



The Kingdom of Eswatini
Ministry of Health

KINGDOM OF ESWATINI COVID-19 DAILY SITUATION REPORT - #4	
Date/timing	17 March 2020 11:30 AM.
Incident Title	Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Outbreak in China and other countries
Information Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WHO COVID-19 situation reports ▪ Eswatini Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) ▪ COVID-19 preparedness and response plan ▪ Regional public health emergency management committees (PHEMC)
Background	<p>Updates in China and at Global level</p> <p>The COVID-19 case definition include all travel or residence to all countries reporting local transmission. As of the 16th March 2020 there are 167,511 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and 52% of the cases are coming from outside China. Outside of China, there are 86 434 cases with 848 countries that ae affected. A total of 6606 deaths have been reported from China and outside China. The risk assessment, according to WHO, is very high in China, at global level and at regional level. Of note is that daily new cases outside China surpass those cases reported daily from inside China, indicating a global spread.</p> <p>A total of 160 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been reported in 22 countries in the African region. Five of these countries have reported local transmission (Algeria, Rwanda, Cameroon, South Africa, and Senegal). Three deaths have been reported from the African region.</p> <p>Updates in Eswatini</p> <p>COVID-19 alerts update: Eswatini reported the first confirmed case of COVID-19 on March 13th 2020. Eswatini PHEMC are now meeting thrice a week to discuss COVID-19 preparedness and response. A COVID-19 preparedness and response plan has been finalized and endorsed by the Minister for Health.</p> <p>Monitoring of travelers from China: Eswatini has registered at least 75 travelers from overseas countries as of the 16th of March and 3 were travelling from China. Please note that these are reported from Ngwenya ground crossing and KMIII airport.</p> <p>Summary of registered travelers: 16th March 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Total registered travelers-75 ▪ Total registered travelers from China – 3 ▪ Total registered travelers from Italy – 0 ▪ Total registered travelers from Korea –0 ▪ Travelers currently under follow up –23
Public Health Action	<p>Coordination and command</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adhoc PHEMC meeting on Saturday was conducted to look at key activities following COVID-19 case confirmation ▪ Weekly PHEMC was conducted to plan on training, response and health facility support ▪ Meeting between MoH and PEPFAR was held to mobilize support on



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COVID-19

- Press statement and media briefing was conducted by the Health Minister on Saturday on the status of COVID-19 in Eswatini and measures taken by government.

Surveillance, RRTs, and Laboratory

- Surveillance tools were developed (SOP for contact tracing, and contact tracing form)
- A surveillance rumor log sheet has been developed and incorporated in the COVID-19 desk at the MoH Call Centre
- The case definition for COVID-19 has not changed and remains limited to countries/territories reporting local transmission (RSA is now reporting local transmission)
- Specimen is now shipped to RSA for testing at Lancet South Africa.
- Focal person at Mbabane Government Hospital was identified who liase with local health facilities/laboratories and the Lancet Laboratories
- Needs assessment for conducting COVID-19 testing in-country was conducted

Risk communication and community engagement

- Meeting with editors was conducted to brief them on COVID-19 and way forward
- Meeting with mobile operators was conducted and they were given IEC material
- More IEC material targeting school children, travelers, health workers, hotels, and churches is being developed
- Messages on COVID-19 are continuously sent by different Development Program Producers as well as continuity program presenters through ESBIS, VOC and ETBC
- Radio jingle recorded by Director of Health Services running at strategic times on Eswatini Broadcasting Information Service (EBIS)
- Siswati and English posters and flyers for travelers and the general public on preventive measures for COVID have been developed, printed and disseminated to all regions

Points of entry (PoE)

- Entry screening is being implemented in nine PoEs to identify travelers fitting the case definition.
- Screening tools include international arrivals health forms, screening procedure and contact listing forms have been updated to incorporate COVID-19.
- Internal sensitization on COVID has been done for PoEs stakeholders.
- Rapid Response Teams are conducting follow up travelers that have been to affected countries in the past 14-days.
- Special messages for travelers exiting and arriving into the country are distributed in PoEs.

Case Management and infection prevention and control

- Lubombo referral hospital had the first admission of COVID-19 case
- A group of responders were trained on IPC
- Updating of IPC action plan with WHO has been done



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 5 doctors, 25 nurses volunteers were identified and awaiting in-depth training▪ One trainer of trainers went to Lusaka for case management training▪ Guidelines, SOPs, and protocols for case management have been developed <p>Response and supply management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ COVID-19 desk is set at the call centre to cater for all the four regions▪ MoH engaged on urgent procurement process for all needed commodities such as PPE▪ NERCHA has been engaged for funding for urgent supply management▪ Different departments in the MoH have been approached to release cars for COVID-19 activities
Information Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Senior Medical Officer Public Health▪ COVID-19 Task Force
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