



COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT



**“Unga gada
uZupco ule corona iyaphela
ngoba kuya fafazwa**

Matabeleland South , Ndebele

Translation:

**“If you hike in a ZUPCO vehicle when infected with
COVID-19 you will be cured because they are fumigated.”**



FACT CHECKING

- On March 30, 2020, through the Public Health (COVID-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment) (National Lockdown) (No. 2) Order, 2020 Statutory Instrument 200 of 2020, made it compulsory for Zimbabwe United Passenger Bus Company (ZUPCO) buses to be disinfected to reduce the risk of the buses being agents of spreading COVID-19.
- Dr Mayibongwe Mzingwane from the Faculty of Medicine at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) advises that “fumigation is meant to kill viruses that are in the environment. It is meant to prevent infection rather than being a cure as such ZUPCO buses are fumigated to limit spreading infection to people who board the bus. It does not cure”.
- The MoHCC advises that there is no specific cure for COVID-19 and that those infected with COVID-19 should promptly seek medical care. The Ministry also advises using hand sanitisers, wearing masks, physical distancing and getting vaccinated to reduce the chances of getting infected with COVID-19.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMUNITIES

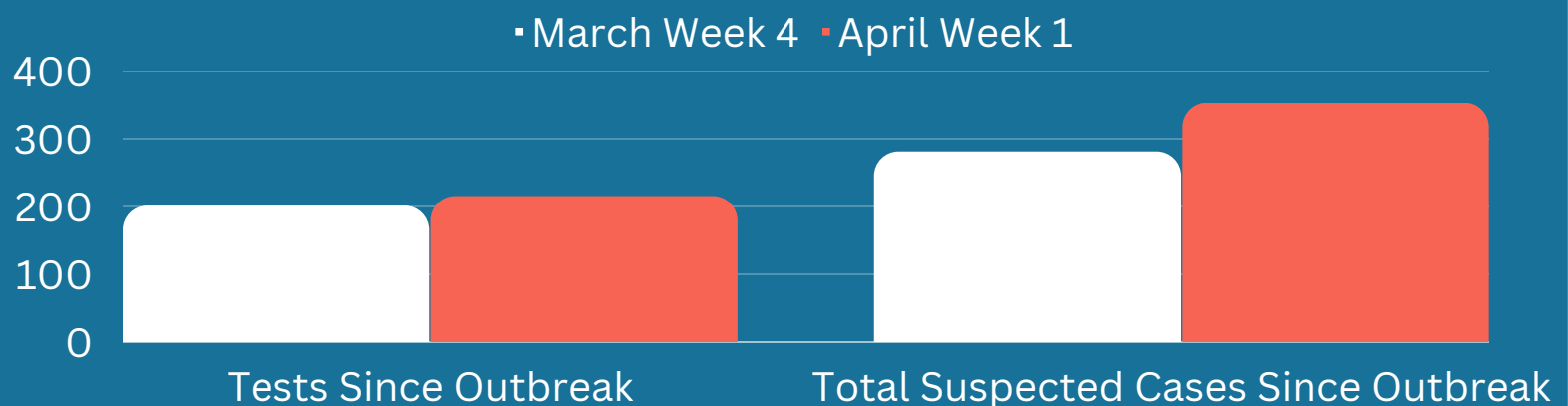
- **Community Based organisations (CBOs)** can distribute Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials to men, women, children, and youth at public transport terminals and in public transport vehicles that explain the reasons behind disinfection of public transport vehicles while debunking myths that boarding disinfected vehicles cures COVID-19.
- **Community Health Workers (CHWs)** can work with the Zimbabwe Association of Community Radio Stations (ZACRAS), to promote playing podcasts in public transport vehicles that educate people on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in public transport vehicles and what they should do in the event they are infected with COVID-19.



