	11,270
Cumulative number of high risk persons that have completed 14 days observation	3,038
Cumulative number of alerts notified & verified as non-cases	1,314
Cumulative Number of Test Results Processed	6,882
Tests per 1,000,000 population	405
Total Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Positive Cases	109

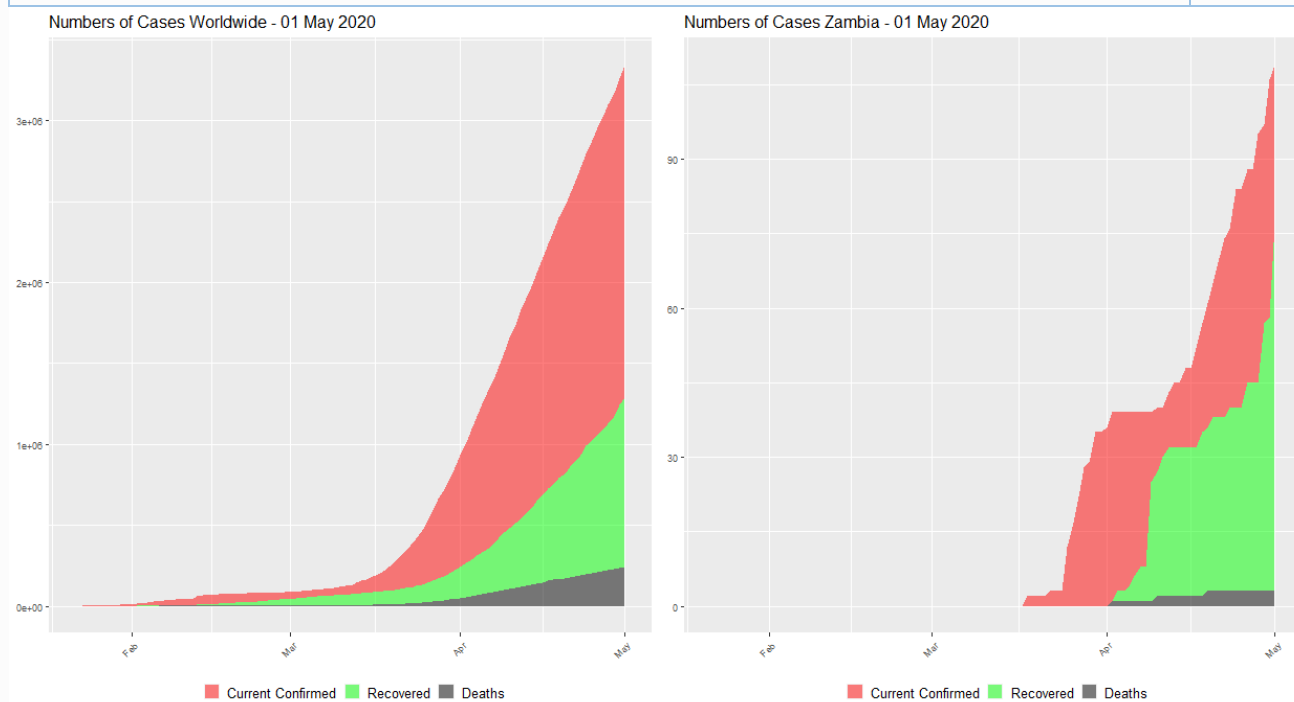


Figure 1: Daily cumulative COVID-19 confirmed cases (N=109), deaths (N=3) and recoveries (N=74) as of 1st May 2020

