

ZAMBIA COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT NO. 321 – EPI WEEK 34

Disease Pandemic: COVID-19

Response start date: 30th January, 2020

Outbreak Declared: 18th March, 2020

Report date: Sunday 29 August, 2021

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1. SITUATION UPDATE *This week (23rd – 29th Aug)* **Cases 1,502** **Deaths 22** **Recoveries 2,103**

1.1 CURRENT NUMBERS (as of 09:00 hours CAT)

➤ **Epi-week review (23rd – 29th Aug):** 1,502 confirmed cases, 22 deaths, and 2,103 recoveries reported (compared to 2,288 confirmed cases, 45 deaths, and 2,682 recoveries the previous week).

- This marks an **34% decrease in new cases** with **51% decrease in deaths**

➤ **Last 4 weeks (14-day period comparison):** there were 3,790 new cases reported in the last 2 weeks, compared to 5,968 new cases reported in the preceding 14 days (36% decrease).

➤ **Total new admissions:** 108 in the past week compared to 155 in the preceding week (30% decrease).

➤ **Cumulatively,** 206,051 cases with 3,596 deaths (CFR=1.75%) and 200,662 recoveries (97% recovered). Of the total deaths, 2,694 have been classified as COVID-19 deaths (CFR=1.31%) and 902 as associated deaths.

- **Currently:** there are **1,793 active cases:** of these, 1,675 (93%) under community management and 118 (7%) are hospitalised, with 83 (70%) on Oxygen therapy and 24 (20%) in critical condition.




Global Numbers

(Source: Worldometre)

 **217,100,627 Confirmed**
 **4,513,249 Deaths (2.1% CFR)**
 **194,005,590 Recoveries**

Africa Numbers

(Source: Africa CDC)

