

Heal Zimbabwe 8

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

Manicaland Province

Mutasa

Community members in Ward 21 Penhalonga and Ward 31 stayed in their homes. A group of police officers were seen around 15:00hours turning away those who did not have masks. Shops in Ward 21 were open; however, masks were not available. Tsvingwe clinic in Ward 21 was open and most of the drugs were available. Community members were complaining over lack of masks as they are only found in Mutare Town. Community members in Mutasa North Ward 31 Hauna Growth Point stayed at home.

Buhera

It was business as usual for community members in Ward 5. Shops in Ward 5 were open and most of the basic commodities were available except for mealie meal and masks. Police officers were turning away everyone who had no mask. Community members were complaining over shortage of masks in local shops, stating that this was forcing them to use head wraps and t shirts to cover their faces.

Chimanimani

Community members in Ward 8 stayed in their homes. A group of police officers were turning away those who had no masks from Nyanyadzi shopping centre. Shops in Ward 8 did not have any masks and most basic commodities were available. Most community members were using head wraps to cover themselves. Only a few people managed to purchase home-made masks costing US\$1.00 from local tailors.

Makoni

Community members in Ward 32 village stayed in their homes. Police officers were chasing away everyone who had no masks from local shopping centres and encouraging everyone to stay at home.

Chipinge

On the 7th of May, it was business as usual for community members in Ward 17. Most of the community members took advantage of the fact that this ward is located far away from the main roads and police. Most daily activities in the ward like gardening projects championed by women as well as traditional meetings were in motion.. Information about COVID-19 is very limited and most of the people in this ward believe that the virus only attacks those in urban areas. Vendors in ward 24, were issued with a notice to vacate their vending markets located at Checheche Green Market. . On the 8th of May, community members in Chipinge West Ward 16 stayed at home. A group of police officers were seen in Ward 16 turning away those without masks and encouraging them to stay at home. Shops in Ward 16 were open and none of them was selling masks. Business operators highlighted that they will not be able to sell given that they were not able to travel to Chipinge town to replenish their stocks due to transport related restrictions.

Nyanga North

People from ward 4 stayed in their homes. Shops were open from morning till 12pm. Police were not very strict, as people were moving around without wearing face masks. Rakabopa and Chitova shops at Ruwangwe growth point were selling face masks for ZWL\$50.00. Ruwangwe police roadblock demanded approved letter from people travelling to business centres.

Harare Metropolitan Province

Chitungwiza

It was business as usual for community members from Unit O. Police moved around, arresting those who were found moving around without masks .Police officers were also spotted at Makoni Business centre where they were turning away people without masks from the shopping centre. Local shops in Unit O are selling home-made face masks for ZWL\$50.00.

Masvingo

Bikita

On the 8th of May, movement of people at Nyika Growth Point had increased. Most of the people at Nyika Growth Point had their masks. Police officers were not allowing people without masks at the Growth Point. Prices of basic commodities have gone up. Masks are still being sold for US\$1.00 or ZWL\$30.00 each in the shops. Community members are still resorting to homemade masks.

Gutu

Community members stayed in their homes. Today, Police officers who were enforcing the lockdown at Mupandawana were very strict about exemption letters for everyone at Mupandawana Growth Point. They were also not allowing people to pass police road blocks without putting on masks. Masks were still being sold in the shops for US\$1.00 each and basic goods have now become scarce or expensive where they are available.

Zaka

Community members continue to stay in their homes. However, the movement of people to Jerera and Chinorumba townships has increased. Police officers were very strict on putting on masks and fining those who do not put on masks. Masks were still being sold at US\$1.00 each. Community members have resorted to home-made masks as a way of evading high costs. Local taxis have resumed their work, ferrying passengers from Jerera to surrounding areas.

Chiredzi

There is an increase in the movement of people in Chiredzi CBD and Business centres. Police officers were making sure that no one passes the roadblock without a mask. Masks were still being sold for ZWL\$20.00 or US\$1.50 each. Most people were operating their informal businesses from their homesteads.

Mwenezi

Community members from around Neshuro Growth Point stayed in their homes today. Those who were moving around used their head wraps to cover their mouths and noses. Most people were avoiding police officers who were manning Neshuro Growth Point to avoid being fined for not putting on masks. Masks are not yet available in shops and people are using homemade masks and head wraps.

Mashava

Community members in Mashava are still staying in their homes. Only a few people are still being seen at shops and people are also wearing their home-made masks. Home-made masks are being sold at ZWL\$20.00 each and police officers are making sure that everyone moving around has a mask on.

Mashonaland West Province

Hurungwe

Community members from Ward 15 have resumed their normal daily businesses. At Magororo business centre, beer halls were open throughout the day and patrons spent most of their time drinking alcohol and chatting in groups. No face masks or social distance was being exercised. However, business people around Chiroti clinic (also a local COVID-19 referral centre) were encouraging community members to use facemasks. The Clinic personnel were also refusing to assist patients without one.