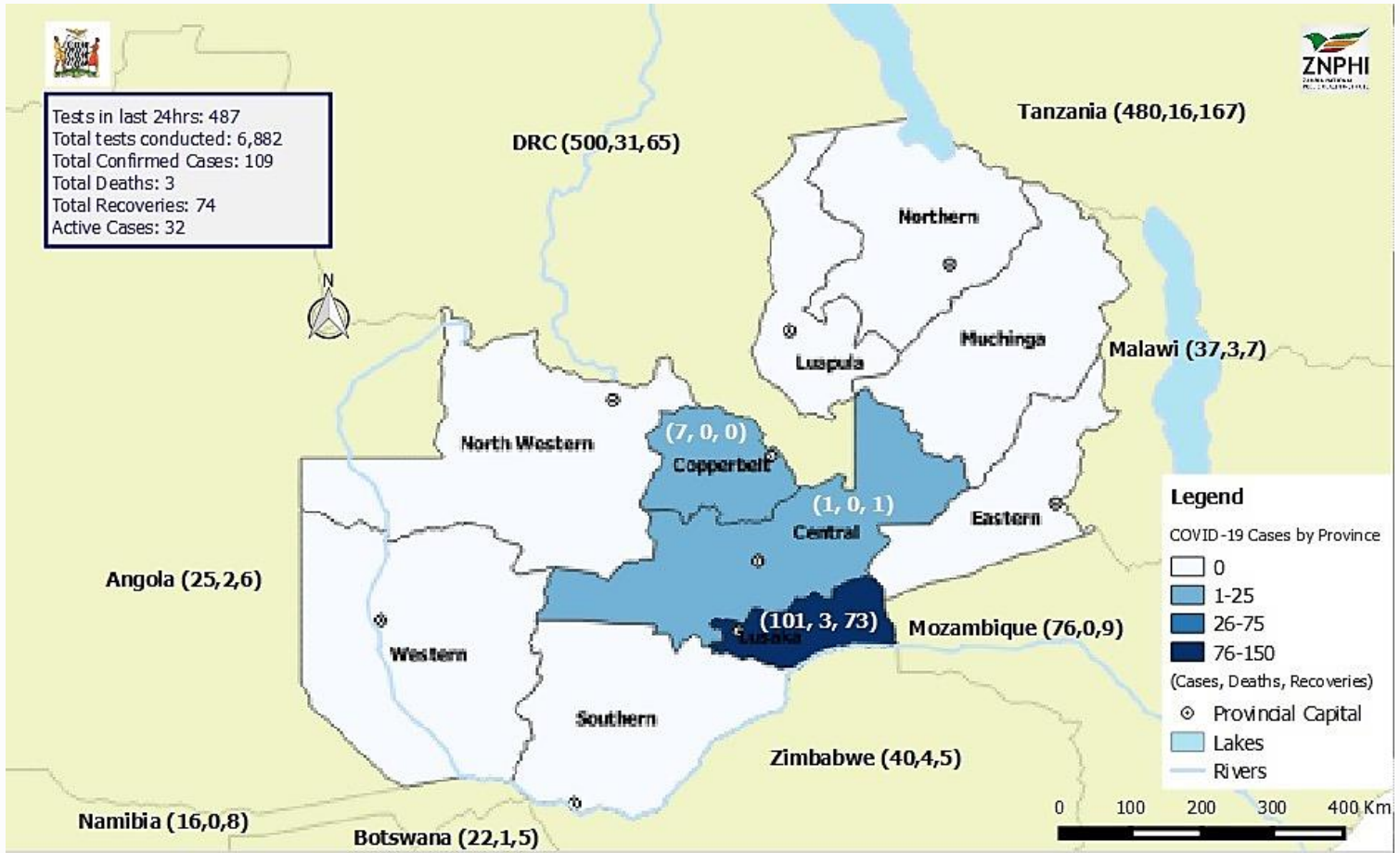


Figure 2: Map of Zambia showing confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and recoveries (in brackets) by province, as well as confirmed cases, deaths and recoveries (in brackets) in neighbouring countries as of 1st May 2020

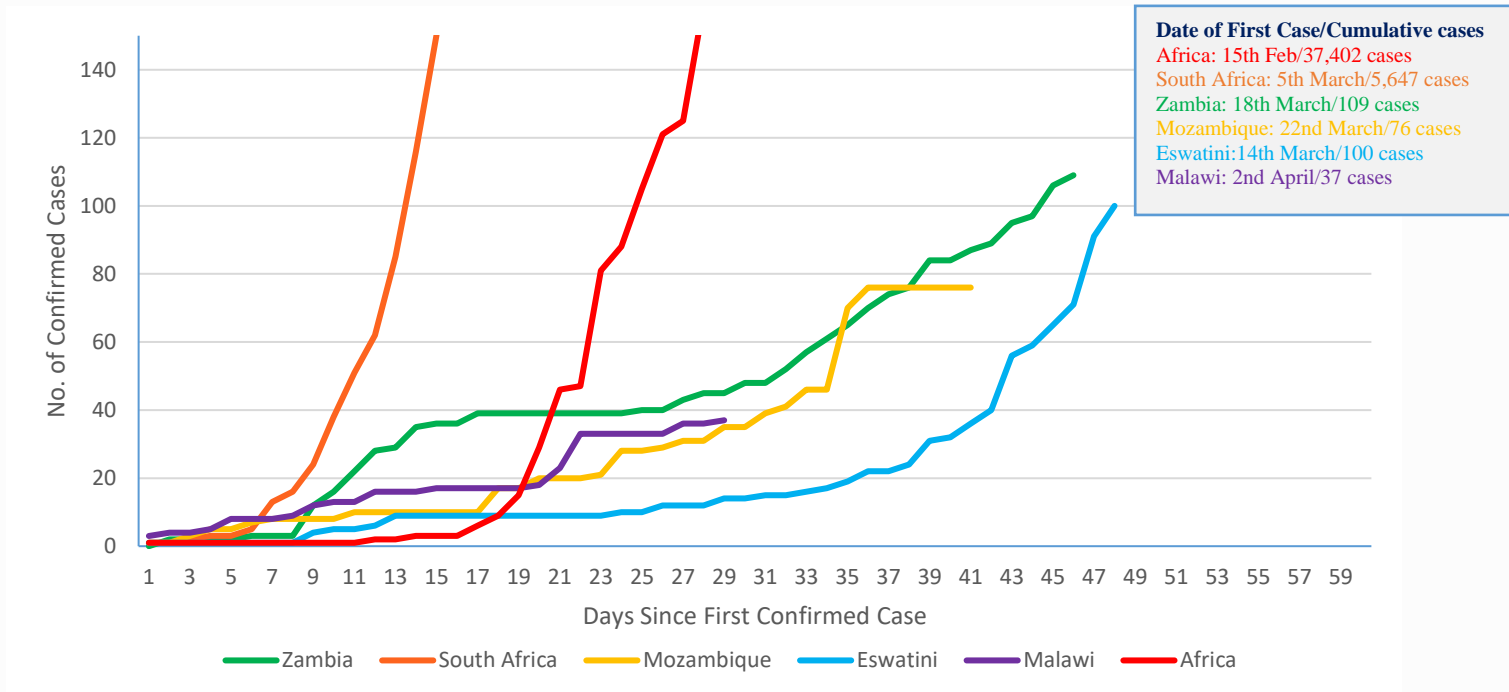


Figure 3: Cumulative trend graph comparing top 5 countries in Southern Africa with highest case numbers and the whole of Africa recorded since outbreaks declared (Sources: MoH Zambia, NICD South Africa, Africa CDC)

- **Age and Sex distribution:** Of the 109 confirmed cases, 63% are male and 37% are female. The most affected age group remains those aged between 15-30 years old (31%), followed by the 31-44 age group (29%) and 45-60 age group (23%).

