ZAMBIA COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT NO. 331 – EPI WEEK 38

Disease Pandemic: COVID-19 | **Response start date: 30th January, 2020** | **Outbreak Declared:18th March, 2020**
Report date: Sunday 26th Sept, 2021 | **Prepared by:** MOH/ZNPHI/WHO | **Correspondence:**ims.covid@znphi.co.zm

1. SITUATION UPDATE *This week (20th - 26th Sept)* *Cases 388* *Deaths 8* *Recoveries 584*

1.1 CURRENT NUMBERS (as of 09:00 hours CAT)

- **Epi-week review (*20th - 26th Sept*):** 388 confirmed cases, 8 deaths, and 584 recoveries reported (compared to 531 confirmed cases, 7 deaths, and 819 recoveries the previous week).
  - This marks an **27% decrease in new cases** with **14% increase in deaths**
- **Last 4 weeks (14-day period comparison):** there were 919 new cases and 15 deaths reported in the last 2 weeks, compared to 1,887 new cases and 35 deaths reported in the preceding 14 days (**51% and 57% decrease respectively**).
- **Total new admissions**: 33 in the past week compared to 47 in the preceding week (30% decrease).
- **Cumulatively**, 208,857 cases with 3,646 deaths (CFR=1.75%) and 204,745 recoveries (98% recovered). Of the total deaths, 2,731 have been classified as COVID-19 deaths (CFR=1.31%) and 915 as associated deaths.
  - **Currently**: there are **466 active cases**: of these, 438 (94%) are under community management and 28 (6%) are hospitalised, with 16 (57%) on Oxygen therapy and 7 (25%) in critical condition.

Global Numbers
(Source: Worldometre)
232,532,255 Confirmed
4,760,649 Deaths (2.1% CFR)
209,149,916 Recoveries

Africa Numbers
(Source: Africa CDC)
8,268,818 Confirmed
209,747 Deaths (2.5% CFR)
7,592,475 Recoveries

2. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

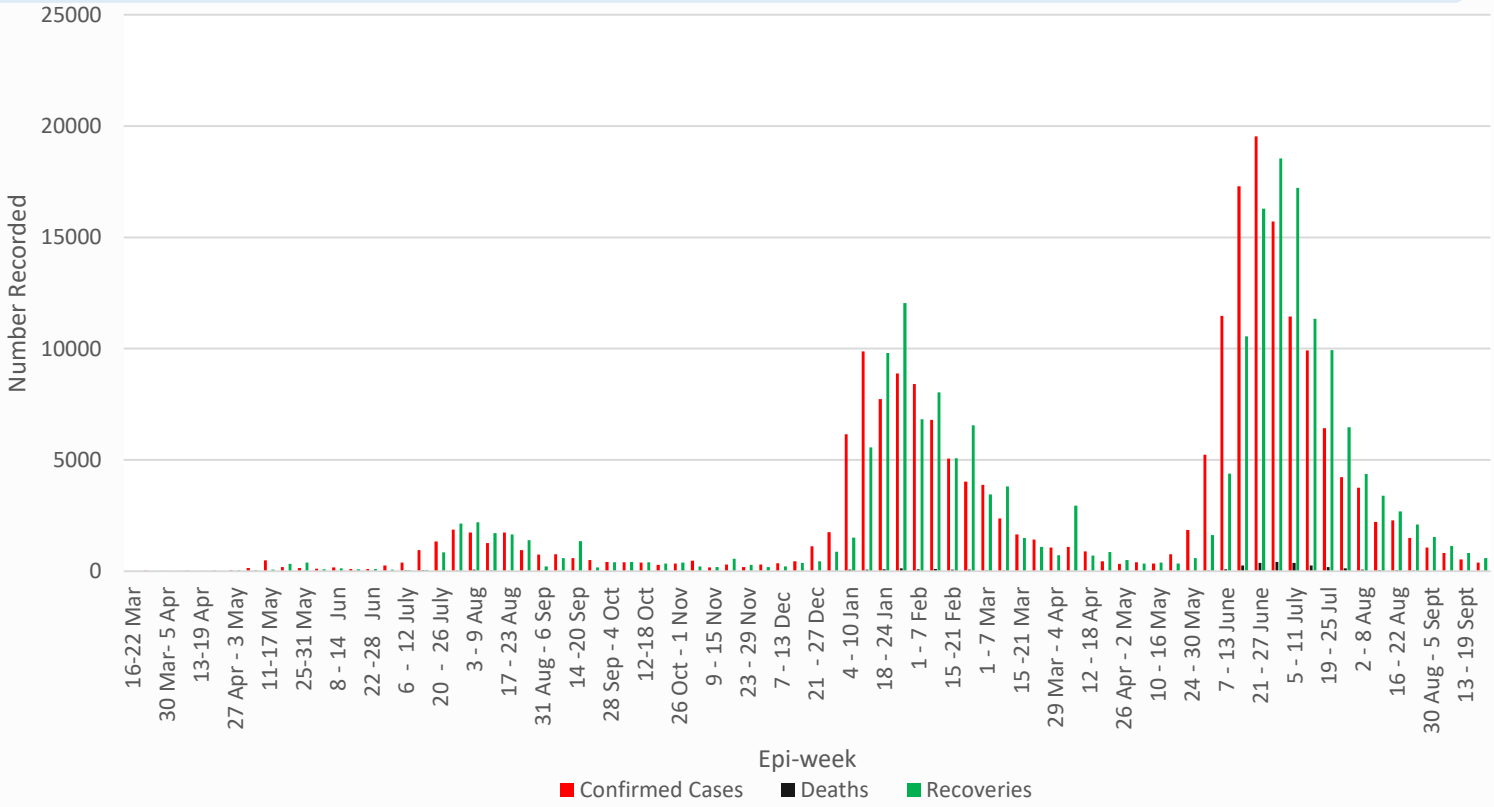


Figure 1: Epicurve of COVID-19 confirmed cases, deaths and recoveries by week, as of end of epi week 38 (26th Sept, 2021)

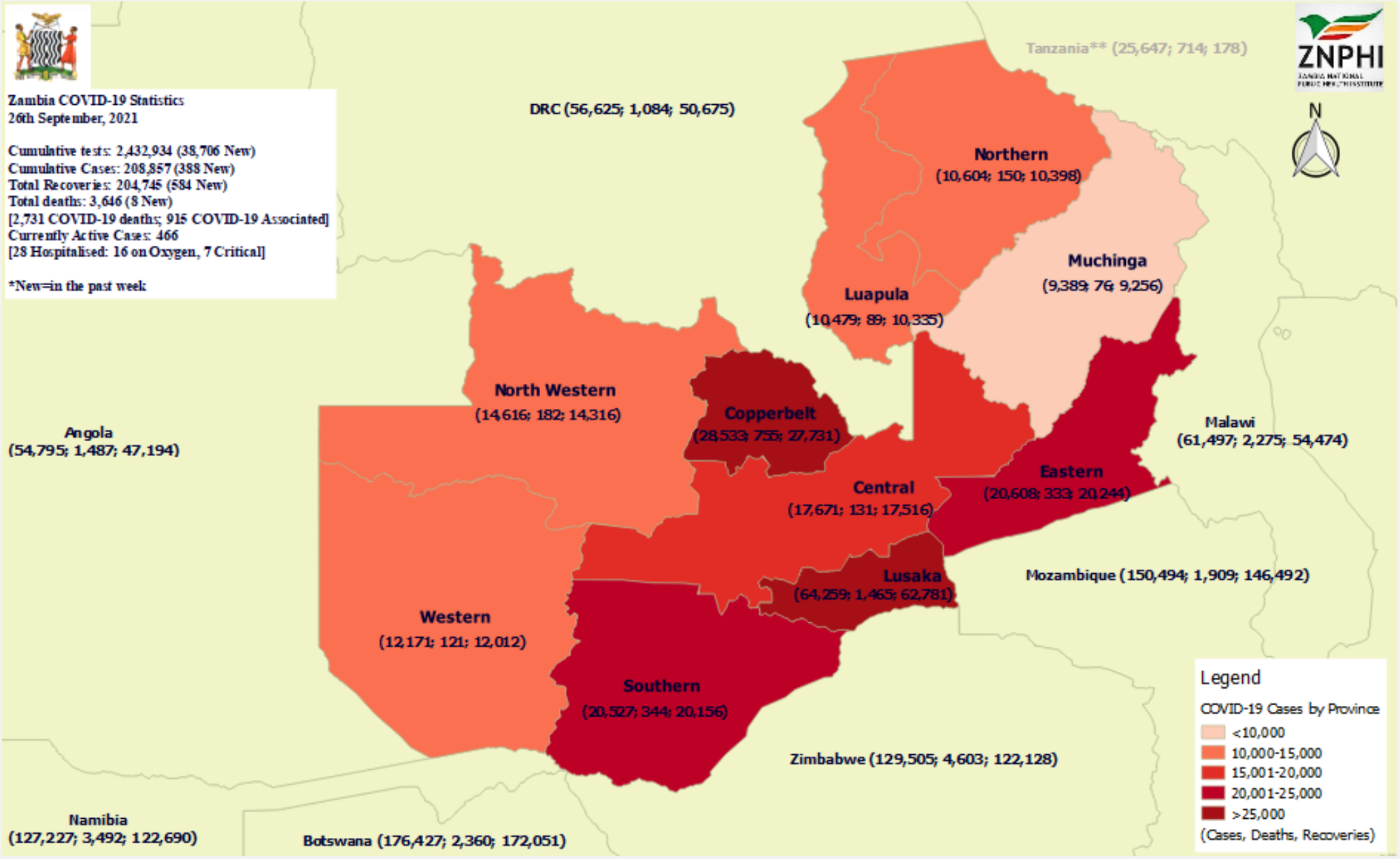


Figure 2: Map showing cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and recoveries (in brackets) by province and in neighbouring countries, as of 26th Sept, 2021

