

## ZAMBIA SITUATION REPORT NO. 55

Disease Outbreak: COVID-19      Response start date: 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2020      Outbreak Declared: 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2020  
Date of report: 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2020      Prepared by: MOH/ZNPPI/WHO      Correspondence: [ims.covid@znpbi.co.zm](mailto:ims.covid@znpbi.co.zm)

### 1. SITUATION UPDATE

#### 1.1 CURRENT CASE NUMBERS

➤ As of 12:00 hours on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2020:

- In the past 24 hours: There were **174 new confirmed cases, no COVID-19 deaths and no recoveries** recorded. [Results from 30 new tests from Lusaka and 338 validated results of tests from 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> May].
- Cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases recorded to date is **441, with 7 deaths (CFR=1.59%) and 117 recoveries**.
- There are currently **317 active cases – 202 in Nakonde, 58 in Lusaka, 33 on the Copperbelt, 19 in Kabwe and 5 in Solwezi**

**Zambia Numbers**  
 👤 **441 Confirmed (174 new)**  
 🚰 **7 Deaths (0 new)**  
 🌿 **117 Recoveries (0 new)**

**Global Numbers**  
 (Source: JHU)  
 👤 **4,210,074 Confirmed (67,104 new)**  
 🚰 **287,158 deaths (3,297 new)**  
 🌿 **1,470,598 recoveries (43,419 new)**  
 \*New: in the last 24hrs

### 2. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Table 1: COVID-19 Surveillance and case management summary, based on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 report

Parameter	Number
Cumulative number of high risk persons under observation	13,841
Cumulative number of high risk persons that have completed 14 days observation	3,759
Cumulative number of alerts notified & verified as non-cases	1,937
Cumulative Number of Test Results Processed	13,495
Tests per 1,000,000 population	794
<b>Total Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Positive Cases</b>	<b>441</b>

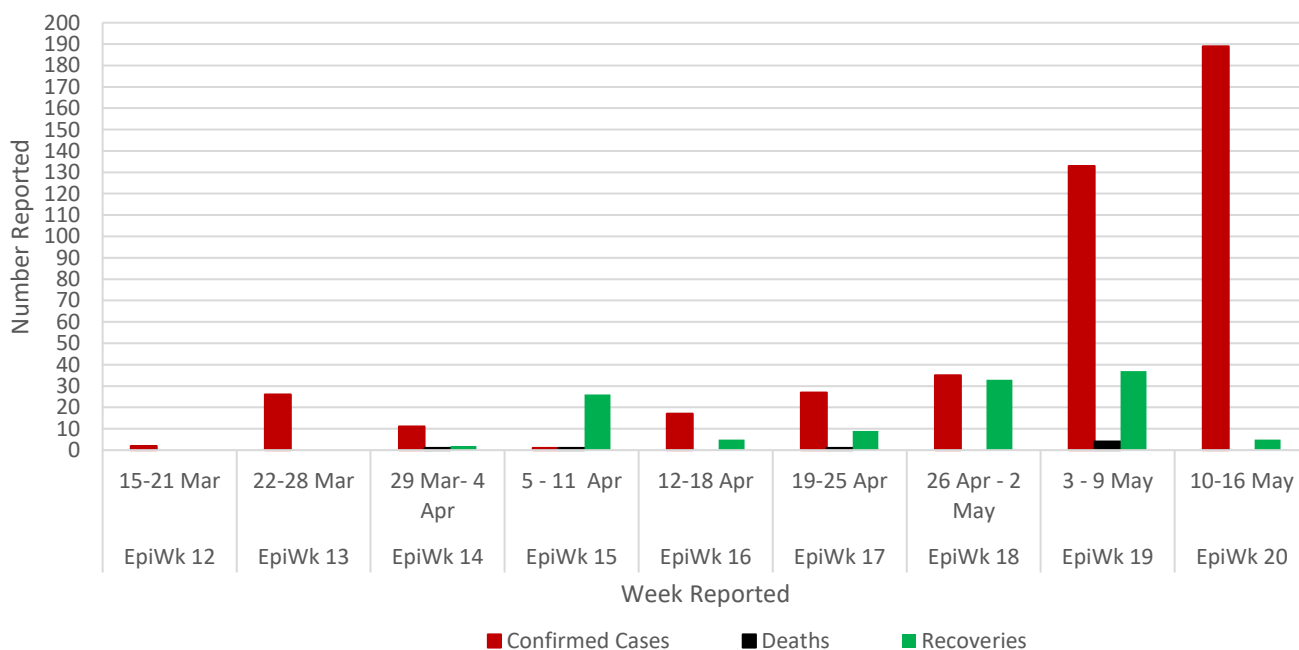


Figure 1: Weekly COVID-19 confirmed cases (N=441), deaths (N=7) and recoveries (N=117) as of 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