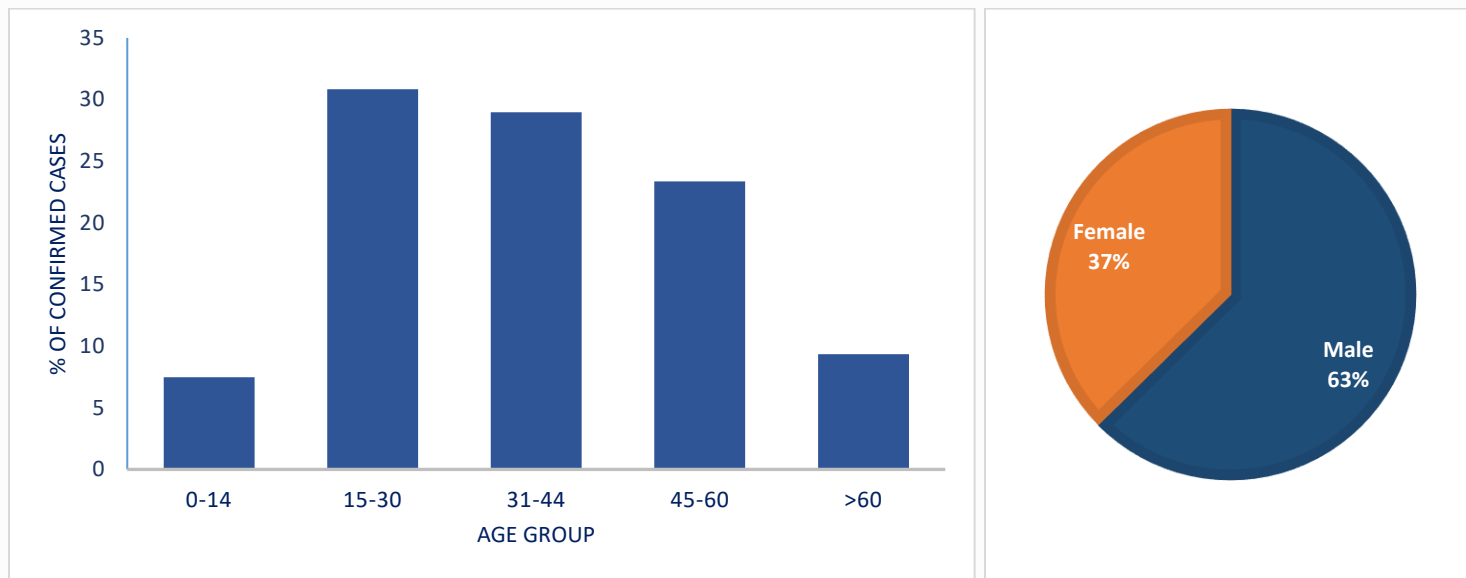


Figure 4: Age and Sex distribution of confirmed cases, as of 1st May 2020

➤ ACTIONS TO DATE

2.1 CO-ORDINATION

- **Regional/Continental level:** Zambia hosts the Southern Africa Regional Collaborating Centre of the Africa CDC and has been coordinating the response at regional level. To date, **Southern Africa has recorded 5,772 confirmed cases of COVID-19 including 117 deaths and 2,178 recoveries.** Zambia continues to participate in AU meetings to ensure continued regional and continental trade and strategies to stop transmission of COVID-19.

➤ Policy Level:

- A **COVID-19 contingency plan** outlining the country was finalised and continues to be regularly updated as the outbreak evolves.
- The Ministry of Health in line with its agenda for universal health coverage and in a bid to ensure a resilient health system has pledged the continuity of provision of essential and routine health care services including antenatal care, child health and immunisation

BACKGROUND

The WHO was alerted of an increase in the number of pneumonia cases of unknown cause detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. The disease now called Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is caused by a new coronavirus named SARS-CoV-2. WHO declared the outbreak a PHEIC on 30th January and on 12th March it was declared a pandemic. Zambia recorded its first two cases of COVID-19 on 18th March 2020. The couple had a history of travel to France. More cases with a history of travel have been detected in Zambia. There is an increasing number of local person-to-person transmission.

- The government continues to enforce the measures and interventions to control the spread of COVID-19 countrywide as outlined in the Statutory instruments **SI21** and **SI22 of 2020 on COVID-19 and presidential directives** issued in March 2020. The public health safety measures implemented include closure of schools and higher learning institutions; wearing of a mask while out in public; continued screening of travellers into Zambia; redirection of all international flights to land and depart from KKIA only; suspension of non-essential travel to countries with confirmed COVID-19 cases; restriction of public gatherings; restaurants to operate only on take away and delivery basis; and closure of all bars, nightclubs, cinemas, gyms and casinos.
- In his third presidential address on COVID-19, HE Dr. E. C. Lungu stated that following the expiration of the 14-day extension period of restrictions and other outbreak control measures, some activities may continue to be undertaken subject to adherence to public health regulations, guidelines and certifications. Failure to adhere to public health regulations, guidelines and certification will attract penalties including revocation of licenses. These activities are:
 - congregation in places of worship on condition that handwashing/sanitising, social distancing and mandatory wearing of face masks are observed
 - sporting activities such as golf and tennis which do not involve physical contact between players and where the sport is played in a non-crowded space can resume; however, bars on these premises must remain closed
 - barbershops and saloons may operate with strict adherence and observance of social distancing, regular sanitising and hand washing.
- It is estimated that ~30% of health workers are likely to become infected with COVID-19 in the course of duty. Following the rising number of health works confirmed as COVID-19 cases, the government has directed that IPC measures in health facilities must be reinforced in order to protect frontline health workers. These include reorientation of all staff in IPC practices, designated senior members of staff assigned to enforce IPC compliance, increased stock of PPE to guarantee availability for all staff, and additional manpower assigned to ensure disinfection of all surfaces.
- Travellers into Zambia will be isolated at designated government facilities, or alternatively at one of 4 identified hotels at own cost, while awaiting test results.
- Meetings of the Committee of Ministers, Committee of Permanent Secretaries, and the National Epidemic Preparedness, Prevention Control and Management Committee (NEPPC&MC) have been convened since the declaration of the outbreak
- The Minister of Health holds daily press briefings on the evolving outbreak situation in Zambia.