 **7,726,461 Confirmed**
 **194,386 Deaths (2.5% CFR)**
 **6,858,876 Recoveries**

2. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

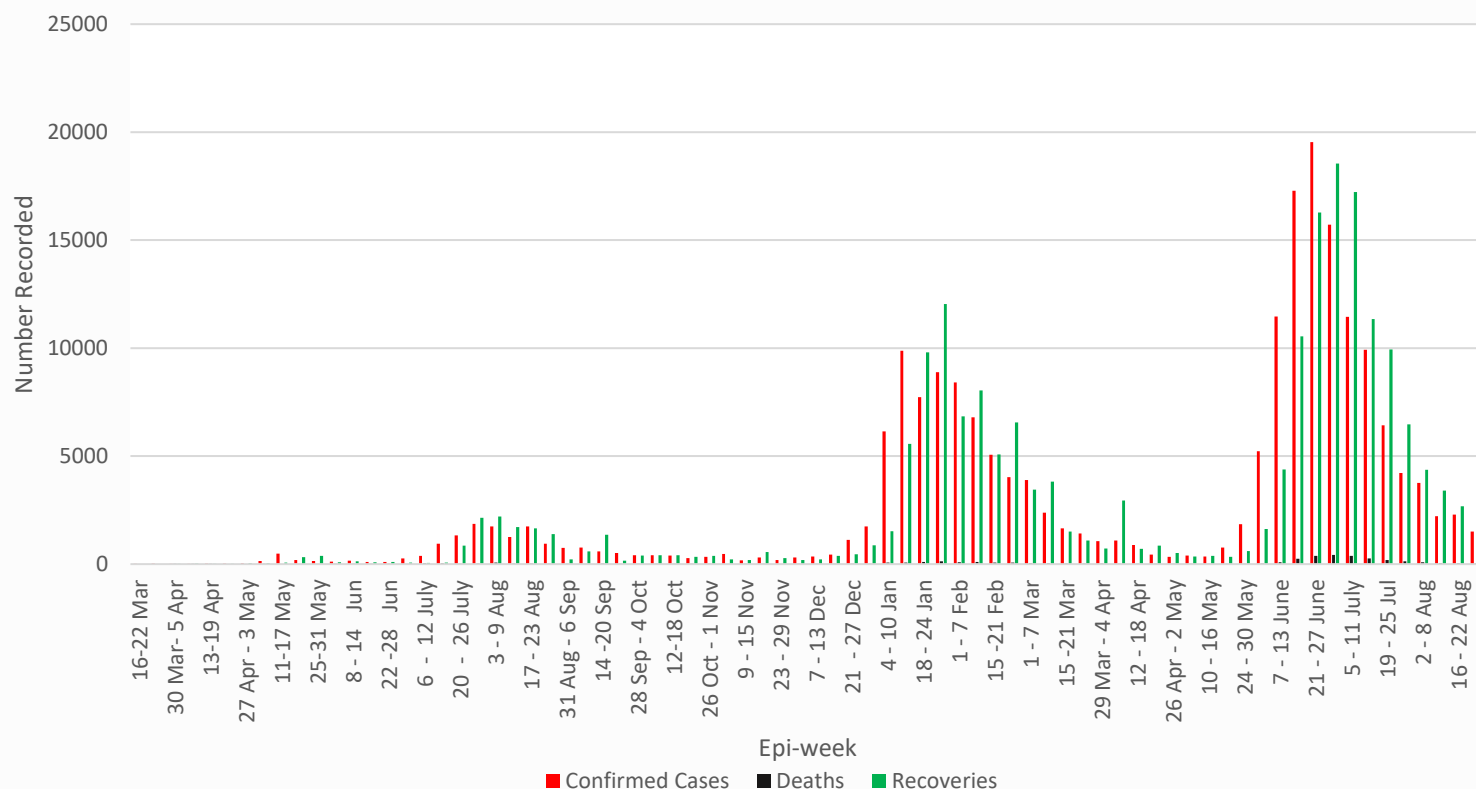


Figure 1: Epicurve of COVID-19 confirmed cases, deaths and recoveries by week, as of end of epi week 34 (23rd August, 2021)

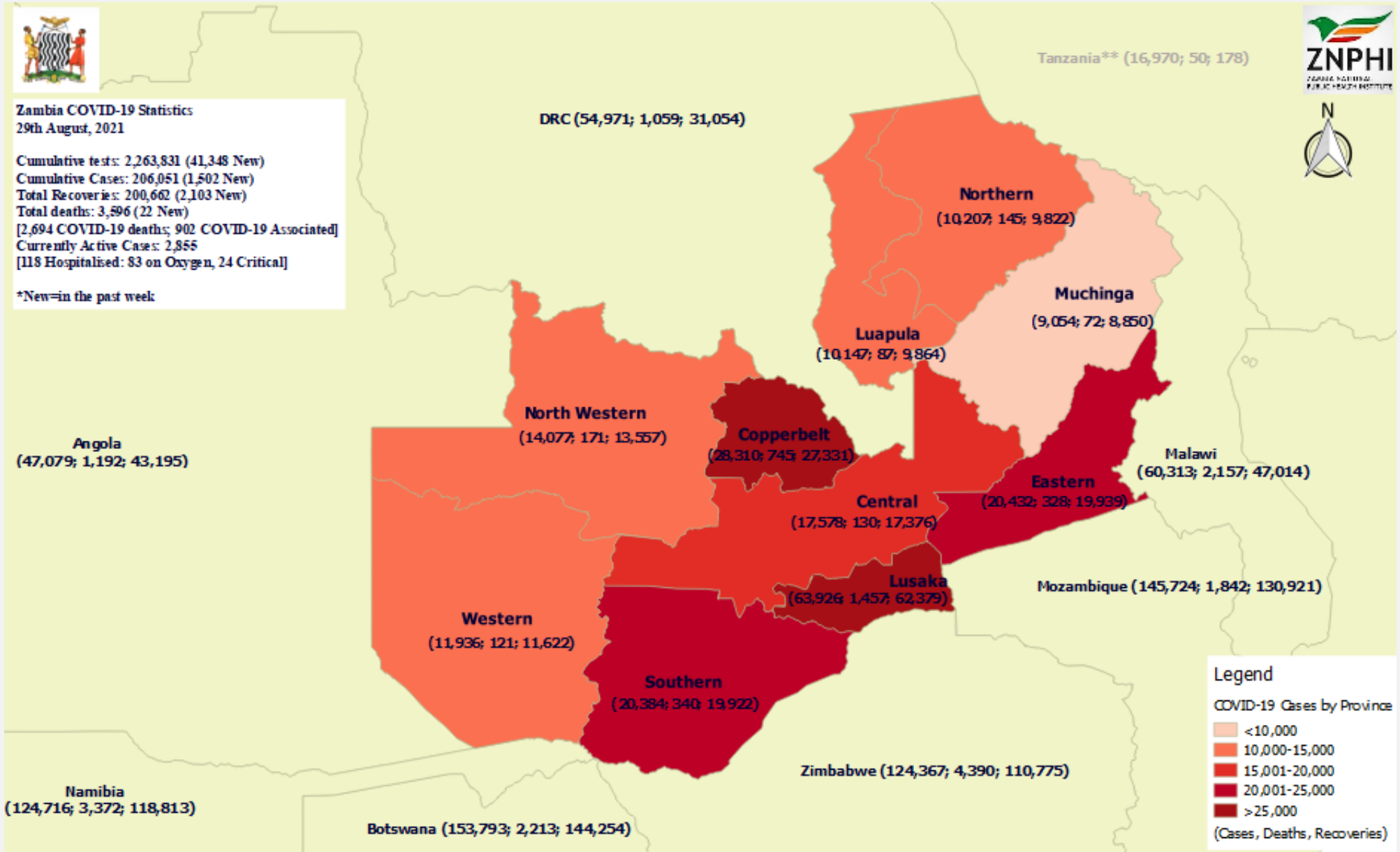


Figure 2: Map showing cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and recoveries (in brackets) by province and in neighbouring countries, as of 29th August, 2021



ZAMBIA COVID-19 WEEKLY STATISTICS
29th August, 2021
1,502 New cases reported from 107 districts