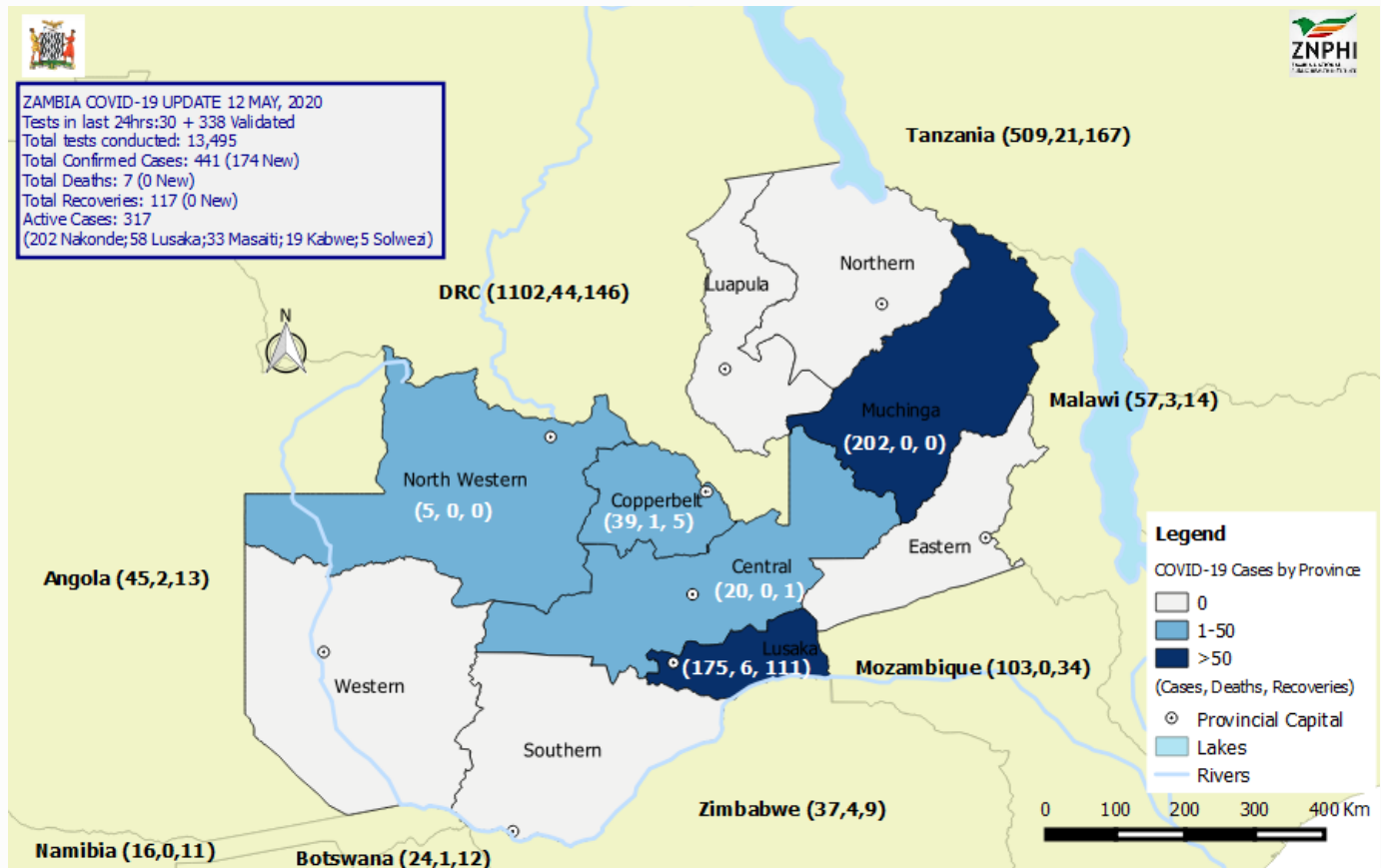


Figure 2: Map of Zambia showing confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and recoveries (in brackets) by province, as well as confirmed cases, deaths and recoveries (in brackets) in neighbouring countries as of 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

