



The Bahamas & Turks and Caicos Islands

6 May 2022

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The Bahamas

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 15 March 2020. During the period 30 April-6 May 2022, there were 137 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 0 COVID-19 related deaths.

Among the new cases:

- 122 (89%) were from New Providence;
- 62 (45%) males and 75 (55%) females;
- 46 cases (42 from New Providence, 3 from Grand Bahama, and 1 from Abaco) were travel-related.

The total number of real time PCR tests conducted to 6 May 2022 was 232,502 tests.

Turks and Caicos Islands

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 23 March 2020. During the period 28 April-4 May 2022, there were 28 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 0 COVID-19 related deaths.

Among new cases, 22 (79%) cases were from Providenciales as of 4 May 2022.

Among the total confirmed cases:

- 2869 (47.9%) were males, 3122 (51.8%) were females, and 20 (0.3%) were unknown gender as of 4 May 2022;

THE BAHAMAS

(as of 6 May 2022)

33,695 Confirmed
275 Active
32,408 Recovered
7 Hospitalized
798 Deaths

TURKS & CAICOS

(as of 4 May 2022)

6,011 Confirmed
22 Active
5,938 Recovered
0 Hospitalized
36 Deaths

Total cases and deaths

The Bahamas (as of 6 May 2022)

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
New Providence	26546	568
Grand Bahama	3415	126
Abaco	802	24
Eleuthera	843	18
Exuma	563	10
Bimini/Cat Cay	272	13
Berry Islands	153	4
Inagua	85	3
Andros	375	9
Long Island	145	4
Cat Island	134	3
Acklins	41	0
San Salvador	18	0
Crooked Island	35	0
Mayaguana	21	2
Ragged Island	0	0
Pending	247	14
TOTAL	33695	798

Turks and Caicos Islands (as of 4 May 2022)

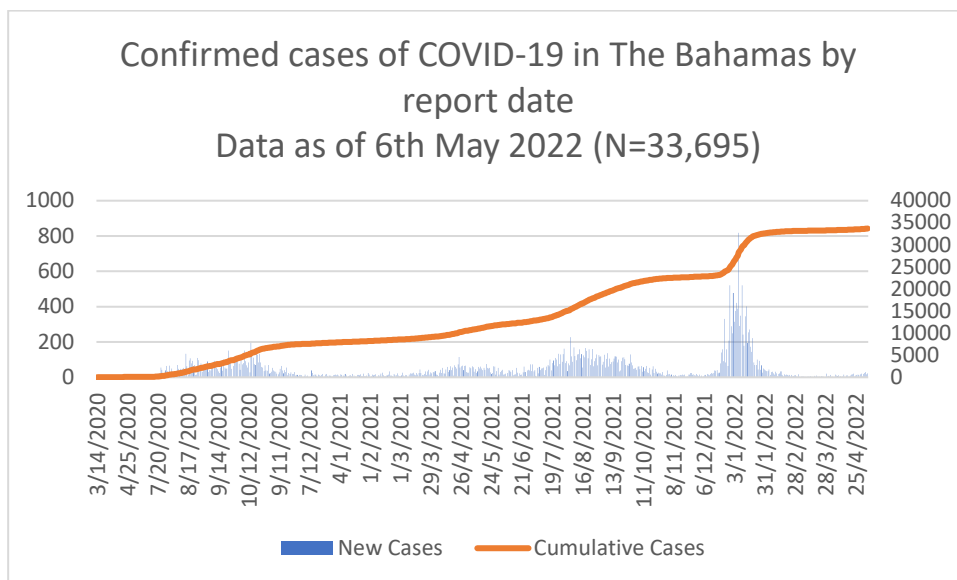
Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Providenciales	4934	24
North Caicos	129	0
Parrot Cay	20	0
Grand Turk	782	9
South Caicos	104	1
Middle Caicos	36	0
Ambergris Cay	3	0
Pine Cay	1	0
Salt Cay	2	0
Unknown	0	3
TOTAL	6011	36

SITUATION SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS

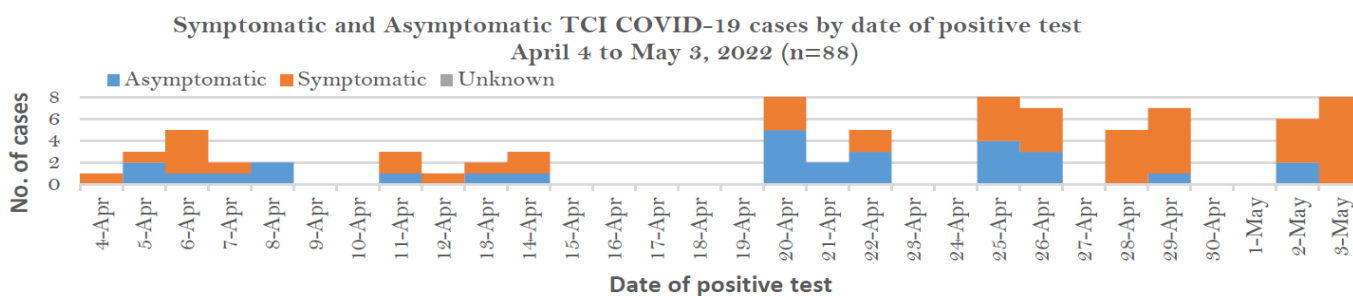
The Bahamas

- The incidence of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in country remains low, with the cumulative cases at a slight increase.
- The Health Services (COVID-19) (Prevention and Management of Community Spread) Rules, 2021 and the Health Services (COVID-19) (General) Rules, 2021 remain in effect.