CENTRAL: Kabwe 20; Chibombo 15; Mkushi 5; Serenje 5; Kapiri Mposhi 3; Chisamba 2; Itezhi-tezhi 2; Chitambo 1; Mumbwa 1; Luano 0; Ngabwe 0; Shibuyunji 0;

COPPER BELT: Chingola 42; Kitwe 28; Mufilira 26; Luanshya 24; Chililabombwe 17; Mpongwe 15; Ndola 11; Masaiti 6; Lufwanyama 1; Kalulushi 0;

EASTERN: Chipata 24; Sinda 22; Lumezi 16; Vubwi 13; Petauke 9; Nyimba 8; Lundazi 6; Katete 5; Chadiza 4; Chipangali 4; Lusangazi 3; Mambwe 3; Kasenengwa 2; Chasefu 0;

LUAPULA: Mansa 50; Nchelenge 37; Kawambwa 26; Mwanabombwe 22; Chifunabuli 18; Chembe 16; Chiengi 15; Mwense 14; Chipili 7; Samfya 4; Lunga 1; Milenge 1

LUSAKA: Lusaka 55; Chongwe 14; Kafue 2; Rufusa 2; Chirundu 1; Luangwa 1; Chilanga 0;

MUCHINGA: Shiwangandu 25; Isoka 20; Nakonde 19; Mafinga 12; Mpika 9; Kandibiyi 7; Chama 4; Chinsali 2; Lavushimanda 0

NORTHERN: Mungwi 39; Luwingu 31; Kasama 27; Kaputa 24; Mbala 24; Lurte 16; Mpulungu 16; Chilubi 15; Senga Hill 14; Mporokoso 10; Lupososhi 3; Nsama 1;

NORTH-WESTERN: Zambezi 127; Kasempa 58; Solwezi 47; Mwinilunga 24; Kalumbila 15; Mufumbwe 13; Manyinga 6; Kabompo 5; Chavuma 4; Ikelenge 2; Mushindano 2;

SOUTHERN: Kalomo 23; Namwala 15; Mazabuka 12; Zimba 10; Monze 8; Choma 7; Livingstone 6; Chikankata 5; Sinazongwe 4; Kazungula 2; Siavonga 2; Gwembe 1; Pamba 1;

WESTERN: Limulunga 57; Sioma 20; Senanga 14; Mvandi 11; Mulobezi 8; Nalolo 8; Sesheke 8; Shangombo 8; Sikongo 6; Kalabo 5; Mongu 5; Nkeyema 3; Kaoma 2; Mitete 1; Luampa 0; Lukulu 0;