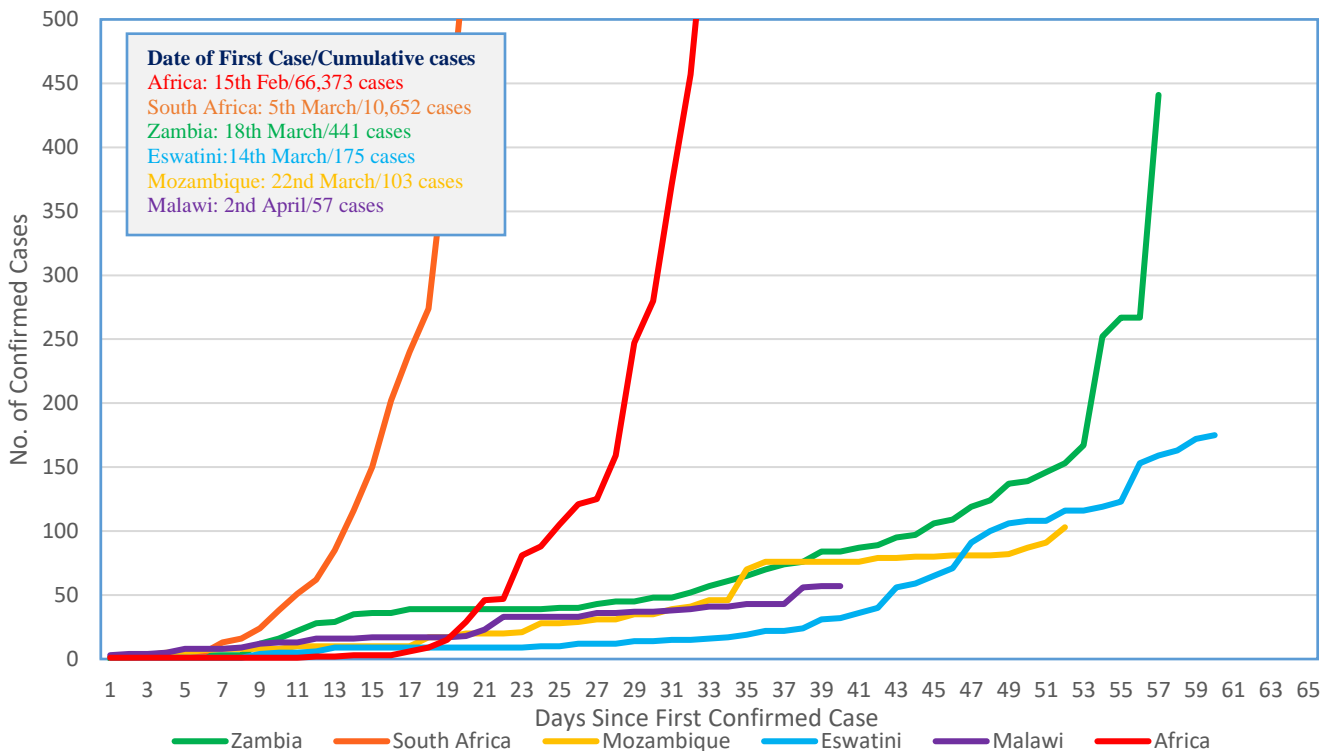


Figure 3: Cumulative trend graph comparing top 5 countries in Southern Africa with highest case numbers and the whole of Africa recorded since outbreaks declared (Sources: MoH Zambia, NICD South Africa, Africa CDC)

- **Age and Sex distribution:** Of the confirmed 62% are male and 38% are female. The most affected age groups are those aged between 15-30 years old (36%), 31-44 years old (33%), and 45-60 years old (21%).

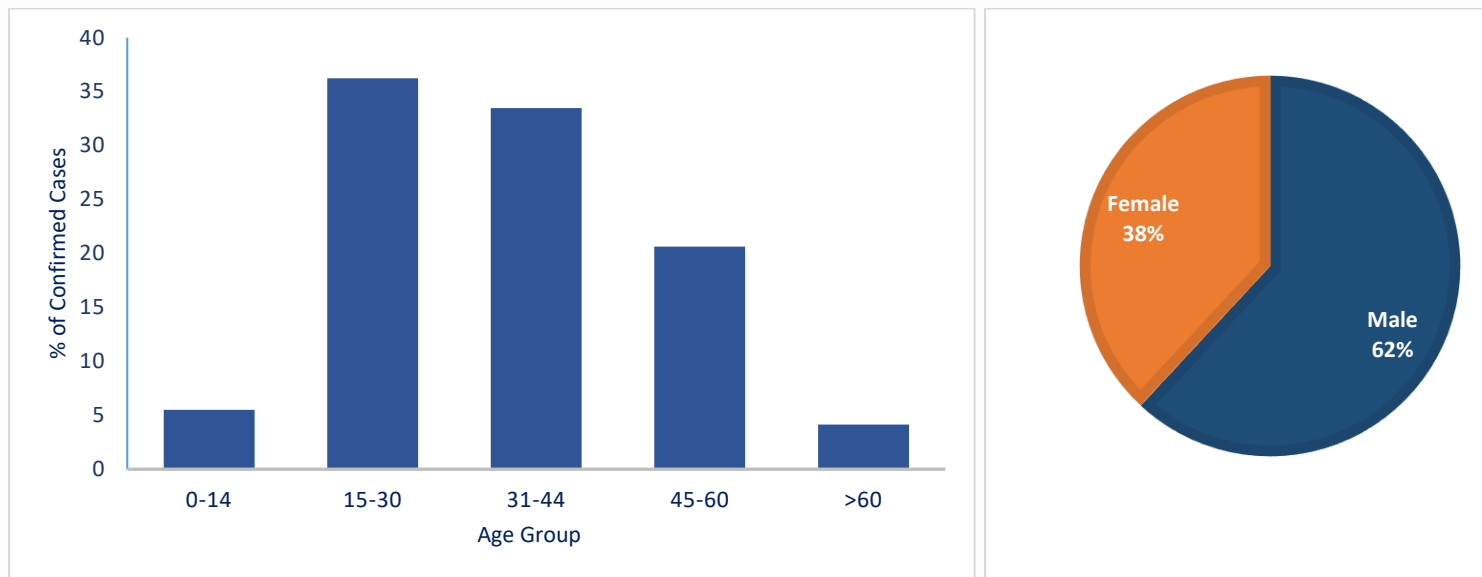


Figure 4: Age and Sex distribution of confirmed cases, as of 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### 3. ACTIONS TO DATE

#### 3.1 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 11,376 confirmed cases of COVID-19 including 225 deaths and 4,595 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:**

- Meetings of the Committee of Ministers (chaired by the Vice President), Inter-ministerial Committee of Permanent Secretaries (chaired by the Secretary to Cabinet), and the National Epidemic Preparedness, Prevention Control and Management Committee (NEPPC&MC) (chaired by the Minister of Health) have been convened since the declaration of the outbreak
- A **COVID-19 contingency plan** outlining the country's COVID-19 preparedness and response activities was finalised and continues to be regularly updated as the outbreak evolves.