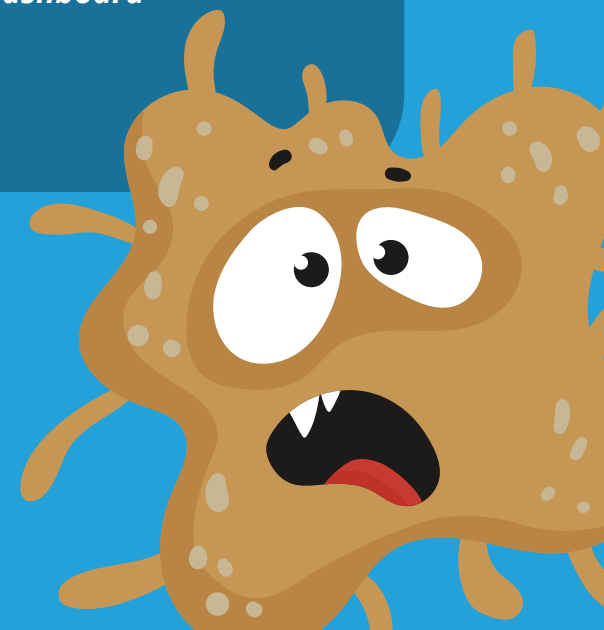
CHOLERA UPDATE

On February 12, 2023, Zimbabwe recorded an outbreak of Cholera in Chegutu, Mashonaland West Province. Since then, cases have been reported in eight provinces with cases in each province having no epidemiological link to each other.

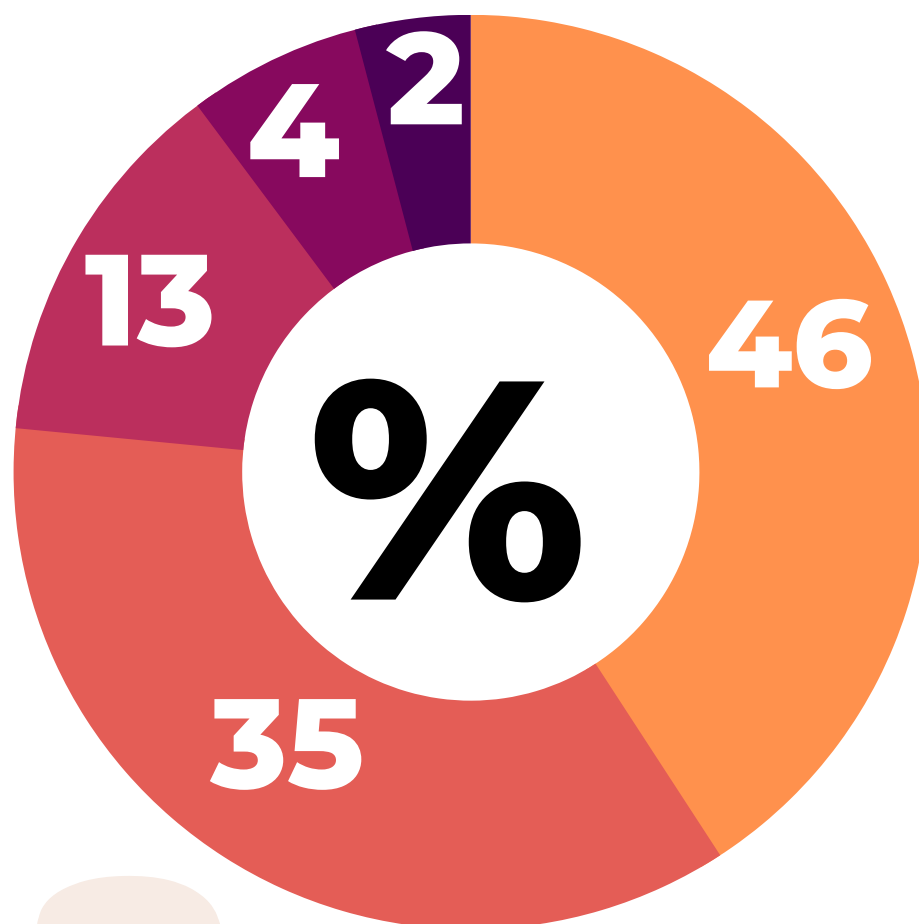
To date, 17 Cholera hotspot Districts in the country have been identified as Buhera, Chegutu, Chikomba, Chimanimani, Chipinge, Chitungwiza, Chiredzi, Harare, Gokwe North, Marondera, Mazowe, Shamva, Mutare, Murehwa, Mwenezi, Seke and Wedza. As of April 4, 2023, a cumulative total of 353 suspected Cholera cases, two confirmed deaths, five suspected Cholera deaths and 68 laboratory confirmed cases were reported.








