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**AS OF DATE:22/3/2021**



**WHO, BOTSWANA COUNTRY OFFICE COVID 19 SITUATION UPDATE AS OF DATE:29/9/2022**

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**Epi Week 38**

* A total of 9 new cases were reported nationwide
* The total number of tests performed this EPW is **1, 439**
* National attack rate <1 case/100,000 pop
* Case Fatality Rate (CFR) of 0.00%.
* The positivity rate is 0.63%

**Summary 18th – 24th Sep 2022**

* As of 29th of September 2022, a total of **326, 309** cases were reported.

Currently no isolated cases of COVID-19.

* Since beginning of the outbreak, cumulative deaths is 2, 871.
* No reported deaths for EPW 38.
* Cumulative number of people who have received the 1st dose of the COVID 19 vaccine stands at **1,589, 621** while **1,378, 230** are fully vaccinated
* Cumulatively **466, 951** people have received their 1stBooster doses and **11, 789** have received their 2nd booster dose.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Source:MOHW

1. **BACKGROUND**

* The outbreak in Botswana started with three imported cases and the situation transitioned from imported cases to clusters of cases, initially driven by cross border movements, to community transmission affecting all twenty(27) districts in the country at a different levels.
* Since the beginning of the COVID-19 epidemic, to date, Botswana has experienced five (5) waves of COVID-19 transmission, spearheaded by different variants at varying phases showing the same trend as in other countries Worldwide. The country is currently stable with only 8 health districts reporting COVID-19 confirmed cases in week 37.

1. **EPIDEMIOLOGY AND SURVEILLANCE**

* A total of Nine (9) cases were reported for this Epi Week .
* The number of monthly cases have reduced dramatically as shown by figure 1.
* The cumulative number of confirmed cases. stands at 326, 309.
* Cumulative deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak is 2, 781,
* There has been no change to the national attack rate which is >1infection/ 100, 000 population.

Figure 1; Mothly distribution of COVID-19 cases in Botswana.

1. **LABORATORY INVESTIGATIONS**

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| Lab tests | Number |
| Cummulative tests performed | **2, 330, 503** |
| Test performed (This week) | **1, 439** |
| Positive tests | **9** |
| Negative test | **1, 430** |
| Total samples received from facilities |  |

NB; it is not possible to report disaggregated data because health facilities still not able to report disaggregated data for tests by PCR and RDT.

1. **PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIONS/ RESPONSE INTERVENTIONS**

**Coordination and leadership**

* The SURGE Flagship initiative is ongoing with a total of 68 participants expected to complete the training on the 29th of September 2022.

**Risk Communication and Community Engagement**

* Communication continues on multiple media platfrorms (Radio, Television and newspapers) on the importance of COVID-19 vaccines
* The side effect profile of pediatric Pfizer is being communicated the community so that they can report any reported side effects.

**Surveillance & Contact Tracing**

* Districts and national level weekly data analysis is continuing showing downward trend of cases across the country.

**Case Manegemnet**

* No deaths recorded for Epi week 38.

**Points of Entry (PoE) and Cross Border Health**

* Travellers continue to only be allowed entry into the country if fully vaccinated with the primary vaccine series without the need to present a negative PCR test.
* All unvaccinated or partially vaccinated travellers are required to produce a valid negative PCR COVID-19 test performed within 72 hours from country of departure.
* Travellers are no longer required to do a Ag-RDT at point of entry if they have a negative PCR that is valid within 72 hours.

**COVID-19 Vaccination**

* Of the new Phase 4b (5-11 years old), **78, 364** so far **369, 748** **(22%)** children have been vaccinated with their 1st dose.
* The national target has been adjusted to include children above 5 years and is to now vaccinate **2, 064, 084** people.
* The national uptake (1st dose ) now stands **77.0%,** which is 1, 589, 621 of the eligible population
* The national coverage (fully vaccinated) stands at (1, 378, 230) **66.8**% of the national target.
* 1st booster dose is at **466, 951**
* The second booster doseis **11, 798**
* **86%** of healthcare workers have been vaccinated.
* The country WHO/CDC target is at **64.5%** for 1st dose and **55.9%** for 2nd dose of COVID-19 vaccines.

**WHO Response Actions**

* Supported the finalzation of the statory instrument on the revision of PHSMs for COVID-19.
* Supporting and facilitaing the ongoing SURGE training on emergency preparedness and respose.
* Sharing regional COVID-19 updates with the Ministry counterpart to guide the Ministry to adapt and tailor make some of the stratigies to better respond to few cases that are still being reported in few hot spot across the country.

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