

Botswana

## Directions for the Prevention of the Spread of COVID-19: 9 November 2020

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**Botswana****Directions for the Prevention of the Spread of COVID-19: 9 November 2020****Government Notice 485 of 2020**

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*[Up to date as at 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 wash 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) A person entering and exiting Botswana shall have a valid 72 hours PCR negative test;
- (b) A traveller entering Botswana may at his/her own cost be required to undertake immediate COVID-19 testing and isolation or quarantine within the COVID zone of entry;
- (c) A non-citizen and a non-resident traveller who does not meet the requirements of paragraph 3 (a) shall not be allowed entry into Botswana; and
- (d) Travel by all Government employees, parastatals and State owned entities is suspended for regional and international meetings, workshops and conferences 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

A maximum of 50 individuals may meet for the following societies —

- (a) Faith based organizations, which shall have a maximum of two religious services per week;
- (b) Any club, company, partnership or association registered by the Registrar of Societies; and
- (c) All central committees of political parties.

## 9. Faith-based organisation services

Faith-based organisation services shall —

- (a) Have a maximum of 50 persons;
- (b) Not last more than 2 hours;
- (c) Not make provision for food or allow for the sale of food; and
- (d) 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 travellers 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. 320 of 2020](#) is hereby revoked.

Dr. Malebogo Kebabonye,

Director of Health Services.