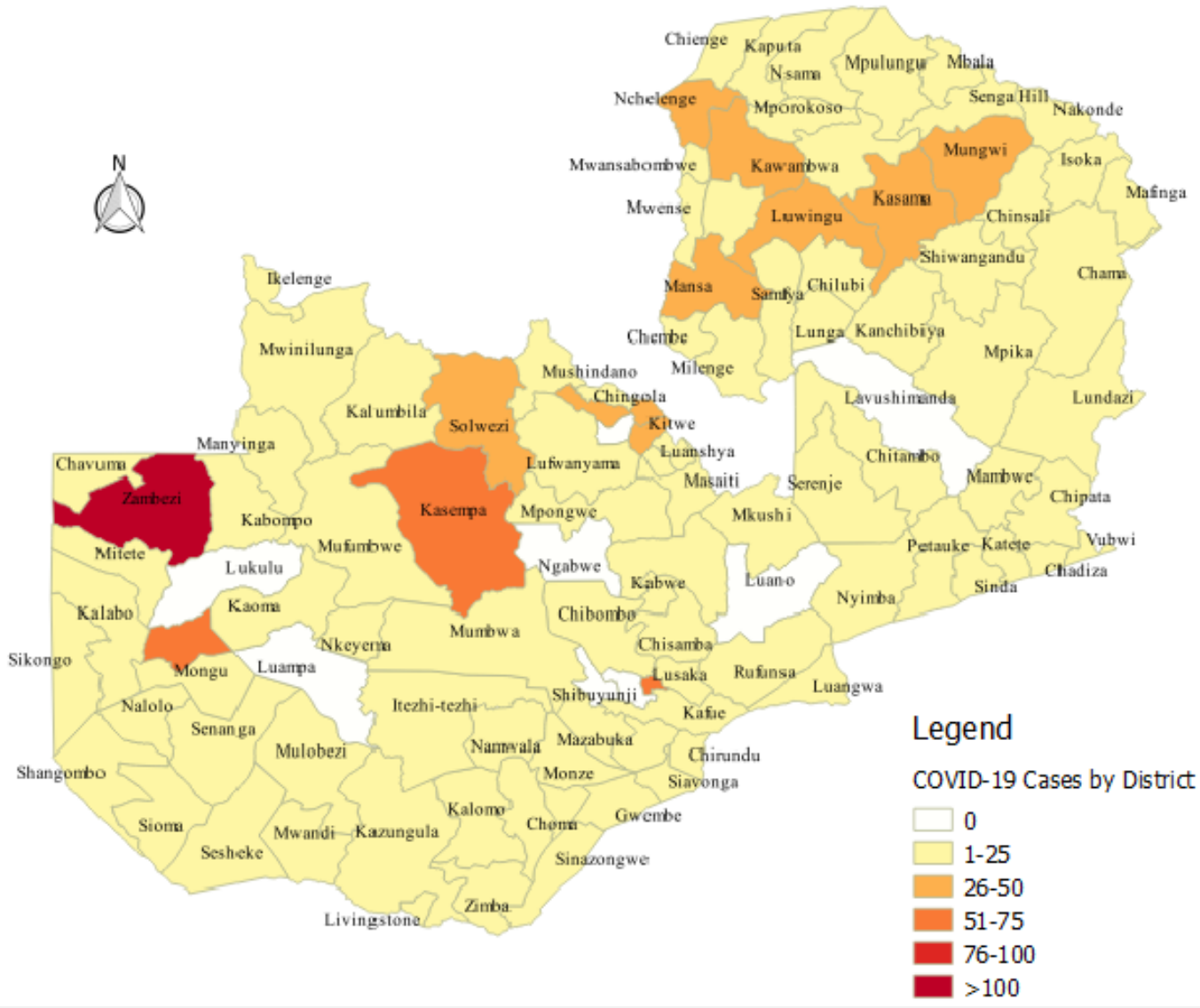


Figure 3: Map showing new confirmed COVID-19 cases by district during Epi-week 34 (23rd – 29th August, 2021)

*Blue text: indicates updated information

Table 1: Incidence risk by province

Province	Population (mid-2020)	Cumulative cases	Cumulative incidence risk (cases per 100 000 persons)	New cases in previous week	New Cases detected this week	Percentage change in new cases	Incidence risk last week (cases/100 000 persons)	Incidence risk this week (cases /100 000 persons)	Percentage change in incidence risk
Central	1,734,601	17,578	1,013	182	54	-70% ↓	10	3	-70% ↓
Copperbelt	2,669,635	28,310	1,060	284	170	-40% ↓	11	6	-40% ↓
Eastern	2,065,590	20,432	989	235	119	-49% ↓	11	6	-49% ↓
Luapula	1,276,608	10,147	795	318	211	-34% ↓	25	17	-34% ↓
Lusaka	3,360,183	63,927	1,902	124	75	-40% ↓	4	2	-40% ↓
Muchinga	1,095,535	9,054	826	190	98	-48% ↓	17	9	-48% ↓
Northern	1,520,004	10,207	672	219	220	0% ~	14	14	0% ~
N/western	950,789	14,077	1,481	371	303	-18% ↓	39	32	-18% ↓
Southern	2,135,794	20,383	954	229	96	-58% ↓	11	4	-58% ↓
Western	1,076,683	11,936	1,109	136	156	15% ↑	13	14	15% ↑
NATIONAL	17,885,422	206,051	1,152	2,288	1,502	-34% ↓	13	8	-34% ↓




Table 2: Changes in indicators over the last two weeks

Indicator	Cumulative	7 days comparison			Change
		Preceding 7 days	Last 7 days	Difference	
Tests	2,263,831	44,301	41,348	-2,953 ↓	-7% ↓
Test positivity	9.10%	5%	4%	1% ↓	1% ↓
Tests/100,000 pop	12,657	248	231	-17 ↓	-7% ↓
Cases	206,051	2,288	1,502	-786 ↓	-34% ↓
New Admissions	-	155	108	-47 ↓	-30% ↓
Deaths	3,596	45	22	-23 ↓	-51% ↓
CFR	1.75%				

Table 3: COVID-19 Resurgence thresholds by province as of 15th August, 2021

Province	Number of new cases over 14-days based on the 7-day moving average		Resurgence Threshold
	2 nd – 15 th August	16 th – 29 nd August	
Central	587	276	-53%
Copperbelt	1,089	488	-55%
Eastern	878	421	-52%
Luapula	602	524	-13%
Lusaka	613	213	-65%
Muchinga	635	316	-50%
Northern	730	423	-42%
N/western	1,046	619	-41%
Southern	599	350	-42%
Western	407	277	-32%
NATIONAL	7,186	3,907	-46%

Key:

	<10% increase or decrease in new confirmed cases: UNDER CONTROL
	10% to <20% increase in new confirmed cases: ALERT
	20% and above increase in new confirmed cases: RESURGENCE

A COVID-19 resurgence is defined as an increase in new cases of COVID-19 after a period of lower or no transmission for a period of at least two consecutive weeks. This assumes that surveillance and testing are optimal. Table 3 gives the resurgence thresholds calculated based on the number of new cases over a 14-day period based on the 7-day moving average. There are three actionable thresholds that should be considered: Under Control, Alert and Response threshold. Each threshold has specific guidance on what actions need to be done, available [here](#). All ten provinces are currently listed as “Under Control” threshold

3. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIONS

3.1 CO-ORDINATION

➤ Regional/Continental level:

- Zambia continues to participate in AU meetings to ensure continued regional and continental trade and strategies to stop transmission of COVID-19. Zambia also hosts the Southern Africa Regional Collaborating Centre of the Africa CDC and has been coordinating the response at regional level. Southern Africa to date has recorded **3,676,348 cases; 101,693 deaths and 3,355,275 recoveries**. Detailed updates on the COVID-19 statistics can be accessed on the [Africa CDC website](#), and the Vaccination Dashboard can be accessed [here](#)

➤ National Level:

- Government is implementing a **nine-pronged strategy** in response to the COVID-19 outbreak: Surveillance and case finding; **Case management; Infection prevention and control; Risk communication and community engagement; Laboratory diagnosis; Logistics and supply chain management; Appropriate competent and adequate workforce; Routine essential health services; and Vaccination.**
- The government continues to enforce 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**.
- The **COVID-19 contingency plan** outlining the country's COVID-19 preparedness and response activities underwent revision in the first week of April, 2021 and was approved by Cabinet.
- Technical co-ordinating meetings are held with cooperating partners and other stakeholders. The meetings are chaired by the Director General, ZNP HI
- The **Incident Management System (IMS)** continues to meet at ZNP HI (with a Zoom link provided to ensure social distancing) on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- An update on the enhanced measures to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Zambia was issued to the public on Friday 16th July 2021

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 30th January and further declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 12th March. Zambia recorded its first two cases of COVID-19 on 18th 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. By mid-June 2020, cases had been reported in all ten provinces, with Western province being the last to confirm cases of COVID-19. Generalised local person-person transmission is now established throughout the country. To date, Zambia has had two waves of the pandemic, with a third wave currently being experienced.

3.2 SURVEILLANCE AND CASE MANAGEMENT

- Active surveillance is ongoing in healthcare facilities, at community level, through contact tracing and at points of entry. The revised guidelines for the home management of COVID-19 cases can be accessed [here](#). See table 3 for the surveillance statistics reported in the last 24 hours and figure 3 below for case management trends over the past month.

Table 4: Breakdown of surveillance and case management statistics reported in the last 24hrs by province

PROVINCE	NUMBERS BY PROVINCE							
	NEW CASES	DEATHS	DISCHARGES	NEW ADMISSIONS	ACTIVE	ADMITTED	ON OXYGEN	CRITICAL
CENTRAL	6	0	9	1	72	2	2	0
COPPERBELT	13	1	65	2	234	38	28	11
EASTERN	20	1	39	0	165	11	8	3
LUAPULA	16	0	43	2	196	10	7	1
LUSAKA	11	0	21	0	91	23	18	4
MUCHINGA	19	0	33	1	132	4	2	1
NORTHERN	14	0	46	0	240	6	5	2
N/WESTERN	17	2	53	9	349	19	10	2
SOUTHERN	7	0	18	0	121	3	2	0
WESTERN	35	1	19	0	193	2	1	0
TOTAL	158 Cases	5 Death	346 Discharges	15 New admissions	1,793 Active	118 Admitted	83 (70%) On O₂	24 (20%) Critical