ZAMBIA COVID-19 WEEKLY STATISTICS
26th September, 2021
388 New cases reported from 77/116 districts (39 districts reported 0 new cases)

CENTRAL (20):Kabwe 6; Mumbwa 4; Chibombo 3; Kapiri Mposhi 3; Chisamba 2; Mkushi 2; Chitambo 0; Itezhi-tezhi 0; Luano 0; Ngabwe 0; Serenje 0; Shibuyunji 0;

COPPERBELT (36): Luanshya 12; Kitwe 7; Chililabombwe 3; Chingola 3; Masaiti 3; Lufwanyama 2; Mpongwe 2; Mufulira 2; Ndola 2; Kalulushi 0;

EASTERN (27): Chipata 11; Lumezi 4; Vubwi 3; Petauke 2; Sinda 2; Chadiza 1; Chipangali 1; Lundazi 1; Lusangazi 1; Mambwe 1; Chasefu 0; Kasenengwa 0; Katete 0; Nyimba 0;

LUAPULA (60):Mansa 19; Nchelenge 9; Samfya 8; Mwense 7; Chienge 5; Chifunabuli 4; Chipili 3; Mwansabombwe 3; Milenge 2; Chembe 0; Kawambwa 0; Lunga 0 ;

LUSAKA (16): Lusaka 12; Chilanga 2; Chongwe 1; Kafue 1; Chirundu 0; Luangwa 0; Rufunsa 0;

MUCHINGA (46): Nakonde 15; Shiwangandu 12; Mpika 7; Chinsali 3; Isoka 3; Mafinga 3; Kanchibiya 2; Lavushimanda 1; Chama 0;

NORTHERN (44): Mbala 27; Luwingu 5; Kaputa 3; Mporokoso 3; Kasama 2; Lunte 2; Mungwi 1; Senga Hill 1; Chilubi 0; Lupososhi 0; Mpulungu 0;
Nsama 0;

NORTH-WESTERN (84): Solwezi 38; Kasempa 31; Mwinilunga 6; Manyinga 5; Mufumbwe 3; Chavuma 1; Ikelenge 0; Kabompo 0; Kalumbila 0; Mushindano 0; Zambezi 0;

SOUTHERN (24): Sinazongwe 10; Kalomo 5; Monze 3; Zimba 3; Gwembe 1; Mazabuka 1; Namwala 1; Chikankata 0; Choma 0; Kazungula 0; Livingstone 0; Pemba 0; Siavonga 0;

WESTERN (31): Sioma 8; Mwandi 6; Mongu 3; Mulobezi 3; Kaoma 2; Limulunga 2; Senanga 2; Sesheke 2; Shangombo 2; Nkeyema 1; Kalabo 0; Luampa 0; Lukulu 0; Mitete 0; Nalolo 0; Sikongo 0;