#### 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. The WHO declared the outbreak a PHEIC on 30<sup>th</sup> January and further declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 12<sup>th</sup> March. Zambia recorded its first two cases of COVID-19 on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The first 28 cases in Zambia all had a history of travel to Europe or Asia. Three weeks into the outbreak, cases were noted among people without history of travel but in contact with confirmed cases. There has since been an increase in local person-person transmission with increasing geographic spread; so far Lusaka, Kafue, Chingola, Chililabombwe, Ndola, Masaiti, Mpongwe, Kitwe, Kapiri-Mposhi, Luanshya, Kabwe, Solwezi, Kalumbila and Nakonde have reported cases.

- The Minister of Health holds daily press briefings on the evolving outbreak situation in Zambia.
- 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
- 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 daily press briefing on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020, the Minister of Health announced the closure of the Nakonde border with effect from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2020
- In his fourth presidential address on COVID-19 given on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2020, HE Dr. E. C. Lungu stated that the outbreak control measures had been further reviewed as follows:
  - Restaurants may revert to their normal operation
  - Cinemas, gyms & casinos may also reopen
  - An appeal was made to proprietors of hotels, lodges, tour operators, event management companies and others who voluntarily closed their business to ensure the safety of their staff and clientele to consider reopening
  - Bars and taverns to remain closed pending further review of the measures in the next 7-14 days depending on the evolution of the pandemic.
  - Only examination classes in primary & secondary schools to reopen. The first classes will reopen on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 with enforced public health guidelines in place. The Ministry of Health and DMMU must ensure that re-useable face masks, hand washing facilities and/or sanitisers are provided. The Minister of General Education and the Minister of Higher Education have been directed to engage stakeholders on possibility and modalities of reopening non-exam classes, colleges & universities in the near future.
  - The reopening of business premises and schools is 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. All pronouncements are subject to further review in the coming days and weeks.
- 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.

➤ **Technical level:** The ZNP HI continues to provide leadership and partner collaboration on the response through the Public Health Emergency Operation Centre (PHEOC).

- Technical co-ordinating meetings are being held with cooperating partners and other stakeholders. The meetings are chaired by the Director, ZNP HI
- The Incident Management System (IMS) continues to meet at the ZNP HI (with a Zoom link provided to ensure social distancing) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The IMS structure is available at **Annex 1**
- 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.

### 3.2 SURVEILLANCE AND OUTBREAK INVESTIGATION

➤ Surveillance around the country has been heightened at community level, health facilities, points of entry (POEs), and sentinel sites in order to rapidly detect and isolate cases. 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. The COVID-19 case definitions for surveillance are available at **Annex 2**

➤ **Case finding: 30 new samples** were tested at the UTH virology lab; none of these samples tested positive. Additionally, **338 validation tests** were performed on samples initially tested on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2020. Following validation, **174 new cases** were identified from Muchinga (126 cases), Copperbelt (29 cases), Central (14 cases) and North-western (5 cases) provinces. Tests were conducted on truck drivers, travellers, individuals in health facilities, point of entry staff, individuals detected through mass targeted community screening and contacts to known positive cases.

- Of the Muchinga cases, all 126 were from Nakonde.
- Of the Copperbelt cases, 22 were from Ndola, 4 from Masaiti, 1 from Chingola, 1 from Kitwe and 1 from Mpongwe.
- Of the Central province cases, 11 were from Kabwe and 3 from Kapiri Mposhi.
- Of the North-western province cases, 4 were from Solwezi and 1 from Kalumbila
- All cases have been placed in isolation facilities; known contacts are being traced and screened.

- The team of experts from ZNPPI is still in Nakonde to provide support and work with the local response teams.
- The following key interventions have been put in place to control the outbreak in Nakonde:
  - A multi-sectoral approach to the response including the Provincial Administration, Ministries responsible for Health, Defence, Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Finance, Commerce Trade and Industry, Transport and Communication, Information and Broadcasting Services, and Energy among others is in place.
  - Nakonde border will be closed with effect from Monday 11th May 2020. There shall be no traffic in and out of Nakonde to facilitate the implementation of targeted interventions. The public will be informed when the temporary closure of the border will be lifted. Trucks ferrying essential goods such as fuel, medical supplies and critical equipment shall be allowed through the border and to transit out of Nakonde, subject to mandatory health screening, disinfection and other public health guidelines.
  - Truck drivers will be screened and tested and their trucks disinfected on entry into the country and be escorted to final destinations by the security services. Supervised stops shall only be permitted at designated truck stops
  - Training and deployment of additional staff to work in various disciplines at the point of entry so as to provide relief to the current staff who have tested positive for COVID-19.
  - Additional supplies including PPEs and medical consumables to support the response have been mobilised and dispatched to Nakonde.

