

Heal Zimbabwe

lockdown update (7 May 2020)

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

Manicaland Province

Mutasa

Today, community members from Ward 31 Hauna Growth Point were roaming around without masks. At least 50 people were gathered at a funeral in Manditsera village. Most of the mourners were using head wraps to cover their mouths and noses. Community members were complaining that proper masks were expensive to purchase. Village Health Workers were available helping mourners to observe social distance. A group of police officers were seen around 09:00hours at Hauna business centre turning away those without masks from the

business centre and encouraging them to stay at home. Only Chitowa supermarket at Hauna Growth Point was selling masks today, each going for a US\$1.00.

Buhera

It was business as usual for community members in Buhera North Ward 9, Chitanda village. Most of the people were using t-shirts to protect themselves from the COVID-19 virus. Police officers were seen around 10:00 hours turning away everyone who didn't have masks from local business centres. Dere clinic was open although nurses were complaining over lack of personal protective equipment. Community members were complaining that the prices set for the masks, ranging from US\$3.00 to US\$6.00, were inhibitive. To make matters worse, these masks were only found at Gaza business centre in Ward 10.

Chipinge

Community members in Chipinge West Ward 1 Maunganidze village stayed in their homes. A group of police officers were seen around 12:00 hours turning away those who did not have masks from Birchenough Bridge shopping centre. However, the police patrols did not deter local taxi operators from loading and transporting people from Birchenough Bridge to Chipinge town. A group of community members numbering up to 50 were also queued at Mukuru outlet, without observing social distancing and with very few people wrapping their faces in head wraps.

Chimanimani

Community members in Chimanimani West Ward 8 stayed in their homes. A group of police officers were seen at around 10:00 hours turning away people who did not have masks from Nyanyadzi, Tonhorai, Chakohwa Wengezi and Gudyanga shopping centres and encouraging everyone to stay at home. Most shops in Ward 8, Ward 5, Ward 3 and Ward 20 were open albeit without masks in their stocks. Only homemade masks were available at Nyanyadzi shopping centre costing ZWL\$20.00 each

Headlands

Community members in Ward 12 stayed in their homes. At around 0900 hours, a group of police officers turned away people who did not have masks from shopping centres. Community members also complained that there were no proper masks available in the ward and they had to resort to wearing head wraps. Even homemade masks were costing ZWL\$25.00.

Harare Metropolitan Province

Domboshava

Community members in Ward 4 were seen roaming around shopping centres. A group consisting of soldiers and police officers were turning away everyone who did not have a mask from local shopping centres. Community members highlighted that the cost of buying a single mask at US\$3.00 was forcing many families to resort to using makeshift face covers.

Masvingo Province

Masvingo

Residents from Ward 4 and Ward 5 are facing water challenges, forcing them to gather in crowds at two community boreholes. Although community members are practising social distancing at these

boreholes, they are not disinfecting borehole handles.

Gutu

Informal traders from Mupandawana Growth Point have now resorted to using door to door delivery of their vegetables and wares to their customers as a way of sustaining their business. However, most of them still complain that business remains low and this may end up threatening their survival.

Matabeleland North Province

Lupane

Today, there was less movement of people around Lupane. Community members continue to adhere to maintain social distancing and putting on their home made masks always. This was also recorded in Jotsholo, Fatima, Lupanda, Mabhembenene, and Gwaii wards. Police Officers also turned away vendors from their vending sites during mid morning. They also ensured that everyone wore a mask.

