

. SURVEILLANCE, RAPID RESPONSE TEAMS AND CASE INVESTIGATION

In Zimbabwe which is yet to confirm COVID-19, the main objective of surveillance is the rapid detection of imported cases, comprehensive and rapid contact tracing and case identification. The objectives of surveillance change in relation to the transmission scenarios (see section 4). Robust COVID-19 surveillance data are essential to guide the appropriate and proportionate public health response actions.

Priority actions at **national level** include:

- i. Disseminate case definitions in line with WHO guidance and investigation protocols to health care workers in both public sector and private sector health facilities;
- ii. Enhance indicator-based surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI)
- iii. Activate active case finding and event-based surveillance for COVID-19
- iv. Assess gaps in active case finding and event-based surveillance systems
- v. Develop surveillance tools to enable monitoring of COVID-19 transmission including developing standardized protocols for contact tracing and monitoring
- vi. Put in place standard mechanism in line with Zimbabwe SOPs for activation and deactivation of PHEOC to regularly review surveillance case definitions and public health interventions based on surveillance findings.
- vii. Enhance laboratory capacity to confirm COVID-19 cases
- viii. Establish reporting formats and channels to share surveillance data including reports of all alerts and suspect cases, contacts monitored...etc.
- ix. Actively monitor and report disease trends, impacts
- x. Train and equip rapid-response teams to investigate cases all alerts and clusters and contact tracing
- xi. Conduct regular analysis of epidemiological surveillance and laboratory data
- xii. Establish regular mechanism to share surveillance analysis with decision makers and stakeholders at all levels in the country and with international partners in line with IHR (2005)

Priority actions at **provincial level** include:

- i. Disseminate case definitions approved by national level to all public sector and private sector health facilities in the province
- ii. Train relevant health workers to conduct active case finding and event-based surveillance for influenza-like illness and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) using nationally approved surveillance tools and standardized protocols for contact tracing and monitoring
- iii. Train and equip rapid-response teams to investigate cases all alerts and clusters and contact tracing
- iv. Assess gaps in active case finding and event-based surveillance systems at provincial and district level
- v. Establish a provincial surveillance working group to regularly review surveillance data collected from the province, conduct regularly analysis and share with stakeholders in the province and at national level

- vi. Monitoring compliance of province with national reporting formats and channels to share surveillance data including daily reporting of all alerts and suspect cases, contacts monitored...etc.