



## The Bahamas & Turks and Caicos Islands

15 July 2022

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

#### The Bahamas

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 15 March 2020. During the period 9-15 July 2022, there were 181 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 2 COVID-19 related deaths reported.

Among the new cases:

- 155 (86%) were from New Providence;
- 74 (41%) males and 107 (59%) females; and
- 0 cases were travel-related.

The total number of real time PCR tests conducted to 15 July 2022 was 245,044 tests.

#### Turks and Caicos Islands

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 23 March 2020. During the period 7-13 July 2022, there were 18 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 0 COVID-19 related deaths.

Among the total confirmed cases:

- 5,108 (81.5%) cases were from Providenciales as of 13 July 2022.
- 2996 (47.8%) were males, 3272 (52.2%) were females as of 13 July 2022.

#### THE BAHAMAS (as of 15 July 2022)

36,426 Confirmed  
489 Active  
34,899 Recovered  
64 Hospitalized  
822 Deaths

#### TURKS & CAICOS (as of 13 June 2022)

6,268 Confirmed  
69 Active  
6,148 Recovered  
2 Hospitalized  
36 Deaths

### Total cases and deaths

#### The Bahamas (as 15 July 2022)

| Island         | Confirmed cases | Deaths     |
|----------------|-----------------|------------|
| New Providence | 28895           | 584        |
| Grand Bahama   | 3580            | 128        |
| Abaco          | 839             | 25         |
| Eleuthera      | 878             | 18         |
| Exuma          | 590             | 10         |
| Bimini/Cat Cay | 287             | 13         |
| Berry Islands  | 173             | 5          |
| Inagua         | 91              | 4          |
| Andros         | 400             | 9          |
| Long Island    | 148             | 5          |
| Cat Island     | 155             | 3          |
| Acklins        | 41              | 0          |
| San Salvador   | 20              | 0          |
| Crooked Island | 40              | 0          |
| Mayaguana      | 21              | 2          |
| Ragged Island  | 0               | 0          |
| Pending        | 268             | 16         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>36426</b>    | <b>822</b> |

#### Turks and Caicos Islands (as of 13 July 2022)

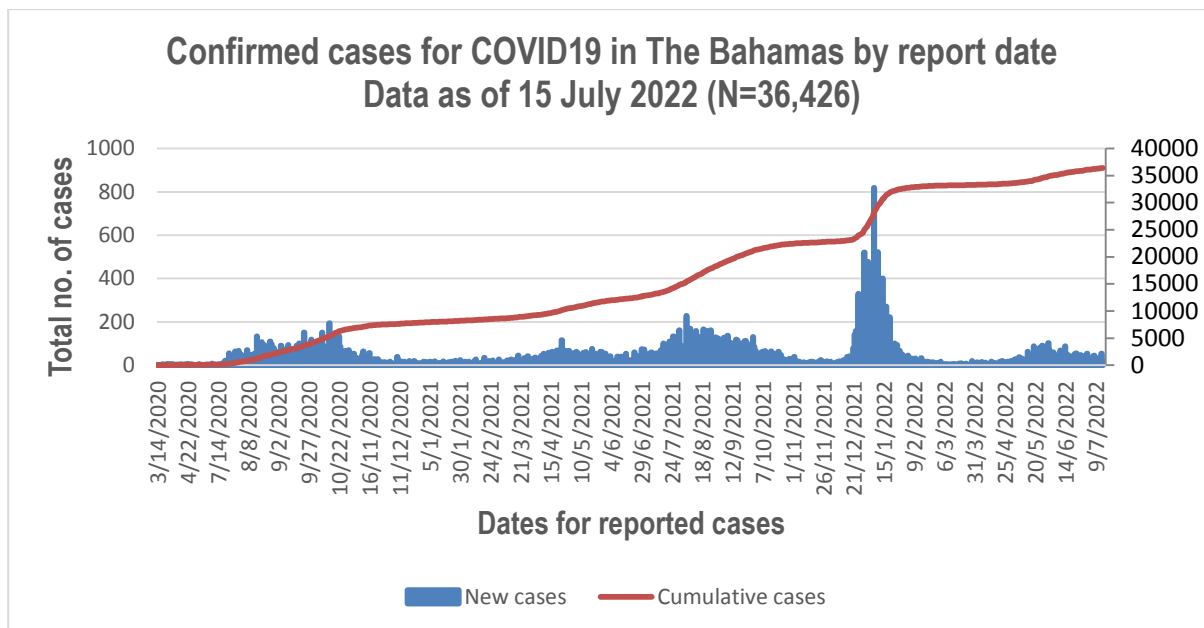
| Island         | Confirmed cases | Deaths    |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Providenciales | 5106            | 24        |
| North Caicos   | 131             | 0         |
| Parrot Cay     | 20              | 0         |
| Grand Turk     | 859             | 11        |
| South Caicos   | 108             | 1         |
| Middle Caicos  | 36              | 0         |
| Ambergris Cay  | 4               | 0         |
| Pine Cay       | 1               | 0         |
| Salt Cay       | 3               | 0         |
| Unknown        | 0               | 0         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>6268</b>     | <b>36</b> |