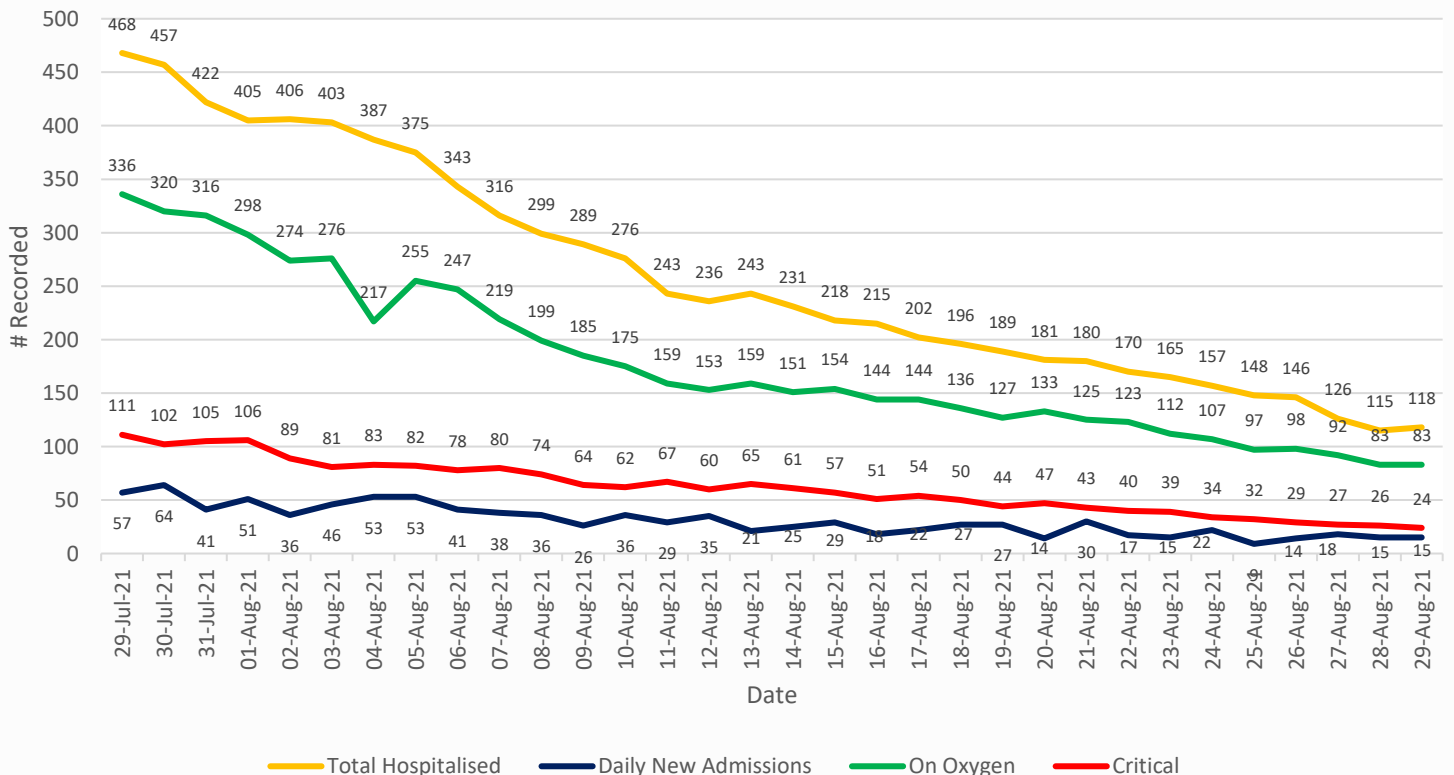


Figure 4: Case management trends over the past month, showing overall admissions, against daily new admissions, patients on Oxygen therapy and those in critical condition

3.3 LABORATORY AND SAMPLE MANAGEMENT

- Zambia is utilising a number of testing platforms, including real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR), Gene Xpert, Hologic Panther, and Roche Cobas 6800, as well as Standard Q and Panbio Rapid Diagnostic Tests. Available testing centres can be found here: <https://arcp.is/15rqeP> and the revised testing strategy can be found [here](#).
- **Previous week analysis (16th – 22nd Aug): 44,301 tests** were conducted in the previous week (5% tested positive for SARS-CoV-2) compared to **36,558 tests** the week before last (6% positivity).
- **Current week analysis (23rd – 22nd Aug):** In the last 24 hrs, 5,044 tests were conducted (3% positivity); the cumulative number of tests conducted this week was **41,348 (4% positivity)**.
- The testing coverage is **126,574 per 1,000,000 population**. See *figure 5* below for comparative analysis of tests conducted across countries in the SADC region.

Table 5: Testing rates per province comparison for the last two weeks

Province	Last week			This Week		
	Total Number of tests done	Number of tests done/ 100,000 Population	Test Positivity Rate	Total Number of tests done	Number of tests done/ 100,000 Population	Test Positivity Rate
Central	2,954	170	6%	3,049	176	2% ↓
Copperbelt	5,017	188	6%	4,542	170	4% ↓
Eastern	4,995	242	5%	4,061	197	3% ↓
Luapula	3,757	294	8%	3,536	277	6% ↓
Lusaka	11,656	347	1%	10,479	312	1% ~
Muchinga	1,652	151	12%	1,447	132	7% ↓
Northern	2,728	179	8%	4,172	274	5% ↓
N/western	2,213	233	17%	2,128	224	14% ↓
Southern	7,415	347	3%	5,216	244	2% ↓
Western	1,914	178	7%	2,718	252	6% ↓
NATIONAL	44,301	248	5%	41,348	231	4% ↓