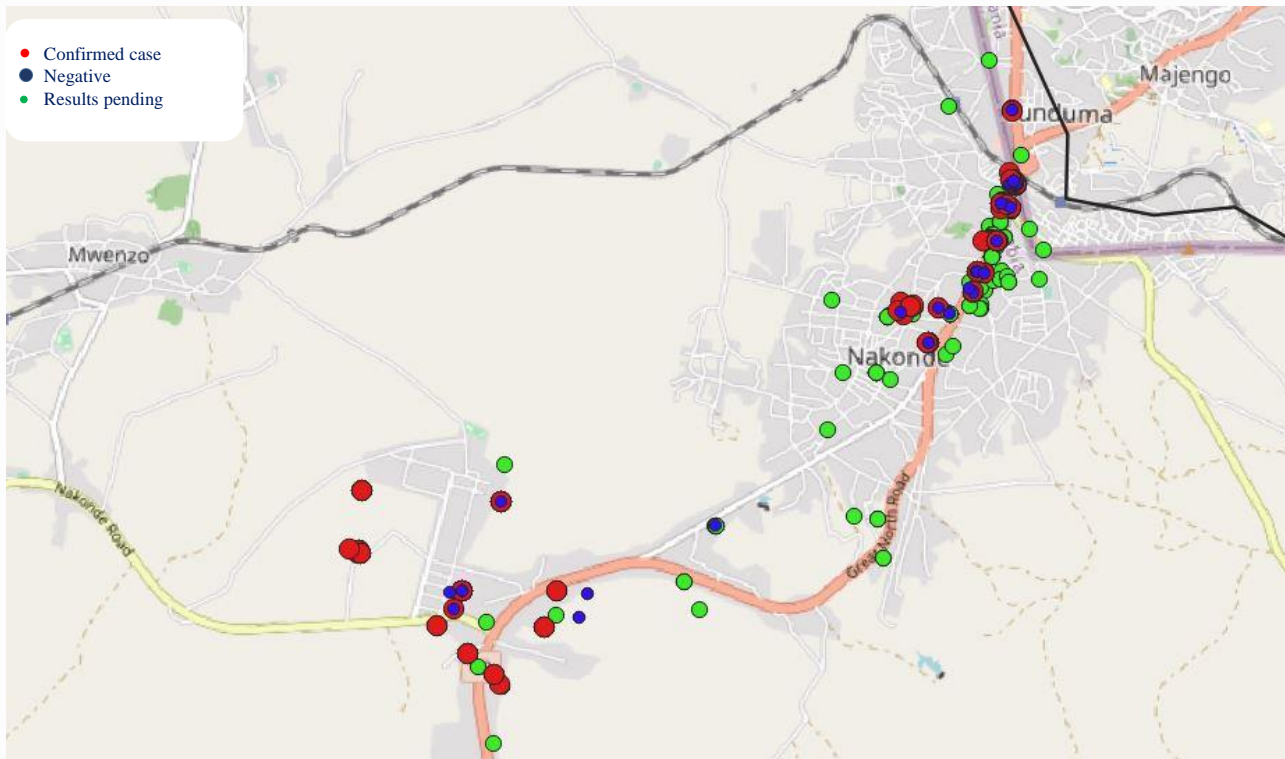


Figure 5: Results of COVID-19 testing conducted in Nakonde, last updated 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

➤ **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 the hotels and lodges that have been identified to serve as quarantine facilities. See **Annex 3** for a list of available quarantine hotels and lodges; accommodation is 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 and sample management:** 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, **368 tests** were conducted, out of which **174** samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. A total of **13,495 tests** have been conducted to date with a cumulative **441 confirmed positive (3.27% positivity rate)** for SARS-CoV-2. The testing coverage is **794 per 1,000,000 population**, compared to an average of 2,096/1M for countries in the SADC region.
- The use of the UTH P3 lab, automated extraction and increase in staff numbers has resulted in increased daily tests from approximately 400 to 800 in the 3 testing sites. As a result, the turn-around times and backlog have reduced
- **Roche Cobas 6800** - Software installation and training of operators has commenced
- **Gene Xpert** - Introduction to initial priority sites scheduled for this week with instrument software upgrades, TOT training, certification of biosafety cabinets at selected sites, and sample transportation preparations
- 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.

