

Botswana

Directions for the Prevention of the Spread of COVID-19: 13 August 2020

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Botswana**Directions for the Prevention of the Spread of COVID-19: 13 August 2020****Government Notice 320 of 2020**

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[Up to date as at 13 August 2020]

[Repealed by [Directions for the Prevention of the Spread of COVID-19: 9 November 2020 \(Government Notice 485 of 2020\)](#) on 9 November 2020]

The Director of Health Services hereby gives the following direction under regulation 16 (4) (c) of the Emergency Powers (COVID-19) Regulations, 2020 —

1. Most effective prevention

The most effective prevention of transmission of COVID-19 is frequent hand washing with clean water and soap for at least 40 seconds.

2. Use of masks in public places

A person shall wear a cloth face mask or homemade item that covers the nose and mouth or another appropriate item that covers the nose and mouth when in a public place.

3. Travel

- (a) All persons coming to Botswana from high risk countries (as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO)) shall not be allowed entry into the country until further notice;
- (b) Issuance of Visa at Ports of entry and at all Embassies for any person from high risk areas is suspended with immediate effect until further notice;
- (c) Current visas of persons from high risk countries are cancelled with immediate effect until further notice;
- (d) International travel by all Government employees, parastatals and State owned entities is suspended with immediate effect until further notice; and
- (e) Travel for regional and international meetings, workshops and conferences are cancelled until further notice.

4. COVID-19 tests for inter-zonal travel

The Director may require a person who applies for an inter-zonal permit to take a COVID-19 test where the applicant —

- (a) is travelling from a COVID-19 high risk zone or area;
- (b) returns from a COVID-19 high risk zone or area to a COVID-19 low risk zone or area; or
- (c) transits a COVID-19 high risk zone or area.

Where a person's COVID-19 test results are positive an inter-zonal permit shall not be issued.

For purposes of this paragraph "high risk zone or area" means a COVID zone or area which the Director determines has a high number of COVID-19 cases.

5. Travel across COVID zones

- (a) A person shall not undertake non-essential travel;
- (b) A person shall not travel across COVID zones without a permit;
- (c) A person may only travel across COVID zones to —
 - (i) attend a funeral of an immediate member of the family, or
 - (ii) to access a farm, ranch, garden, ploughing field (*masimo*) or cattle post (*moraka*):
Provided that the person has been issued with a permit under the Emergency Powers (COVID-19) Regulations; and
- (d) For purposes of paragraph (c) (i), "immediate member of the family" means a spouse, son, daughter, siblings or parent.

6. Gatherings

All public gatherings of more than 2 people are prohibited:

Provided that parties shall not be held.

7. Meeting

- (a) Every meeting shall have a host or convener. The host or convener of a meeting shall be responsible for the adherence to COVID-19 protocols for persons attending the meeting;
- (b) A meeting, workshop or conference shall have a maximum of 50 persons;
- (c) A person shall not travel across COVID zones for purposes of a meeting, workshop or conference; and
- (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (c), a convener or facilitator may apply for a permit to cross COVID zones for purposes of a meeting, workshop or conference;

8. Societies

The following societies may meet —

- (a) faith based organizations;
- (b) any club, company, partnership or association registered by the Registrar of Societies; and
- (c) political parties, including central committees of political parties.

9. Faith-based organisation services

Faith-based organisation services shall —

- (a) Have a maximum of 50 persons;
- (b) not make provision for food or allow for the sale of food; and
- (c) have a maximum of two religious services per week.

10. Funerals

- (a) A funeral and a memorial service shall have a maximum of 50 persons; and
- (b) Funeral and memorial services shall not last more than 2 hours and food shall not be provided at such services:

Provided that food may be provided for members of the household.

11. Cultural and traditional occasions

A maximum of 50 individuals and a distance of 1 – 2 metres shall be maintained at cultural and traditional occasions such as –

- (a) *Go isa mafoko*;
- (b) *Patlo*;
- (c) *Magadi*; or
- (d) *Kgoroso*.

12. Social distancing

A distance of 1 – 2 metres between individual persons shall be maintained in a –

- (a) Gathering;
- (b) Bank;
- (c) Restaurant, including take-away restaurant;
- (d) Supermarket and a shop;
- (e) Pharmacy;
- (f) Government service department; and
- (g) Memorial service.

13. General advice to the public

- (a) To frequently wash hands with soap and clean water;
- (b) To ensure easy access to clean water and soap for hand washing at any public gathering where a maximum of 50 persons are allowed;
- (c) To ensure strict hand washing and surface cleaning for all equipment used during burial;
- (d) To clean high touch areas with disinfectants (examples of high touch areas are doors, elevators, counters, etc.);
- (e) To cover the nose and mouth with a tissue or flexed elbow when sneezing or coughing;
- (f) To avoid direct contact with anyone with cold or flu symptoms;
- (g) To avoid handshakes, hugs and kisses when greeting each other;
- (h) To ensure continued safety of other users of health facilities, individuals who have cold or flu symptoms (cough, fever, sore throat) and have had contact with returning travelers shall –
 - (i) Call the number 16649,
 - (ii) Not use public transport, and
 - (iii) If using a private vehicle or on foot, alert health facility officers on arrival before entering the

facility; and

- (i) Information from any other source other than the Director of Health Services and the World Health Organization should not be relied on by the public as credible and correct information.

[Government Notice No. 301 of 2020](#) is hereby revoked.

Dr. Malaki Tshipayagae,

Director of Health Services.