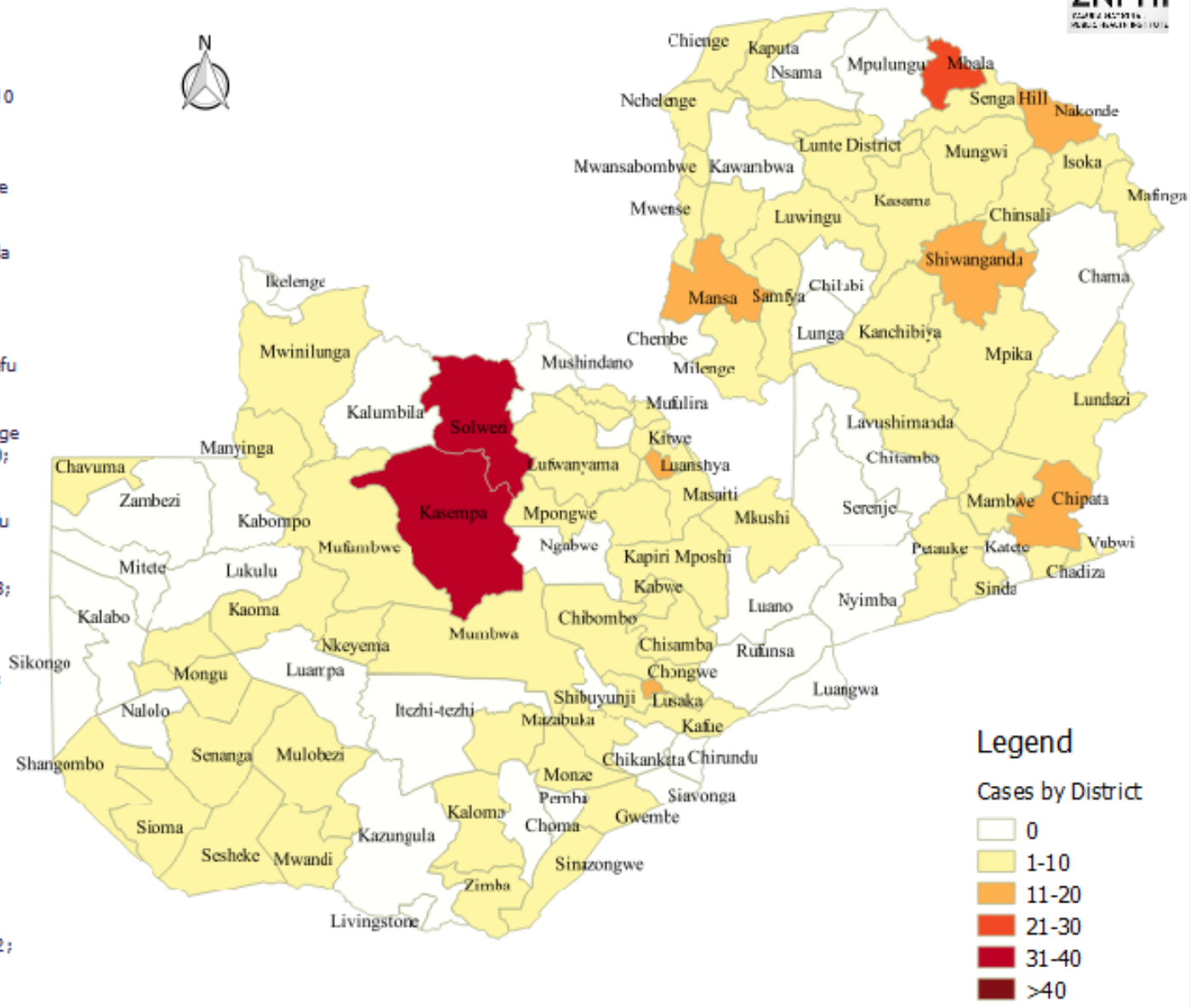


Figure 3: Map showing new confirmed COVID-19 cases by district during Epi-week 38 (20th – 26th September, 2021)

Table 1: Incidence risk by province

Province	Population (mid-2020)	Cumulative cases	Cumulative incidence risk (cases per 100 000 persons)	New cases in previous week	New Cases detected this week	Percentage change in new cases	Incidence risk last week (cases/100 000 persons)	Incidence risk this week (cases /100 000 persons)	Percentage change in incidence risk
Central	1,734,601	17,671	1,019	7	20	186% ↑	0.4	1.2	186% ↑
Copperbelt	2,669,635	28,533	1,069	48	36	-25% ↓	1.8	1.3	-25% ↓
Eastern	2,065,590	20,608	998	32	27	-16% ↓	1.5	1.3	-16% ↓
Luapula	1,276,608	10,479	821	56	60	7% ↑	4.4	4.7	7% ↑
Lusaka	3,360,183	64,259	1,912	39	16	-59% ↓	1.2	0.5	-59% ↓
Muchinga	1,095,535	9,389	857	62	46	-26% ↓	5.7	4.2	-26% ↓
Northern	1,520,004	10,604	698	66	44	-33% ↓	4.3	2.9	-33% ↓
N/western	950,789	14,616	1,537	143	84	-41% ↓	15.0	8.8	-41% ↓
Southern	2,135,794	20,527	961	29	24	-17% ↓	1.4	1.1	-17% ↓
Western	1,076,683	12,171	1,130	49	31	-37% ↓	4.6	2.9	-37% ↓
NATIONAL	**17,885,422**	**208,857**	**1,168**	**531**	**388**	**-27% ↓**	**3.0**	**2.2**	**-27% ↓**

↓reduction compared to last week ↑ increase compared to last week **~ approx. no change**

Table 2: Changes in indicators over the last two weeks

Indicator	Cumulative	7 days comparison		Change	
		Preceding 7 days	Last 7 days	Difference	% Change
Tests	2,432,934	41,686	38,706	-2,980 ↓	-7% ↓
Test positivity	8.58%	1.3%	1.0%	-0.3%↓	-0.3%↓
Tests/100,000 pop	13,603	233	216	-17 ↓	-7% ↓
Cases	208,857	531	388	-143 ↓	-27%↓
New Admissions	-	47	33	-14 ↓	-30%↓
Deaths	3,646	7	8	1 ↑	14%↑
CFR	1.75%				

Table 3: COVID-19 Resurgence thresholds by province as of 26th September, 2021

Province	Number of new cases over 14-days based on the 7-day moving average		Resurgence Threshold
	30th August – 12th September	13th – 26th September	
Central	80	29	-64%
Copperbelt	182	89	-51%
Eastern	140	81	-42%
Luapula	247	159	-36%
Lusaka	270	99	-64%
Muchinga	230	140	-39%
Northern	326	140	-57%
N/western	395	253	-36%
Southern	110	57	-48%
Western	195	99	-49%
NATIONAL	**2,176**	**1,146**	**-47%**

Key:

