

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



THE PRESIDENCY

STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**ON THE OCCASSION OF THE 44th COVID-19 PUBLIC BRIEFING
ON THE NATIONAL RESPONSE MEASURES**

14 June 2022

WINDHOEK

**Check Against Delivery*

Fellow Namibians,

Welcome to the 44TH Covid-19 update on our National Response Measures.

I am informed by our experts that we are in the last stages of the 5th Wave, which started on the 10th of May 2022 with 222 cases, with a peak of 585 cases on the 18th of May 2022. Regrettably, 21 deaths were recorded since the start of the 5th Wave of this invisible and deadly enemy Covid-19. I extend condolences to those who have lost their loved ones during that period.

On the 8th of June 2022, the National Health Emergency Management Committee (NHEMC) met to review the current COVID-19 Public Health Regulations, which are due to expire at midnight on the 15th of June 2022.

Therefore, going forward, a duration of one month is proposed from the 16th of June to the 15th of July 2022 for the next bouquet of measures to contain the spread of Covid-19.

1. Wearing of Masks

- The public is urged and encouraged to continue wearing masks, especially in indoor settings and aeroplanes.

2. Gatherings

- The permitted number with respect to public gatherings remains unchanged at 1 000 persons per event.

3. Education

- Measures related to education are retained. A number of many positive cases were recorded among learners and teachers. Therefore, educational institutions are urged to remain vigilant by enforcing public health and social measures.

4. Burials

- Measures related to burials of persons who died of Covid-19 remain unchanged. The Infection Prevention and Control Pillar will meet with the Ministerial legal team, namely the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General Office to agree on a less cumbersome process for exhumation of bodies. Details about a new process for exhumation will be communicated by the Government following finalization of all the outstanding matters with regard to exhumation procedures.

5. Tests Results Upon Entry

- Children who are more than five years and less than 12 years and anyone who is not fully vaccinated must present a negative PCR result of less than 72 hours.
- Children fully vaccinated should present proof of vaccination status.
- Children from countries that are not vaccinating should present a negative PCR result.
- Health Officials are strongly advised to avoid separating children from parents in event the accompanying child/children have not met the Port of Entry requirements.

With regard to contact sports, current measures are retained. I also wish to reiterate the fact that there are no new measures proposed for public transport, business operations and restrictions related to the sale of liquor. The status quo remains.

I once again commend those who remain in the frontline of the fight against Covid-19, health-workers and first responders, including our men and women in uniform who have been committed to protecting our country against this deadly enemy. Our ability to manage the infection rate is testament of the hard work and dedication of our shared commitment to fight Covid-19.

I should however caution all of you that we are in the middle of winter and Covid-19 circulates much faster during this period. As our first line of defence against Covid-19, let us get vaccinated in order to reach herd immunity. Vaccines are effective and they are safe. Let us continue to observe good hand hygiene, the correct wearing of face-masks if you do so, especially in public and crowded places. Practice social and physical distancing and personal vigilance, and avoid crowded indoor settings if you can.

We should remain vigilant because there is a lot of work ahead before we can safely say that Covid-19 is behind us.

I now invite the Minister of Health and Social Services to provide more details.

I thank you.