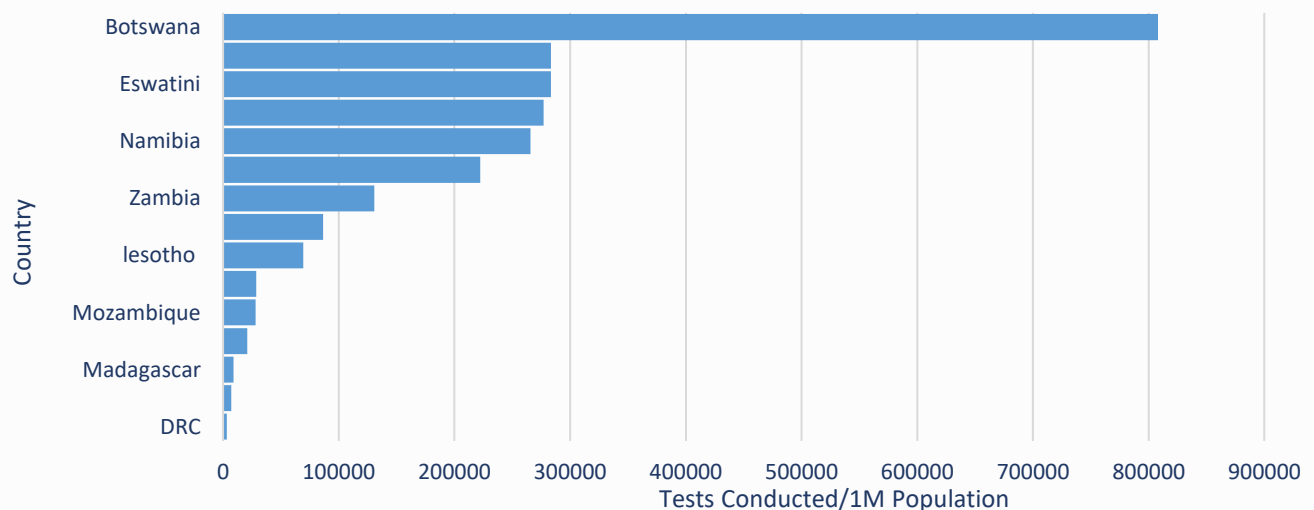


Figure 5: Comparison of number of tests conducted/million population across SADC countries

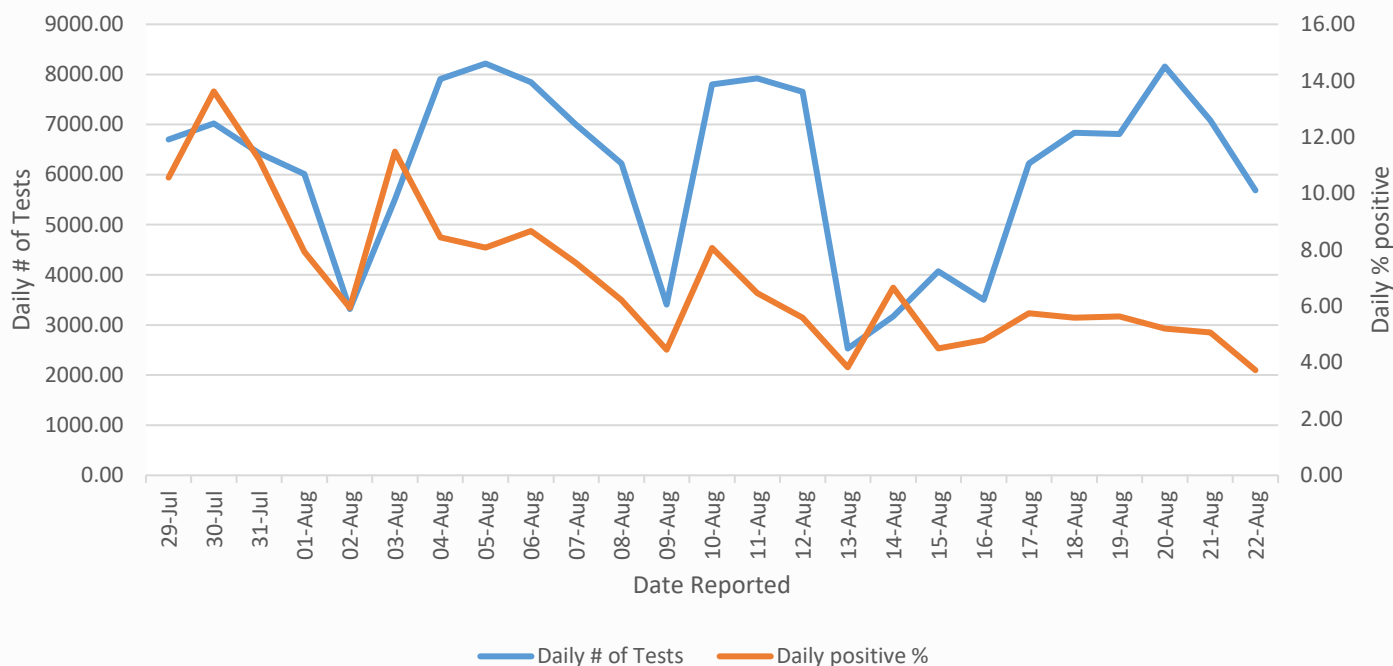


Figure 5: Daily number of tests vs % of positive results recorded (past month)