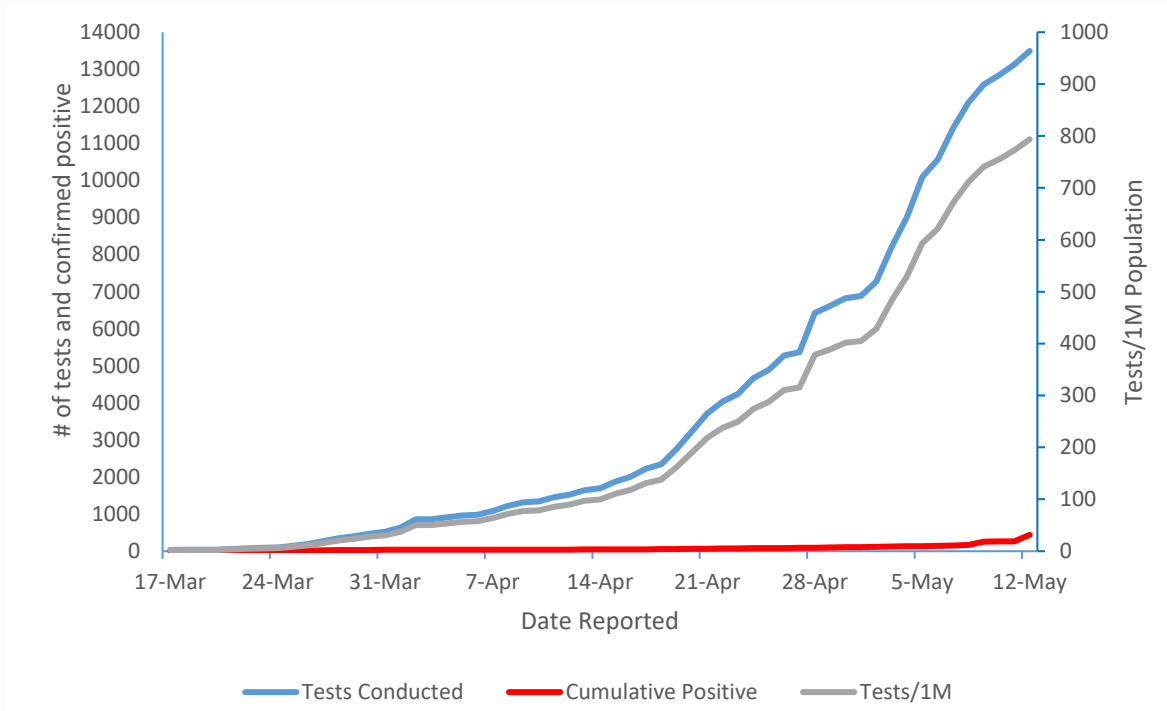


Figure 6: Graph showing cumulative number of PCR tests conducted, confirmed cases and tests per 1M population between 17<sup>th</sup> March and 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

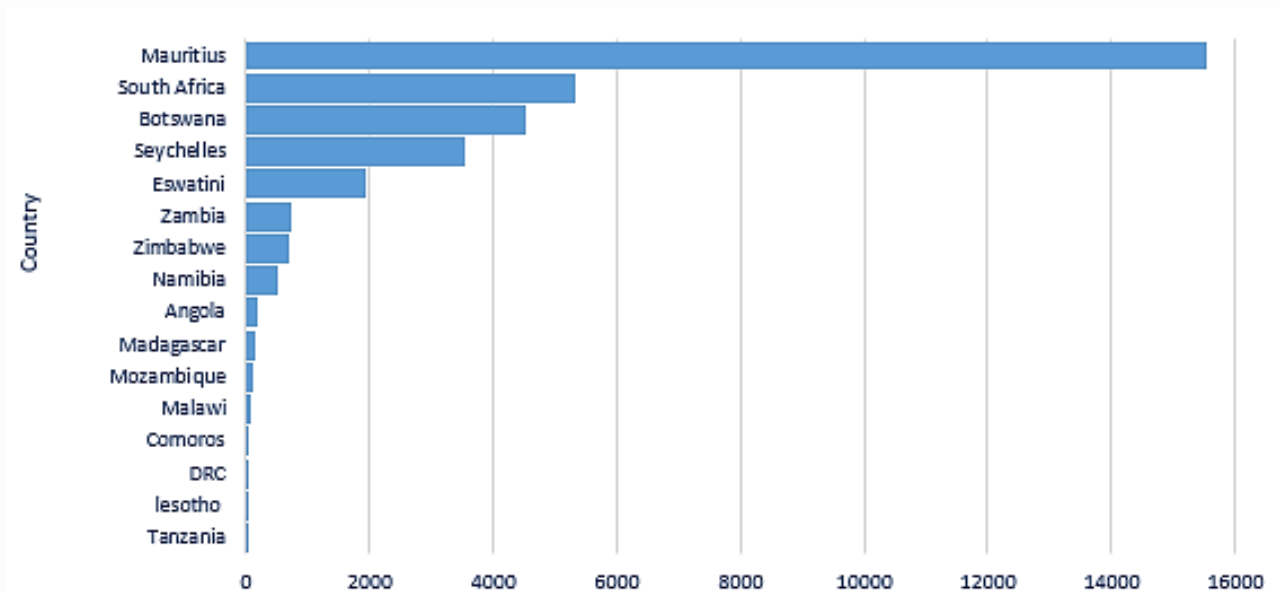


Figure 7: COVID-19 tests/million population by Country in Southern Africa (Source: Africa CDC dashboard), 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020

- **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. Additionally, all health workers are required to undergo 14-day quarantine following their shift at the isolation facilities before they return to their



communities. *Patients are only considered recovered once they record two negative re-test results within a 24hour period.*

- There are currently **317 active COVID-19 cases** being managed at various facilities; 202 in Nakonde, 58 in Lusaka, 33 on the Copperbelt, 19 in Kabwe and 5 in Solwezi. All cases are stable.
- **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, including an isolation facility at **Mpima Prison** in Kabwe which was converted to an isolation bay for inmates that might be positive for COVID-19. A detailed list is available on the ZNPFI website
- The case management team made a site visit to the Masaiti and Kabwe facilities
- IPC training for surge staff awaiting deployment to Levy Hospital was conducted.
- An “*Oxygen Needs Assessment*” tool has been developed and shared. Job cards have also been completed and forwarded for approval and printing