<10% increase or decrease in new confirmed cases: **UNDER CONTROL**

10% to <20% increase in new confirmed cases: **ALERT**

20% and above increase in new confirmed cases: **RESURGENCE**

*A COVID-19 resurgence is defined as an increase in new cases of COVID-19 after a period of lower or no transmission for a period of at least two consecutive weeks. This assumes that surveillance and testing are optimal. Table 3 gives the resurgence thresholds calculated based on the number of new cases over a 14-day period based on the **7-day moving average**. There are three actionable thresholds that should be considered: Under Control, Alert and Response threshold. Each threshold has specific guidance on what actions need to be done, available here. All ten provinces are currently listed as "Under Control" threshold*

3. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIONS

3.1 CO-ORDINATION

- **Regional/Continental level:**
  - Zambia continues to participate in AU meetings to ensure continued regional and continental trade and strategies to stop transmission of COVID-19. Zambia also hosts the Southern Africa Regional Collaborating Centre of the Africa CDC and has been coordinating the response at regional level. Southern Africa to date has recorded **3,868,812 cases; 108,677 deaths and 3,682,740 recoveries.** Detailed updates on the COVID-19 statistics can be accessed on the Africa CDC website, and the Vaccination Dashboard can be accessed **here**

BACKGROUND

The WHO was alerted of an increase in the number of pneumonia cases of unknown cause detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. The disease now called Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is caused by a new coronavirus named SARS-CoV-2. The WHO declared the outbreak a PHEIC on 30th January and further declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 12th March. Zambia recorded its first two cases of COVID-19 on 18th March 2020. The first 28 cases in Zambia all had a history of travel to Europe or Asia. Three weeks into the outbreak, cases were noted among people without history of travel but in contact with confirmed cases. By mid-June 2020, cases had been reported in all ten provinces, with Western province being the last to confirm cases of COVID-19. Generalised local person-person transmission is now established throughout the country. To date, Zambia has had two waves of the pandemic, with a third wave currently being experienced.

- **National Level:**
  - Government is implementing a **nine-pronged strategy** in response to the COVID-19 outbreak: Surveillance and case finding; **Case management; Infection prevention and control; Risk communication and community engagement; Laboratory diagnosis; Logistics and supply chain management; Appropriate competent and adequate workforce; Routine essential health services; and Vaccination.**
  - The government continues to enforce measures and interventions to control the spread of COVID-19 countrywide as outlined in the Statutory instruments **SI21** and **SI22 of 2020 on COVID-19 and presidential directives**.
  - The **COVID-19 contingency plan** outlining the country's COVID-19 preparedness and response activities underwent revision in the first week of April, 2021 and was approved by Cabinet.
  - Technical co-ordinating meetings are held with cooperating partners and other stakeholders. The meetings are chaired by the Director General, ZNPHI
- The **Incident Management System (IMS)** continues to meet at ZNPHI (with a Zoom link provided to ensure social distancing) on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- An update on the enhanced measures to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Zambia was issued to the public on Friday 16th July 2021

3.2 SURVEILLANCE AND CASE MANAGEMENT

- Active surveillance is ongoing in healthcare facilities, at community level, through contact tracing and at points of entry. The revised guidelines for the home management of COVID-19 cases can be accessed here. See ***table 3*** for the surveillance statistics reported in the last 24 hours and ***figure 3*** below for case management trends over the past month.

Table 4: Breakdown of surveillance and case management statistics reported in the last 24hrs by province

PROVINCE	NUMBERS BY PROVINCE							
	NEW CASES	DEATHS	DISCHARGES	NEW ADMISSIONS	ACTIVE	ADMITTED	ON OXYGEN	CRITICAL
CENTRAL	4	0	0	0	24	1	0	0
COPPERBELT	3	0	7	0	46	4	4	1
EASTERN	0	0	3	0	31	2	2	0
LUAPULA	4	0	9	0	55	0	0	0
LUSAKA	1	0	1	0	15	7	7	6
MUCHINGA	2	1	12	0	57	0	0	0
NORTHERN	2	0	11	0	56	2	1	0
N/WESTERN	6	0	26	0	117	10	2	0
SOUTHERN	0	0	4	0	27	2	0	0
WESTERN	6	0	2	0	38	0	0	0
TOTAL	**28 Cases**	**1 Death**	**75 Discharges**	**0 New admissions**	**466 Active**	**28 Admitted**	**16 (57%) On O_2**	**7 (25%) Critical**