- **Technical level:** The ZNPPI continues to provide leadership and partner collaboration on the response.
 - The IMS continues to meet at the ZNPPI (with a Zoom link provided to ensure social distancing) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. (Refer to Annex 1 for structure)
 - All the response pillars under the IMS have an Incident Coordinator whose responsibility it is to map the partners and resources for the respective units to ensure no duplication of efforts and resources. Public Health Specialists in each of the sub-districts in Lusaka serve as Incident Commanders and coordinate daily activities of field teams.
 - Technical co-ordinating meetings are being held with cooperating partners and other stakeholders. The meetings are chaired by the Director, ZNPPI

2.2 SURVEILLANCE AND OUTBREAK INVESTIGATION

- Efforts to rapidly detect any cases have been heightened through surveillance around the country at community level, health facilities, points of entry (POEs), and sentinel sites. Contact tracing, monitoring of persons under quarantine and adherence, verification and follow up of alerts and timely transport of cases to isolation facilities is ongoing.
- **Case finding: Three (3) new cases** were reported today, all within Lusaka. Among these were: one 55-year old male truck driver who entered Zambia via Nakonde; one 36-year old male contact of a known case; and one 13-year old female from Mtendere identified through hospital based surveillance

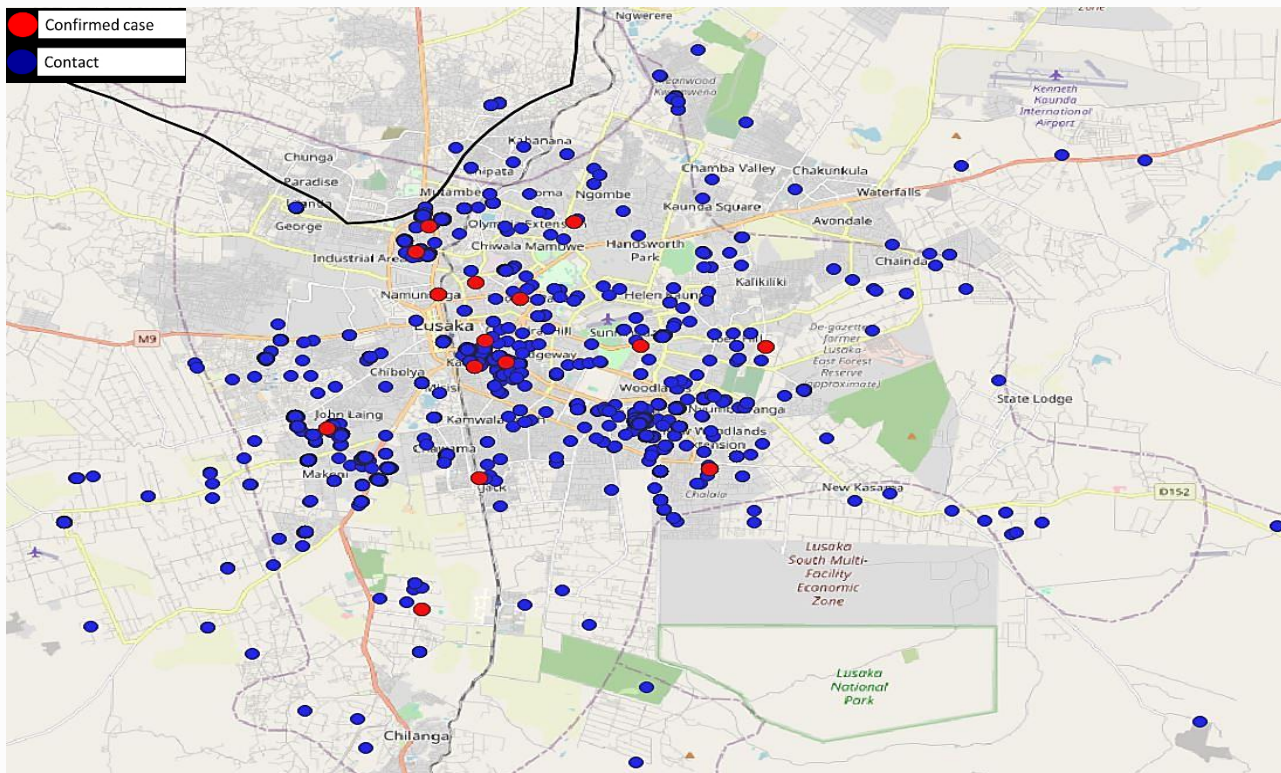


Figure 5: Distribution of confirmed cases and traced contacts in Lusaka, last updated 29th April 2020