➤ **Outbreak Investigation:**

- The Ministry of Health through the ZNPFI has a number of planned research activities including a clinical trial, a first few cases of COVID-19 in Zambia, a spatio-temporal analysis and predictive modelling study on COVID-19; COVID-19 prevalence survey and KAP study

### 3.3 INFECTION, PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC)

➤ **Activities conducted include:**

- Monitoring of IPC practices in health care facilities with designated ETHs to enforce IPC standards
- Logistical support to isolation facilities for IPC equipment and materials with support from UNICEF
- Training in IPC for HCWs at Levy Isolation facility with support from World Vision

### 3.4 RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

➤ **Public Communication:** A COVID-19 standard messaging document was developed and reviewed, awaiting final approval. 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 on COVID-19 in English and local languages. At least three community radio stations per province are running radio announcements in the 10 Provinces. Weekly live radio discussions are held on all radio stations country wide in the 10 Provinces. Messages in sign language and braille have also been developed. Distribution of IEC materials to the provinces is ongoing.

➤ **Community Engagement:** Below are highlights of community engagement activities at provincial level:

- Community meetings held with 43 Chiefs in Southern, Central, Luapula & Copperbelt Provinces
- Oriented 50 media personnel in Lusaka Province
- Public announcements taking place in all the 10 Provinces

- Sensitisations being conducted by CBVs in Copperbelt, Central, Western & Lusaka Provinces
  - Held cross border meeting with traders in Lusaka Province
  - Sensitisations conducted for special populations in Nchelenge
- **Social Listening:** is designed to track the concerns, queries, misunderstandings, needs and issues among the Zambian public, to help inform the wider risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) activities so that they are tailored to the evolving conversation. Below are some highlights from the report for the week of 26<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2020:
- Risk communication work continues to face challenges with residents of high density areas due to: i) perceptions that COVID-19 is not something for people like them, ii) that the preventive behaviours are impossible for them (crowded markets and residential areas, masks are unaffordable, water/soap is inaccessible), iii) persistent myths: conspiracy theories and misinformed ideas about how to stay safe (garlic/lemon/beer/paw-paw leaves etc.).
  - Awareness about COVID-19 seems to be growing. However, queries about testing and myths persist.
  - Use of masks and stories around their misuse have been prevalent in the week. There is also a strong desire for more information about what types of masks are safe and how they should be worn.
  - U-Report Zambia (text ‘corona’ to 878) continues to provide information on COVID-19 through two services on the platform: a U-Report “SMS bot” that provides an SMS based menu where users can navigate and access various information, and direct two-way SMS interaction with a counsellor who responds to questions from U-Reporters. The platform has seen a reduction in queries regarding: ‘What is coronavirus?’, ‘How can I protect others?’ and on ‘Other COVID 19 topics’. On the other hand, messages on myths have increased. A small absolute increase has also been noted with messages pertaining to ‘How can I protect myself?’
  - The COVID-19 call centre remains active with 800-1000 calls received daily
- Other RCCE activities include:
- USAID DISCOVER - Health is supporting awareness creation about COVID-19 in different royal establishments around the country. It has been planned that through the House of Chief, sensitisation activities were launched on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to provide an official guide on the activities throughout the country, including the orientation of all the Chiefs.
  - ZINGO radio and TV messages production by faith based leaders based on Ministry of Health approved messages with support from UNICEF
  - Mobilization of 6 sub-districts with Lusaka District Health office underway this week
  - Local Language posters delivered and being distributed with appropriate end use monitoring mechanism
  - Call centre partnering with Tele Doctors for capacity building

## 4. GAPS AND PRIORITY ACTIONS

### ➤ Laboratory and sample management:

- **Backlog of samples:** increased lab capacity; prioritised analysis of samples
- **Need to increase testing capacity:** activate additional labs (Macha Research Trust and Pediatric Centre of Excellence proposed); expand existing lab capacities (addition of instruments, repair/replacement and certification of available equipment) and increased staff numbers; improved sample tracking and data management

### ➤ Case management:

- **Team assessment:** scheduled assessment and capacity building of northern based provinces on case management; conduct gap analysis
- **IPC:** reinforce implementation at facilities; scheduled reorientation of Central and Copperbelt facilities staff
- **Staff welfare:** scheduled psychological evaluation of all HCW.