## SITUATION SUMMARY

### HIGHLIGHTS

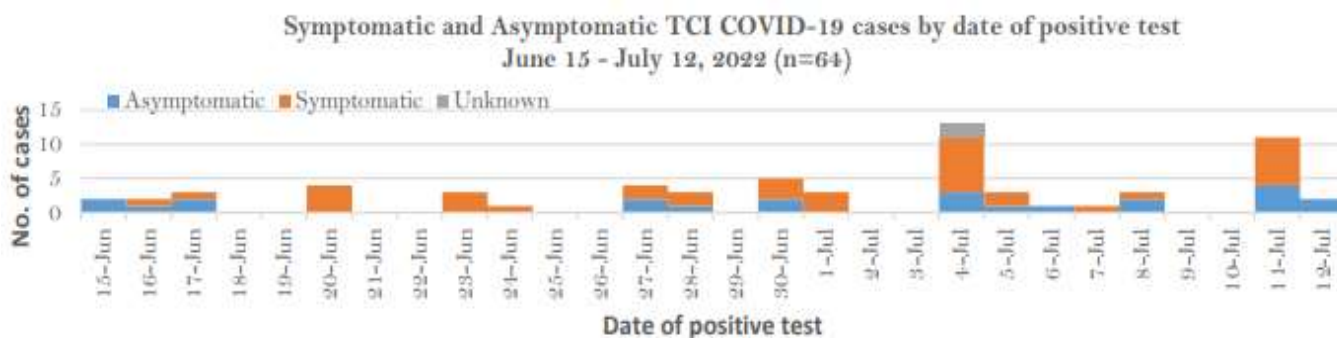
#### The Bahamas

- The incidence of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in country remains low, with a slight increase in the cumulative cases.
- 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.

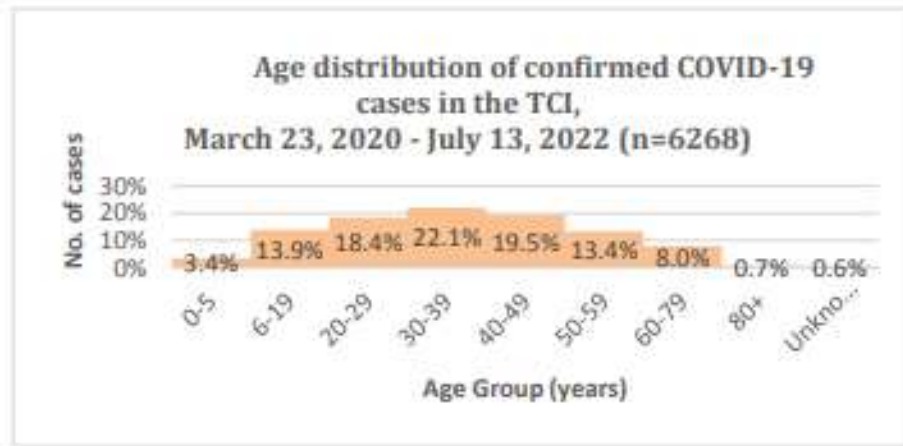


#### Turks and Caicos Islands

- While the incidence of new COVID-19 cases in country remains low, there is a slight increase in the cumulative cases.
- For the twentieth consecutive week, there were no reported deaths since 15 February 2022.



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 117



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## 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.
- PAHO/WHO continues to promote awareness for the COVID19 pandemic through ongoing public service announcements.
- PAHO/WHO continues to provide technical support for full implementation of the Electronic Immunization Registry (EIR) which will be used as a repository for COVID19 vaccination data.

## The Bahamas

- COVID-19 vaccine distribution including extended and booster dose vaccinations continues throughout The Bahamas.
- As of 9 July 2022, 168,994 persons were fully vaccinated including those who received the one dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.
- The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advised that as of 12 June 2022, a negative COVID-19 test will no longer will be required for entry into the United States of America.
- 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.
- 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.
- PAHO/WHO and the COVID-19 Genomic Surveillance Regional Network continue to liaise with the Ministry of Health and Wellness to implement in-country genomic sequencing for SARS-CoV-2.
- 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.
- 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 continue collaboration on a communication strategy for increasing COVID-19 vaccination coverage, informed by the results of a recent social mobilization project and vaccination survey.
- Effective 19 June 2022 vaccinated persons are no longer required to have a negative COVID-19 test to enter The Bahamas.
- Effective 19 June 2022, a travel health visa is no longer required for visitor entry into The Bahamas.
- Ministry of Health and Wellness through collaboration with PAHO/WHO continue to conduct training for the Electronic Immunization Registry which will include COVID-19 vaccinations. Training exercises were recently conducted for staff in Nassau Clinics on 14-15 July 2022.
- PAHO/WHO in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI) provided technical assistance for the procurement of paediatric doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Paediatric doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will be made available in country during the week of 25 July 2022.

## 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 with 21,035 tests performed as of 13 July 2022.
- 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. Work is underway to increase laboratory testing capacity for genomic sequencing for SARS-CoV2 in The Bahamas.
- 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 are 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.
- Turks and Caicos Islands continue to be challenged with a large undocumented population of irregular migrants (together with frequent influx).