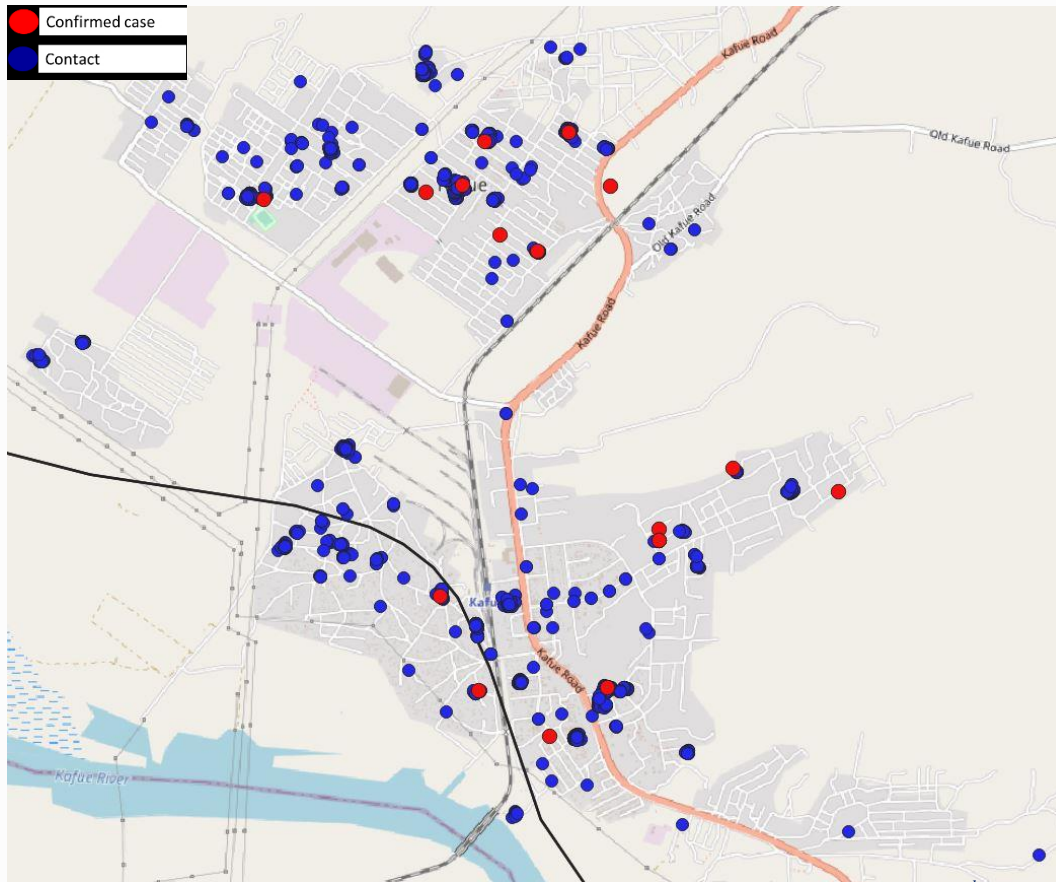


Figure 6: Distribution of confirmed cases and traced contacts in Kafue, last updated 29th April 2020

➤ **Points of Entry:**

- Active screening continues in all PoEs. Larger space for quarantine has been identified in Nakonde and a separate facility has also been established in Mpika.
- Asymptomatic travellers into Zambia must undergo 14-day mandatory quarantine at either a government facility or one of 4 hotels that have been identified to serve as quarantine facilities (**Radisson Blu, Hilton, Shakespeare and Fallsway Apartments**). Accommodation at these hotels will be at the **travellers' own cost**.
- Trucks entering the borders carrying essential commodities are permitted to proceed to their destination under secure escort, at which point the drivers are placed under quarantine pending test results.

➤ **Laboratory:** There are currently 3 designated laboratories for COVID-19 diagnostics, namely the University Teaching Hospital Virology Lab (UTHVL) (WHO-certified National Influenza Centre), the School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM), UNZA and the Tropical Diseases Research Centre (TDRC) on the Copperbelt. A sample referral system is in place for samples being collected in other provinces. Zambia is utilising real-time **Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing** for COVID-19 diagnosis. Some rapid diagnostic testing (RDT) has been conducted using a total antibody test (IgM and IgG). The RDT has an 86.43% sensitivity and 99.57% specificity. However, preliminary data has shown that there is a higher

likelihood of false positives and false negatives within the first 3-5 days of infection; sensitivity does increase by day eight. Therefore, any results from the RDT have to undergo confirmatory testing with PCR.

- In the last 24 hours, **three (3)** samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. A total of **6,882 results** have been processed with **109 confirmed positive (1.58% positivity rate)** for SARS-CoV-2. The testing coverage is **405 per 1,000,000 population**, compared to an average of 1,800/1M for countries in the SADC region.
- The standard turn-around time for the PCR test is 24 hours, but can take up to 36-48 hours where repeat or confirmatory testing is required. Due to the high through-put required for population level screening and the reliance on real time PCR results, there is currently a back log of samples.
- **Criteria for testing:** individuals who meet the case definition or individuals who have had contact/been exposed to a confirmed positive case and/or are symptomatic. Testing has also been extended to all communities with confirmed cases. Testing of community alerts, suspects under quarantine, contacts of confirmed cases as well as re-testing of confirmed cases is ongoing.
- Mass screening and testing to increase case finding will be conducted in **Rhodes Park** on 1st and 2nd May, 2020.