Visualisation by Internews: Data from RiT 2.0 Global Rumor Dashboard



RUMOUR TRENDS



Trending Rumor Themes

-  COVID-19 is endemic.
-  Poor sanitation will worsen the Cholera outbreak.
-  COVID-19 vaccines have adverse side effects.
-  Mental health is linked to suicide cases especially among men.
-  Comorbidities increase the risk of COVID-19 infection and death.

Visualisation by Internews: Data from RiT 2.0 Global Rumor Dashboard

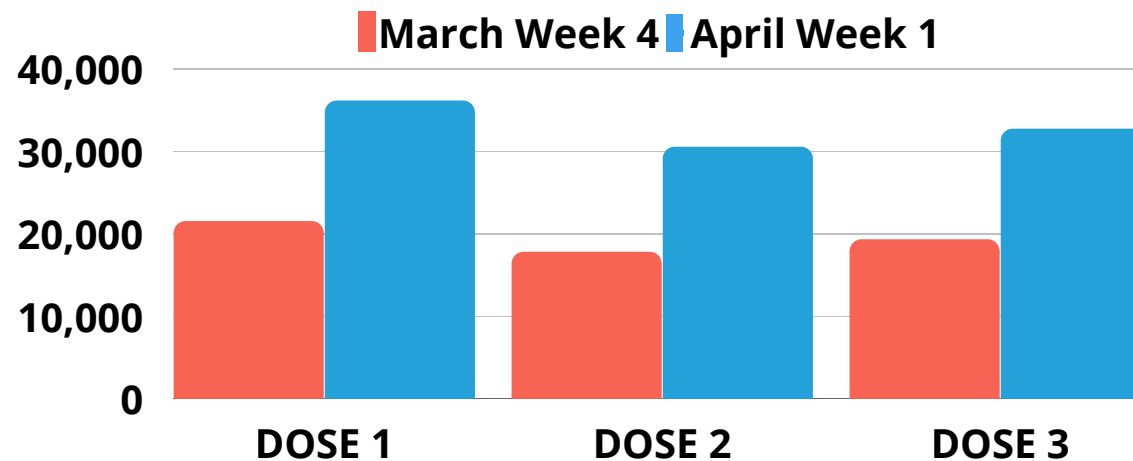
Between March 29 and April 4, 2023, Internews in Zimbabwe collected 343 COVID-19, other health, and humanitarian related rumours. Of the total, 71 rumours were collected online (Facebook: 16 and Twitter: 55) and 272 through in-person interactions. Trending rumour themes were, "COVID-19 is endemic" (46%), "Poor sanitation will worsen the Cholera outbreak" (35%), "COVID-19 vaccines have adverse side effects" (13%), "Mental health is linked to suicide cases especially among men" (4%) and "Comorbidities increase the risk of COVID-19 infection and death" (2%).





COVID-19 TRENDS

Week-on-week Comparison



Source: Visualisation by Internews: Data by MoHCC

- First vaccine dose uptake in Zimbabwe increased by 67% from 21,556 administered in week four of March 2023 to 26,116 doses administered in week one of April 2023.
- There was a 71% increase in the uptake of second vaccine dose and 69% increase in the uptake of third vaccine dose. Second vaccine uptake increased from 17,832 to 30,560 doses, while the third vaccine uptake decreased from 19,343 to 32,747 doses.
- As of April 4, 2023, there were 73 active COVID-19 cases with 11 hospitalised. Of the total, nine hospitalised cases were vaccinated and two were unvaccinated. Two COVID-19 related deaths were recorded during week four.
- Cumulatively, Zimbabwe has vaccinated 6,958,276 people with the first vaccine dose and 5,166,623 with the second vaccine dose, translating to 51,7% of the 10 million herd immunity target initially set for end December 2022. A total of 1,727,745 people have received the third vaccine dose.