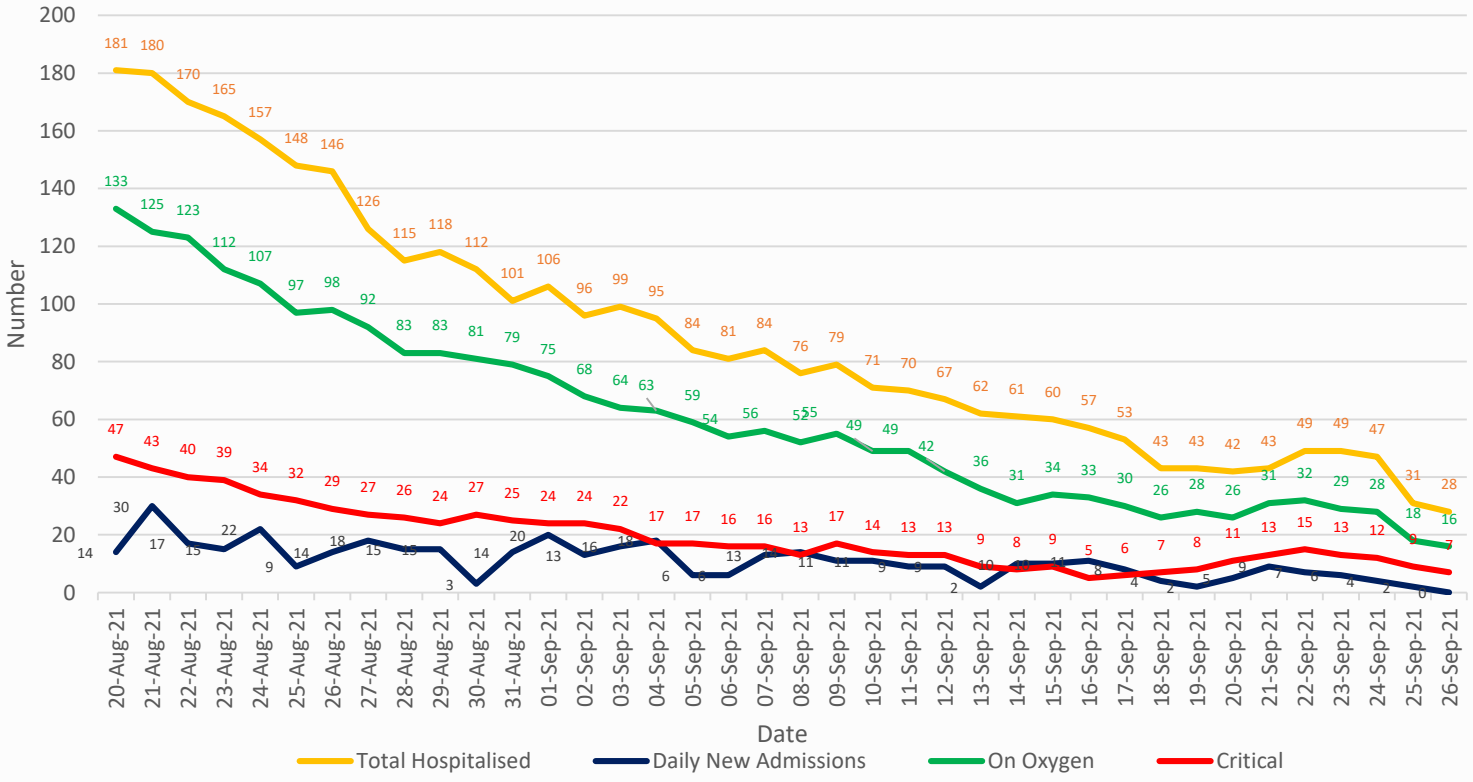


Figure 4: Case management trends over the past month, showing overall admissions, against daily new admissions, patients on Oxygen therapy and those in critical condition

3.3 LABORATORY AND SAMPLE MANAGEMENT

- Zambia is utilising a number of testing platforms, including real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR), Gene Xpert, Hologic Panther, and Roche Cobas 6800, as well as Standard Q and Panbio Rapid Diagnostic Tests. Available testing centres can be found here**:** **https://arcg.is/15rqeP** and the revised testing strategy can be found here.

- **Previous week analysis (13th – 19th Sept): 41,686** tests were conducted in the previous week (**1.3%** tested positive for SARS-CoV-2) compared to **43,649** tests the week before last (**1.9%** positivity).
- **Current week analysis (20th – 26th Sept):** The cumulative number of tests conducted this week was **38,706 (1.0% positivity).** See *figure 6* below for comparative analysis of tests conducted across the provinces and *figure 7* across countries in Southern Africa.
- The cumulative testing coverage is **136,029 per 1,000,000population.**

Table 5: Testing rates per province comparison for the last two weeks

Province	Last week			This Week		
	Total Number of tests done	Number of tests done/ 100,000 Population	Test Positivity Rate	Total Number of tests done	Number of tests done/ 100,000 Population	Test Positivity Rate
Central	2,234	129	0.3%	2,647	153	0.8% ↑
Copperbelt	4,565	171	1.1%	3,883	145	0.9% ↓
Eastern	3,144	152	1.0%	2,727	132	1.0% ~
Luapula	2,608	204	2.1%	2,722	213	2.2% ↑
Lusaka	11,806	351	0.3%	12,390	369	0.1% ↓
Muchinga	3,037	277	2.0%	2,557	233	1.0% ↓
Northern	4,361	287	1.5%	3,181	209	1.6% ↑
N/western	1,882	198	7.6%	1,212	127	6.8% ↓
Southern	5,965	279	0.5%	5,350	250	0.4% ↓
Western	2,084	194	2.4%	2,037	189	1.5% ↓
NATIONAL	41,686	233	1.3%	38,706↓	216↓	1.0% ↓