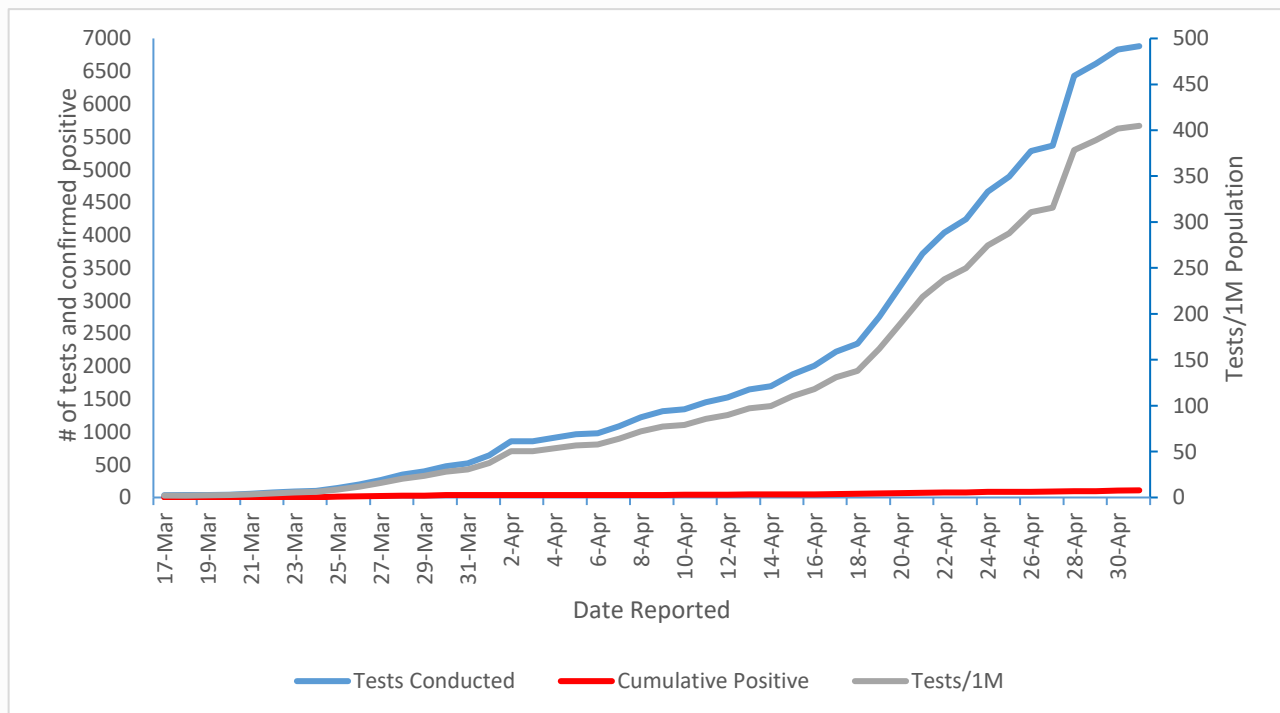


Figure 7: Graph showing cumulative number of PCR tests conducted, confirmed cases and tests per 1M population between 17th March and 1st May 2020

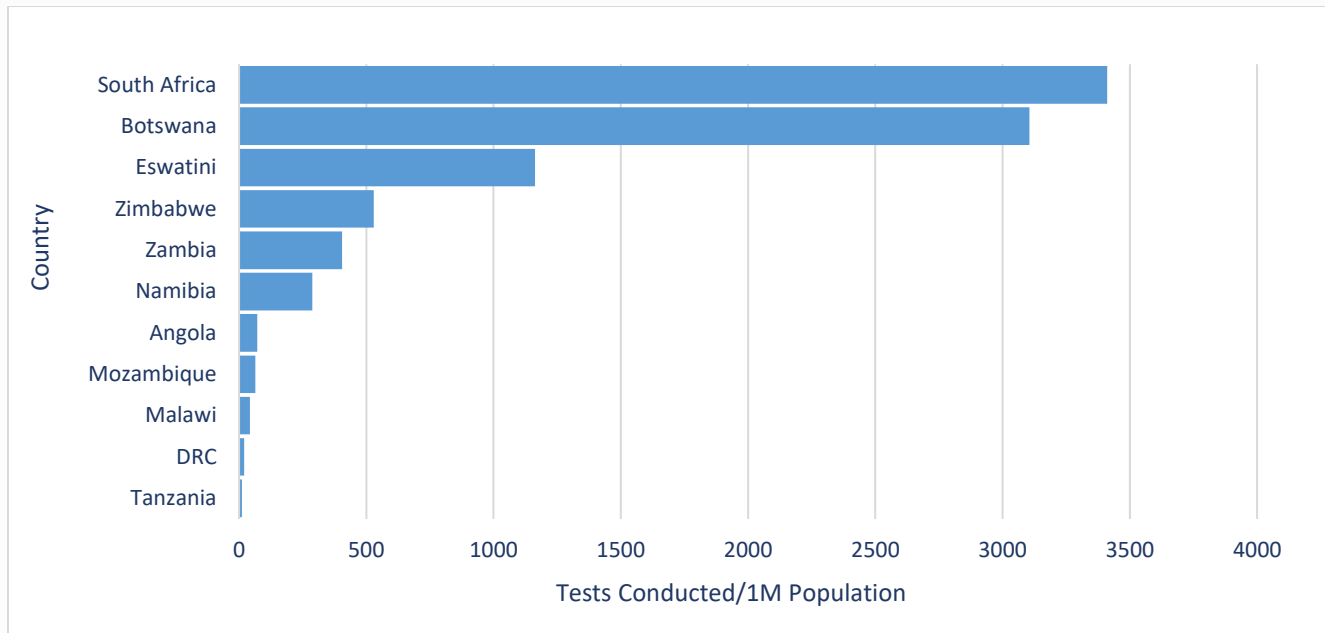


Figure 8: Number of COVID-19 tests conducted per million population by Country in Southern Africa (Source: Africa CDC COVID-19 dashboard), 1st May 2020

➤ **Case Management:** All confirmed cases are admitted to the designated isolation facilities. Psychosocial care is also provided for staff and patients at the isolation facilities. *Patients are only considered recovered once they record two negative re-test results within a 24hour period.* Refer to Annex 1 for detailed summary. Additionally, all health workers are required to undergo 14-day quarantine following their shift at the isolation facilities before they return to their communities.

