

Heal Zimbabwe

25 May 2020

lockdown update

Introduction

On the 19th of April, Zimbabwe extended its lockdown with 14 days as a way of escalating measures of reducing the spread of COVID-19. The country's extension illustrates the government's commitment towards effectively containing the virus in the country. The current partial lockdown relaxed restrictions on mining companies, agricultural and food producers, among others as a way of ensuring constant supply of revenue to the government and food. The government also rolled out social assistance programs for vulnerable households including the elderly, vendors and People with Disabilities as a way of reinforcing the lockdown extension. The government's Task Force on COVID-19 also intensified its outreach activities to establish district and provincial isolation centres for cases of COVID-19 across the country.

Issues covered in this Update

In this report, Heal Zimbabwe's Early Warning and Early Response Situation Room provides an update on: how communities are responding to the extended lockdown, availability and cost of face masks, the conduct of lockdown enforcement officers, the availability and quality of health care services for COVID-19 and other diseases, and the availability of information on COVID-19 in local communities.

Methodology

A total of 4 000 trained Early Warning and Early Response Committee members and at least 5 000 community members who participate in HZT's outreach activities, CBOs operating in areas where Heal Zimbabwe operates and Heal Zimbabwe's Peace Clubs provides and verify information in this update.

Presentation of Updates

Mashonaland East

Murehwa

On the 23rd of May, all Councillors from Murewa Rural District Council attended a COVID-19 preparedness meeting at Murewa Hospital. The meeting was graced by the former Minister of Health and Child Welfare Dr David Parerenyatwa. The meeting resolved that all Councilors should establish Water Committees within their ward and these will be responsible for educating community members about COVID-19. Today, the 25th of May, community members from ward 27 continued with their daily activities as usual. Some members of the community

were gathered in different spots drinking traditional brewed beer.

Matabeleland North Province

Lupane

Community members in Lupane are increasingly disregarding the lockdown measures. Community members were shocked with the news that 14 returnees escaped from Mabhikwa Quarantine Centre on the 23rd of May and 9 of them have since been arrested. Community members also highlighted that most returnees were not happy with the quality and quantity of food they are getting at Mabhikwa. It is also alleged that the facility does not have sufficient bed linen.

Manicaland Province

Mutasa

Today, the 25th of May, large numbers of community members in Ward 21 were roaming around without masks nor observing social distance. There were no police officers enforcing the lockdown in Ward 21. In Ward 31, community members were roaming around wearing masks and a huge number of people was spotted drinking alcohol behind beer halls, in groups. A group of police officers were seen around 10:00 hours turning away those who did not have masks at Hauna business centre.

Buhera

Community members in Ward 5 and Ward 9 were roaming around without masks. A group of police officers were seen at around 07:00 hours turning away those who did not have masks from local shops in Ward 5. In Ward 9, there were no police officers to enforce the lockdown.

Chipinge

Community members in Ward 16 were roaming around without masks. A group of police officers were seen at around 12:00 turning away those who did not have masks from local shopping centres.

Chimanimani

Community members in Ward 8 were roaming around wearing home-made masks and head wraps. A group of police officers were seen around 10:00 enforcing the lockdown. Shops in Ward 8 had most of the basic commodities including mealie meal which is now costs ZW\$160, cooking oil US\$5, and salt ZW\$50.

Makoni

Community members in Ward 32 were roaming around wearing head wraps and homemade masks. Police officers were seen at around 09:00 enforcing the lockdown. Shops in Ward 32 had most of the basic commodities including mealie meal which is now costs ZW\$170, cooking oil ZW\$150 and salt ZW\$50.

Harare Metropolitan Province

Domboshava

Community members in Ward 4 were roaming around wearing home-made masks. Police officers were turning away those who did not have masks from Mungate business centre. Supermarkets in

Ward 4 had most of the basic commodities, including mealie meal costing ZW\$180, cooking oil ZW\$200, and salt US\$1.

Masvingo Province

Masvingo

Today the 25th of May, Masvingo COVID-19 Provincial Taskforce opened another quarantine centre at Bikita Training Centre as the number of Zimbabwean citizens returning from neighbouring countries continues to swell. By the 25th of May, the province housed 509 returnees quarantined at Masvingo Teachers College, Masvingo Polytechnic College, Rupangwana and Bikita Training Centres. These returnees arrived back into the country from South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia. The holding capacity of Masvingo Teachers College is 300 and there are 279 people at the moment. Masvingo Polytechnic College which has a capacity to hold 200 is now at 196 and Rupangwana which should hold 26 is at 18. However, community members from across Masvingo expressed concern over returnees who are escaping from the quarantine centre