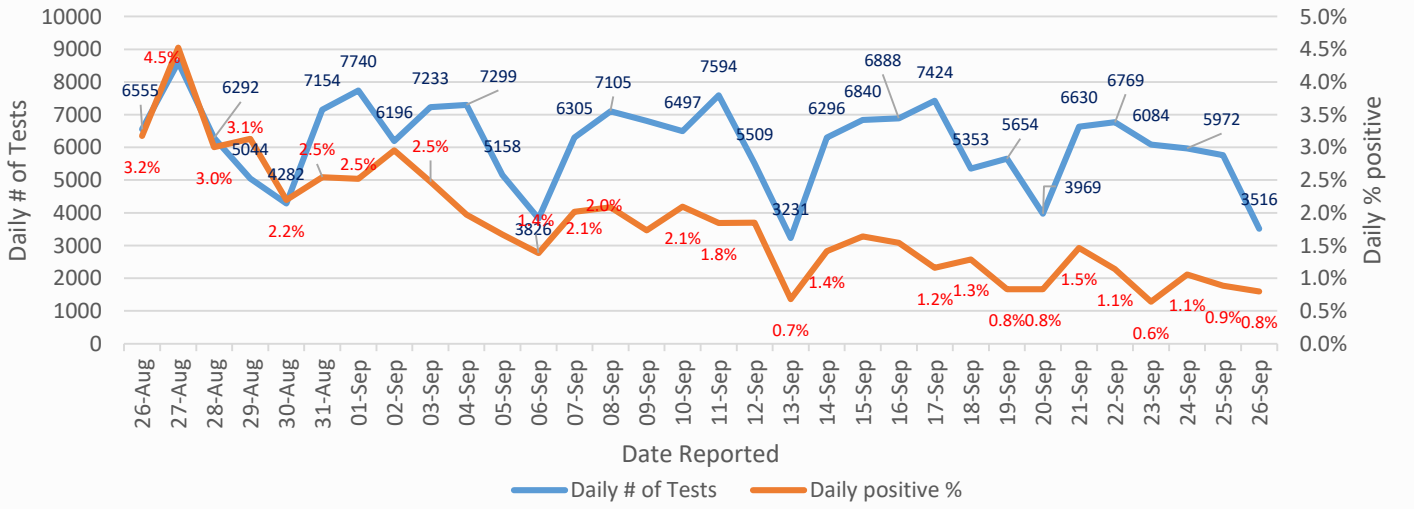


Figure 5: Daily number of tests vs % of positive results recorded (past month)