### ➤ Surveillance and outbreak investigation:

- **Low testing coverage (except in Lusaka and Copperbelt):** scheduled to conduct district Event Based Surveillance (EBS) trainings in 4 provinces; print and district updated case definitions

### ➤ RCCE:

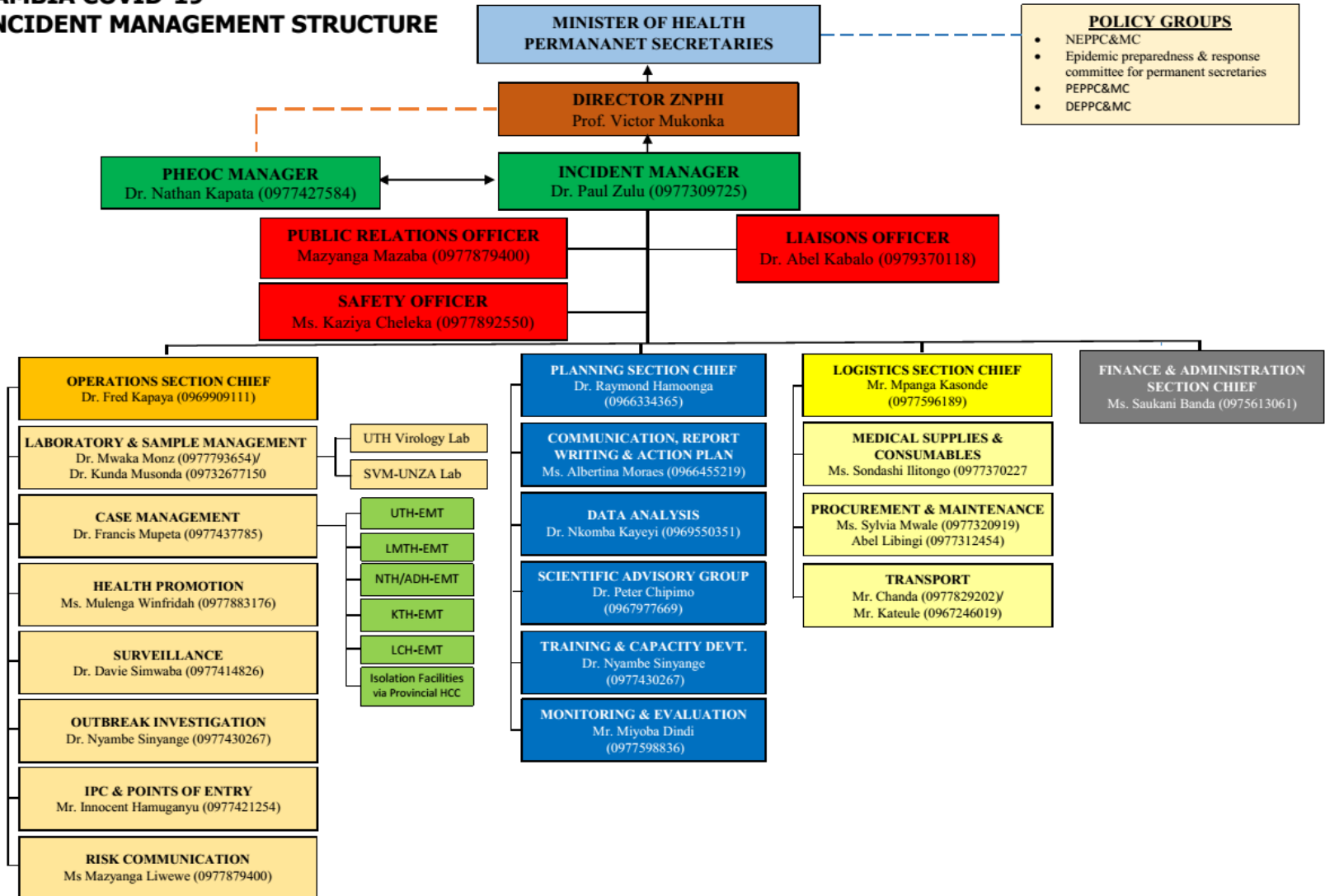
- **IPC messaging:** Safe water supply to be given special focus following the good practice of Cholera mitigation times in the past; systematic distribution of IEC materials.
- **Non-compliance to social distancing and wearing of masks, especially in markets, bus stations and high density areas:** enhanced community engagement and sensitisation; continued public communication and dynamic listening in order to better tailor messages and response for the public; scheduled deployment of youth volunteers in Lusaka (with support of the Ministry of Youth Sport and Child Development and UNDP) starting next week to enhance risk communication through door to door sensitisation and distribution of face masks

## 5. CONCLUSION

In the last 24 hours, Zambia recorded 174 new cases of COVID-19, with a cumulative total of 441 confirmed cases. The multi-sectoral response in Nakonde District remains in force. The measures include contact tracing, environmental cleaning and disinfection of public places, surveillance, risk communication and community sensitisation. In view of the risk of importing COVID-19 from neighbouring countries, similar interventions are being stepped up in other districts with major points of entry.

## 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.

### ANNEX 3: LIST OF AVAILABLE HOTELS AND LODGES FOR COVID-19 QUARANTINE

	Name of Hotel	Bed capacity	Contact Person	Contact number	Estimated cost in USD (negotiable)
1	Radisson Blu	120	John Klana	0977758823	100
2	Fallsway Apartments	50	Raj	0976024254	100
3	Hilton	40	Kudzayi	0960998475	65
4	Malanga Village	25	Ngoza	0964066685	65
5	Shakespeare Apartments	25	Oscar Mumba	0966431386	65
6	Skyview lodges	52	Mwakoi Katanekwa	0950628444	50
7	Chamba valley Exotic Lodge	90	Wally Makwele	0977463859	50
8	Wild dog	52	Reception	0971760423	65