- 19 patients from Lusaka were discharged following sero-conversion to COVID-19 negative; 9 of these are health workers.
- There are currently **32 active COVID-19 cases** being managed at various facilities; 25 in Lusaka and 7 on the Copperbelt. All cases are stable except the 3month old baby admitted yesterday who currently requires respiratory support. A team of specialists is on hand as part of case management.
- **COVID-19 Screening Facilities:** Dedicated screening structures have been set up at the UTH and Levy Mwanawasa, away from the areas of routine service delivery.
- **Isolation facilities** have also been set up in all high risk districts across the ten provinces. A detailed list is available on the ZNPPI website

➤ **Outbreak Investigation:**

- The Ministry of Health through the ZNPPI has received ethical clearance to conduct two of its planned research activities to date, namely a clinical trial, a prospective study on the first few cases of COVID-19 in Zambia, a spatio-temporal analysis and predictive modelling study on COVID-19; a COVID-19 prevalence survey and KAP study

2.3 INFECTION, PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC)

➤ Activities conducted include:

- Monitoring of IPC practices in Health care facilities with Designated ETHs to enforce IPC standards in all isolation facilities
- Logistical support for IPC equipment and Materials with support from UNICEF to isolation and quarantine areas.
- Training of HCWs at Levy Isolation facility in IPC with support from World Vision

2.4 RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

- **Public Communication:** Radio spots have been booked until July 2020; these include spots on Radio 1, 2 and 4 as well as community radio stations carrying programmes in English and local languages. Messages in sign language have also been developed.
- **Community Engagement:** Below are highlights of community engagement activities at provincial level:
 - Central: 12 Districts sensitizing communities on importance of wearing masks, hand washing and physical distancing. Radio discussions sensitizing people on COVID – 19 have also been aired.
 - North Western: Districts continue to sensitize communities on the importance of wearing masks, hand washing and physical distancing. Radio discussions have been held in 5 Districts. Conducted sensitization meeting on COVID-19 at Chiefs palaces in 19 Chiefdoms. Oriented health staff on COVID-19. Distributed 31,500 IEC materials
 - Lusaka: Sensitizing Communities with PA system, Mega phone, and door to door on physical distancing, wearing of face masks, hand washing and the importance for testing for COVID-19 has continued in Kafue and Lusaka district. Continued with distribution of IEC materials
- **Social Listening**
 - Mandatory use of face masks in public remains a major point of discussion across all platforms, including issues of affordability, effectiveness, re-use and home-made masks
 - The U-Report platform offers users access to information on COVID-19 by texting ‘corona’ to 878. The service is free of charge. A U-Report SMS poll initiated on 22nd April, 2020 with 9,200 responses found that just over half of respondents knew about calling 909 in the case of symptoms, whereas more than a third still thought the best practice was to immediately go to a medical facility. In the same poll, more than a third of respondents said a mixture of garlic and lemon was an effective Covid-19 treatment. The greatest concerns for respondents with regard to COVID-19 were fear of dying, stigma and discrimination, where to seek help, and impact on potential streams of income and

livelihood. To counter the knowledge gaps identified through of this poll, information was immediately disseminated on the U-Report platform through a Question and Answer format to clarify each of the myths and misconceptions that respondents had.

- The results of two separate polls by [ZAZU](#) and [Geo-Poll](#) are also available online

➤ Other RCCE activities include:

- Monitoring & technical support on COVID in provinces
- Community engagement and sensitisation in markets & bus stations
- Resource mobilisation for RCCE

3. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS/ PRIORITY ACTIONS

➤ **Surveillance and outbreak investigation:**

- Inadequate electronic data tools for field operation: Upload new integrated screening forms and test electronic data capturing tool
- low testing coverage: continued mass screening as well as contact tracing; introduction of GeneXpert and Cobus testing platforms by the end of the week to increase testing capacity; stockpiling of laboratory reagents to ensure continuity of testing
- increasing incidence: rapid case detection and isolation to break transmission cycle; monitoring of quarantined persons and responding to community alerts country wide

➤ **Case management:**

- increasing number of HCWs getting infected: Re-training of HCWs in IPC; introduction of IPC competence evaluation for HCWs in isolation; Psychological evaluation of all infected HCWs; Complete facility based trainings for Livingstone and Kabwe; Finalise treatment protocols; Identify surge staff for UTH isolation centre

➤ **Laboratory:**

- Long laboratory turnaround time (backlog of samples): Trial of GeneXpert and Cobus testing platforms; use of new sample extraction methods (Daan Extraction kit donated by the Jack Ma Foundation, Easy Mag reagents donated by ZPRIME CVS Project) and test use of RT-PCR machine offered for use by ZAMBART
- manual data entry delaying reporting of results: Streamline sample registration procedures in consultation with field teams; Include more data entry clerks to the team.

➤ **IPC:**

- Non adherence to IPC standards: IPC reorientation conducted for HCWs at isolation facilities
- limited PPE stocks: Preposition adequate PPEs in all isolation facilities

