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12 March 2020

RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Medical supply challenges and interaction with stakeholders

Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BoMRA) has been closely monitoring the far-reaching impact of a novel strain of a Corona Virus (COVID-19) on the Pharmaceutical Industry and the nation at large.

Considering these developments, BoMRA has been compelled to introduce the following precautionary internal measures with immediate effect. These measures are aimed at minimising the potential impact of the **pandemic** on the nation.

Stakeholder consultations

1. All stakeholder workshops and/or engagement sessions have been suspended until further notice.
2. BoMRA will continue to send relevant updates to stakeholders through email until the COVID-19 situation has abated and government has lifted restrictions.

Internal control measures

1. Our offices will have hand sanitisers for use by staff and customers.
2. Customer-facing staff members will wear masks and/or gloves while interacting with customers.
3. Clients visiting our offices are asked to observe all signs and directives by staff members, especially those aimed to minimize risk of spread of the virus.
4. All official travel for staff members has been suspended until further notice.

Interaction with customers

- Stakeholders and customers requiring services or making enquiries from BoMRA are encouraged **NOT** to visit the office but rather to enquire through telephone, email and other virtual platforms.
- Customers who are compelled to visit the BoMRA offices are advised to do so only **by appointment**, except those collecting Import/Export permits and premises licenses.
- All applications for licensing and import/export permits shall be emailed to impex@bomra.co.bw and original application documents to be submitted at the time of collection of the permit.




Board Of Directors

Mr Duncan Thela (Chairperson) / Dr Mbatshi Mazwiduma / Dr Tiroyaone Mampane / Dr Gaseitsewe Sento / Dr Gontle Moleele / Mr Kagiso Balopi

Ms. Botho Kebabonye Bayendi / Dr Joyce Kgallwane / Ms Shameela Winston / Mr Meshack Baoleki / Dr. Malaki Tshipiyagae / Dr Letlhogile Modisa / Dr Stephen Ghanle



 Plot 112 International Finance Park, Gaborone
 Private Bag 2 Gaborone Station, Botswana
 info@bomra.co.bw

 (+267) 373 1720
 (+267) 373 1727
 (+267) 318 6254

- All pre-licencing and licence renewal applications shall be scanned and emailed to inspections@bomra.co.bw and original application documents to be submitted at time of collection of the permit.
- Premises licenses and import/export permits will be collected at a designated area within the BoMRA reception.

Supply of medical products in Botswana

BoMRA is working with the industry and suppliers to facilitate the uninterrupted availability of medical products particularly those that will be used to manage COVID-19 as well as other priority public health diseases.

BoMRA advises all stakeholders who intend on placing topical antiseptics including hand sanitizers on the market to ensure that they go through an **Exemption from Registration process**. The process will assess the minimum requirements expected of a topical antiseptic. The turnaround time for this process will be 2 working days. This will not apply to disinfectants (products not intended for application on the human body) and industrial cleaning solvents. The exemption procedure will start on the 25th of March 2020. The guidance and application forms will be available on our website: www.bomra.co.bw.

The public is encouraged to maintain vigilance and regularly refer to the Ministry of Health and Wellness updates on prevention and control measures against Corona Virus (COVID-19).

Yours Sincerely,



Dr Stephen Ghanie
Chief Executive Officer

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