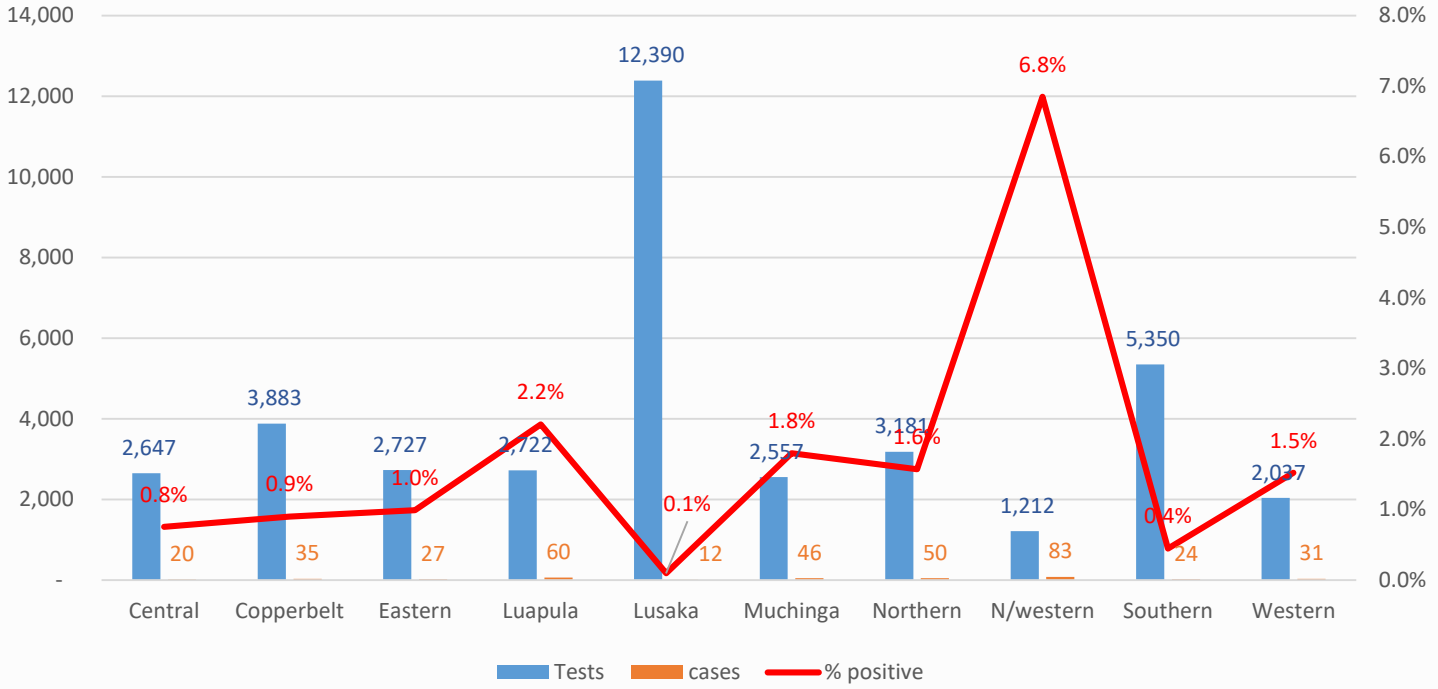


Figure 6: Comparison of number of tests conducted and positives across the provinces – Epi-week 38 (20th – 26th Sept)

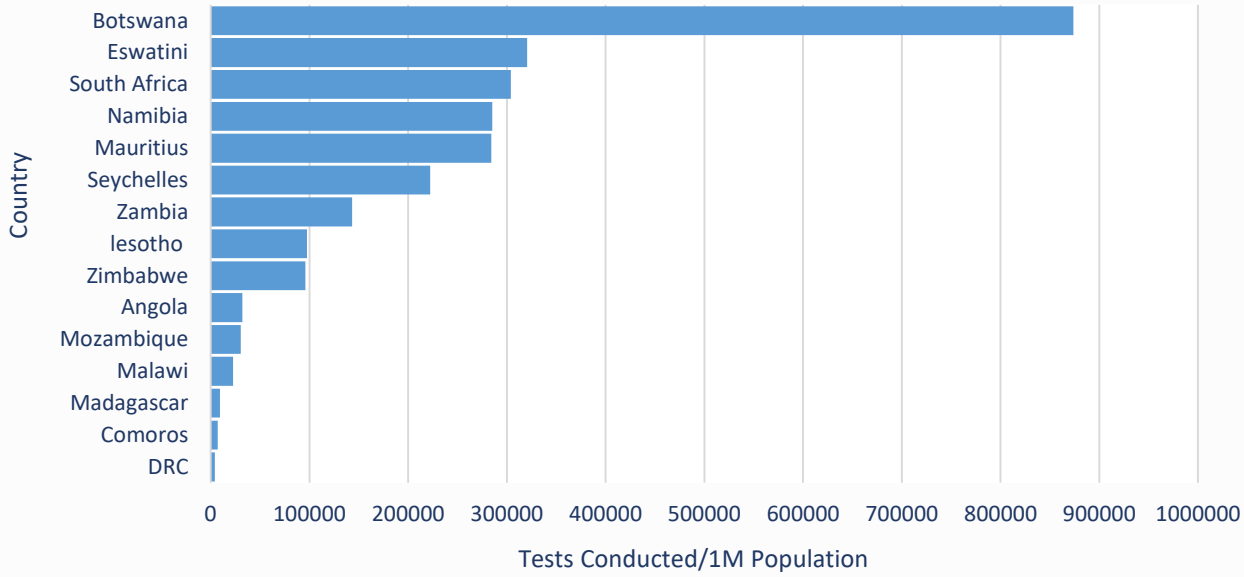


Figure 7: Comparison of number of tests conducted across countries in Southern Africa – Epi-week 38 (20th – 26th Sept)

3.4 COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME AND LABORATORY

- The vaccination programme was officially launched on **Wednesday 14th April, 2021** by the past Minister of Health, Hon. Dr. Jonas Chanda. Administration of Dose 1 was paused temporarily on 24th May, 2021 following a decision to ring fence the remaining doses for use as dose 2. Administration of Dose 2 of the AstraZeneca vaccine commenced on **Wednesday, 23rd June 2021; Dose 1** vaccinations resumed on Friday 9th July, 2021.
  - To date, 228,000 doses of AstraZeneca have been received under the COVAX facility and an additional 228,000 doses of AstraZeneca were donated by the Government of France through the COVAX facility

(received in the country on 5th July, 2021). A further 151,200 doses of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine arrived in the country today, 21st July, 2021. Administration of the J&J commenced in Lusaka today 23rd July, 2021. On Saturday 7th August, 2021, 100,000 doses of Sinopharm were received, and an additional 129,600 doses of J&J procured through AVAT were received on 6th September, 2021. The most recent consignment received was 124,500 doses of AstraZeneca donated by Norway through the COVAX facility.

- To date, 1,245,300 vaccines doses have been received in country, i.e. 699,700 doses of AstraZeneca, 432,000 doses of J&J, and 113,600 doses of Sinopharm
  - Cumulatively to date, we have administered:
    - (i) **308,988 Dose 1 and 150,287 Dose 2 (49% of dose 1) AstraZeneca**
    - (ii) **225,665 doses of J&J**
    - (iii) **7,934 Dose 1** and **6,336 Dose 2** Sinopharm (80% of dose 1) [in Lusaka and on the Copperbelt only]
  - In summary, 699,210 (56%) of the received doses have been administered to date, with the wastage rate estimated at 3.5% overall.