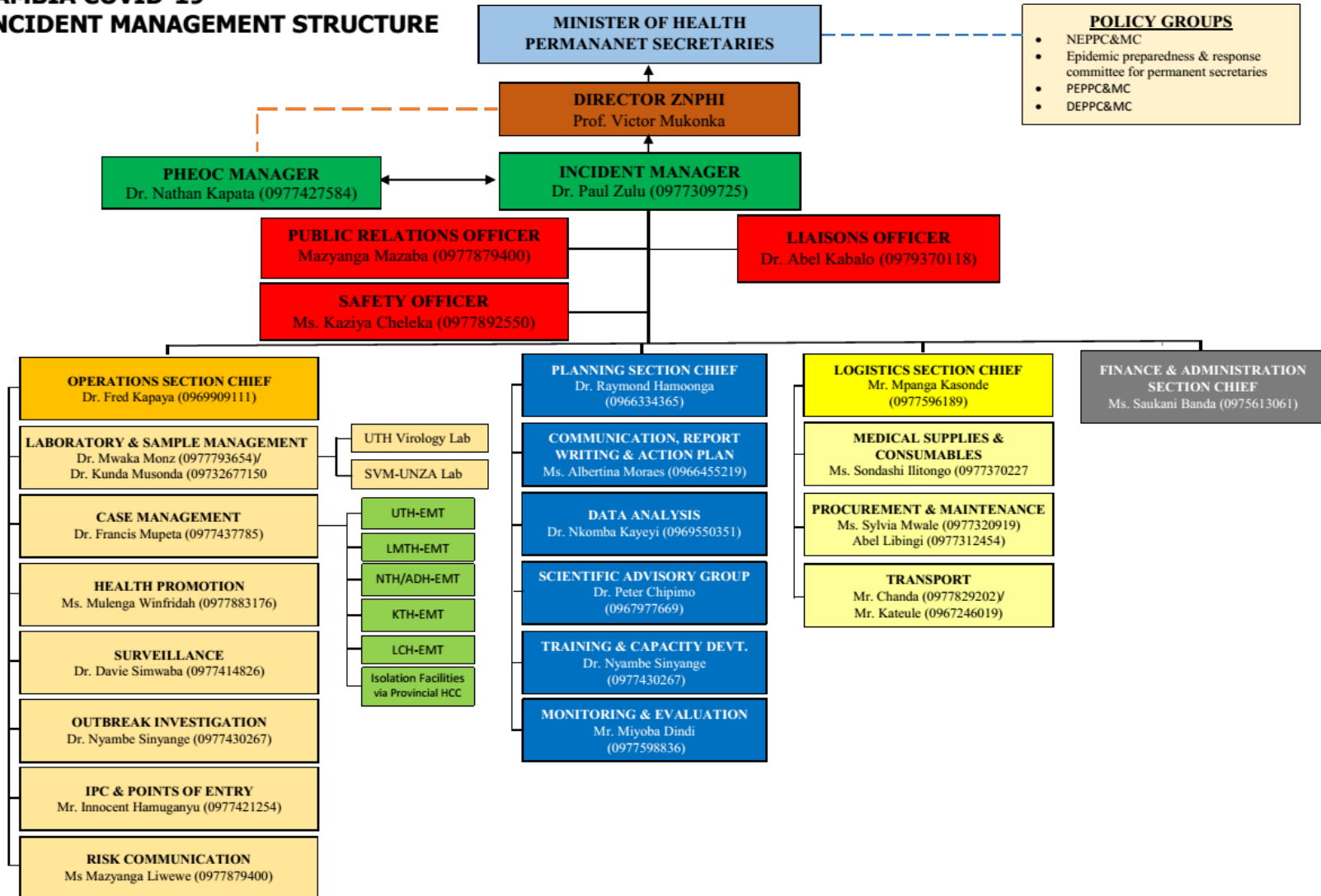
- inadequate number of HCWs trained in IPC especially outside Lusaka: Escalate training of IPC trainings to other provinces in the country
- **Risk Communication:**
- IEC materials distribution not done in planned and systematic manner: Monitoring of the status of the distribution to be implemented
 - IEC materials on use of face masks, stigma and discrimination, quarantine and screening for COVID-19: IEC are regularly updated as the outbreak evolves
- **POEs:**
- increased risk of importation of cases through Nakonde: teams have been dispatched to Nakonde to reinforce and support port health services, surveillance and screening. Institutionalized quarantine is also being reinforced, and community risk communication, targeted screening and testing is being undertaken to establish prevalence. Additional quarantine facilities established in Nakonde and Mpika.

5. CONCLUSION

In the last 24 hours, Zambia recorded 3 new confirmed cases of COVID-19, bring the cumulative number of confirmed cases to 109. Active cases remain confined to the Copperbelt and Lusaka provinces, with a number of cases being imported through Nakonde. Technical support teams have been dispatched to Nakonde to support port health services, surveillance and enforcement of institutionalised quarantine at designated quarantine facilities in Nakonde and Mpika. The country expects to see an increase in the number of confirmed cases following expansion of its testing capacity in the coming week .

ANNEX 1: NATIONAL LEVEL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS RESPONSE

ZAMBIA COVID-19 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



ANNEX 2: CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) CASE DEFINITIONS

1. Suspect case:

A. Patient with acute respiratory infection (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease e.g. cough, shortness of breath), AND with no other aetiology that fully explains the clinical presentation AND a history of travel to or residence in a country/area or territory reporting local transmission of COVID-19 during the 14 days prior to symptom onset,

OR

B. 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. Patient with severe acute respiratory infection (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease e.g. cough, shortness of breath), AND requiring hospitalization AND with no other aetiology that fully explains the clinical presentation

2. Probable case: A suspect case for whom testing for COVID-19 is inconclusive or is tested positive using a pan-coronavirus assay and without laboratory evidence of other respiratory pathogens.

3. Confirmed case: A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.

4. COVID-19 Death: COVID-19 death is defined for surveillance purposes as a death resulting from a clinically compatible illness in a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case, unless there is a clear alternative cause of death that cannot be related to COVID disease (e.g. trauma). There should be no period of complete recovery between the illness and death.

5. Person Under Investigation: a suspected case, irrespective of admission status, with either history of travel to an area with local transmission or worked in/attended a health care facility treating COVID-19 infections or admission to a facility for severe pneumonia of unknown aetiology

6. Contact: a person who experienced any one of the following exposures during the 2 days before and the 14 days after the onset of symptoms of a probable or confirmed case: a. Face-to-face contact with a probable or confirmed case within 1 meter and for more than 15 minutes; b. Direct physical contact with a probable or confirmed case; c. Direct care for a patient with probable or confirmed COVID-19 disease without using proper personal protective equipment; OR d. Other situations as indicated by local risk assessments.