3.4 COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME AND LABORATORY

- The vaccination programme was officially launched on **Wednesday 14th April, 2021** by the Hon. Minister of Health, Dr. Jonas Chanda. Administration of Dose 1 was paused temporarily on 24th May, 2021 following a decision to ring fence the remaining doses for use as dose 2. Administration of Dose 2 of the AstraZeneca vaccine commenced on **Wednesday, 23rd June 2021**; **Dose 1** vaccinations resumed on Friday 9th July, 2021.
 - To date, 228,000 doses of AstraZeneca have been received under the COVAX facility and an additional 228,000 doses of AstraZeneca were donated by the Government of France through the COVAX facility (received in the country on 5th July, 2021). A further 151,200 doses of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine arrived in the country today, 21st July, 2021. Administration of the J&J commenced in Lusaka today 23rd July, 2021. On Saturday 7th August, 2021, 100,000 doses of Sinopharm were received.
- In the last 24 hours, we administered: **5 doses of Sinopharm, 97 Dose 1 and 133 Dose 2 AstraZeneca vaccinations, as well as 1,669 doses of J&J.**
 - Cumulatively to date, **303,191 Dose 1 and 109,127 Dose 2 (36% of dose 1) AstraZeneca as well as 147,702 doses of J&J** have been administered. In addition, 6,904 Dose 1 and 6,336 Dose 2 Sinopharm (92% of dose 1) have been administered in Lusaka and on the Copperbelt
 - In summary, of the 977,600 vaccine doses received to date, 573,260 (59%) have been administered, with a conservative 4.5% wastage rate notwithstanding.

3.4 RISK COMMUNICATION, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND IPC ENFORCEMENT

- Monitoring and enforcement of compliance to public health measures in public premises has been sustained despite laxity in some markets and society in general, following low case and mortality figures
 - Over 15,000 premises were inspected with compliance rates across the provinces averaging around 85%, while notices of improvements served and closures were recorded at approximately 14% and 1% respectively.

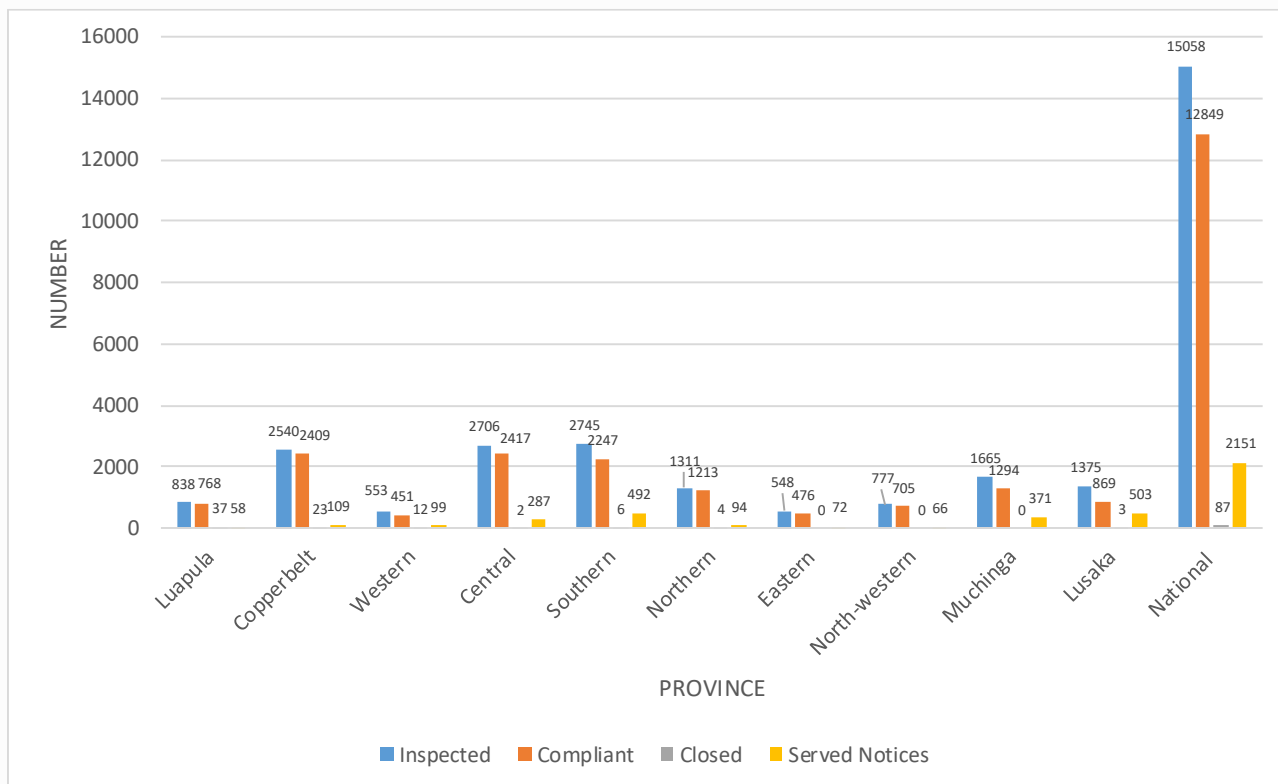


Figure 6: Weekly report of compliance monitoring activities by province

- Other activities being conducted include:
 - Environmental cleaning and disinfection in schools is ongoing
 - Health education through engagement with various sector community gate keeper (traditional, religious, market and transport association and civil society leaders)
 - Media engagement (TV, Radio, Print and social media platforms)
 - Advocacy for vaccination health workers and the general public
 - Call centre two-way communication with communities
 - Managing miscommunication and myth busting
 - Supporting public health safety pre, during and post-election