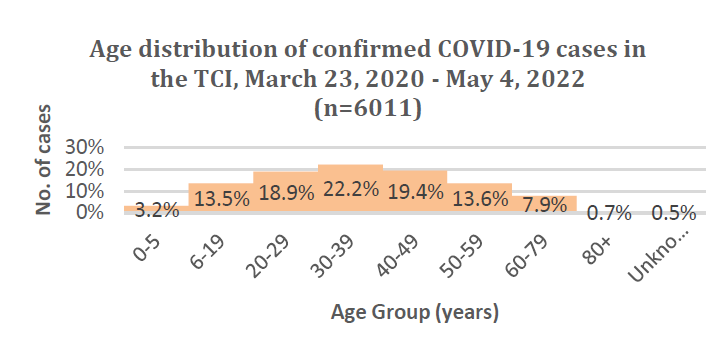


Turks and Caicos Islands

- While the incidence of new COVID-19 cases in country remains low, there is a slight increase in the cumulative cases.
- For the eleventh consecutive week, there have been no reported deaths.



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 107



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 107

RESPONSE

PAHO/WHO continues to provide both The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands with access to updated technical guidelines, technical assistance and situational updates related to the COVID-19 response.

The Bahamas

- COVID-19 vaccine distribution including extended and booster dose vaccinations continued throughout The Bahamas.
- As of 30 April 2022, 155,343 persons received their first dose of either the Astra Zeneca or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, and 165,653 persons were fully vaccinated including those who received the one dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.
- Restrictions continue on the amount of traffic into and out of the Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) and the Rand Memorial Hospital (RMH) in Grand Bahama. Emergency services are only being accommodated in the Emergency Departments. Visiting hours on the General Wards are now from 6 pm to 8 pm on weekdays and 2 pm to 4 pm on weekends.
- Moderate to severe COVID-19 cases continue to be treated at PMH, Doctors Hospital West and the RMH.
- The COVID-19 Mobile Unit continues to operate and provide vaccinations to individuals who are homebound, hearing impaired, mentally challenged, physically challenged, and visually impaired as well as their caretakers.
- COVID-19 laboratory PCR testing continues at the National Reference Laboratory (NRL), PMH, RMH, and private sector laboratories.
- A National Respiratory Surveillance Genomics Database is in use by the NRL for genetic analysis. Several genomic deletions and variant mutations have been identified by the NRL.
- The Alpha, Delta, Gamma and Omicron variants of concern, and the Iota, variant of interest, have been confirmed in country. Omicron is the main circulating variant.
- Ministry of Health and Wellness has agreed to implement in-country genomic sequencing for SARS-CoV-2 through collaboration with the PAHO/WHO and the COVID-19 Genomic Surveillance Regional Network.
- An on-line contact tracing course continues to be offered through the University of The Bahamas.
- Go.Data continues to be utilized for data collection of confirmed COVID-19 cases and contact tracing.
- Health visas are no longer needed for Bahamian citizens and permanent residences returning to The Bahamas.
- The Public Hospitals Authority continues to distribute personal protective equipment across all public hospitals and clinics.
- A Cuban health contingent of 42 Cuban specialized Nurses continues to support clinical care through a bilateral agreement between the two countries.
- Ministry of Health and Wellness continues to provide telemedicine, telepsychology, mental health, and psychosocial support services.
- Ministry of Health and Wellness, in collaboration with PAHO/WHO and other partners, continues to implement a communication campaign to increase immunization coverage for influenza and other vaccines.
- Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Office of the Prime Minister and PAHO/WHO are collaborating on the implementation of a revised communication strategy for increasing COVID-19 vaccination coverage, informed by the results of a recent social mobilization project and vaccination survey.

Turks and Caicos Islands

- COVID-19 vaccine distribution continued throughout the islands, including for children ages 5-11 years of age.
- Persons 16 years and over are eligible and continue to receive booster vaccines.
- 85% of the population is fully vaccinated and 19% of the population has received a booster dose.

- The Alpha, Gamma, Delta B.1.617.2 and Omicron and Omicron BA.2 Variants of Concern have been confirmed in-country. Omicron is the main circulating variant.
- Persons continue to register for the COVID-19 vaccine via the online portal which is available in three languages: English, French-Creole, and Spanish.
- Go.Data continues to be utilized for field data collection and contact tracing investigations.
- Community drive-through services continue to provide access to COVID-19 tests throughout the islands.
- The National Public Health Laboratory continues to conduct COVID-19 PCR testing.
- The communication education campaign continues with communication materials on the COVID-19 vaccine shared via traditional means and social media.
- A Cuban health contingent of 20 persons continues to support operations in the TCI Hospitals through a bilateral agreement between the two countries.

GAPS/CHALLENGES

- Public compliance with public health protocols and vaccination hesitancy and resistance continue to present challenges in both The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands. Vaccine hesitancy/resistance is of particular concern among vulnerable populations, health care workers and other emergency and frontline workers.
- While The Bahamas has capacity to identify the presence of COVID-19 variants, neither The Bahamas nor Turks and Caicos Islands have in-country sequencing capacity. This presents a challenge for the timely identification of new variants.
- Both countries are challenged by the limited global supply of Cepheid Test Kits and other supplies required for COVID-19 testing. Turks and Caicos Islands is particularly challenged as it is only possible for them to source Cepheid Test Kits through the United Kingdom Government.
- While a nursing shortage continues in The Bahamas, 42 Cuban nurses were hired to address this issue as well as staff burnout.