



The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands

September 16, 2022

## THE SITUATION IN NUMBERS

### The Bahamas

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on March 15, 2020. During the period September 10 – 16, 2022, The Bahamas reported 57 newly confirmed COVID-9 cases. Among the newly confirmed cases during the period:

- 51 (89.5%) occurred in New Providence;
- 23 (40.4%) were men and 34 (59.6%) were women.

The September 13 report highlighted three (3) newly confirmed COVID-19 related deaths. They occurred on July 22, July 29, and August 13; all occurred in New Providence. Regarding gender, two women and one man died.

As of September 16, The Bahamas conducted a total of 252,629 real time PCR tests.

### Turks and Caicos Islands

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on March 23, 2020. During the period September 8 – 14, 2022, the Turks and Caicos Islands reported four (4) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and no (0) newly confirmed COVID-19 related deaths. Among the total confirmed cases during the lifetime of the pandemic:

- 5,177 (81.1%) occurred in Providenciales;
- 3,022 (47.4%) were men, 3,340 (52.3%) were women, and 19 (0.3%) were unknown.

As of September 14, TCI conducted a total of 21,279 real time PCR tests.

### THE BAHAMAS (As of September 16, 2022)

Confirmed	37,203
Active	122
Recovered	36,023
Hospitalized	15
Deaths	833

### TURKS AND CAICOS (As of September 14, 2022)

Confirmed	6,381
Active	4
Recovered	6,326
Hospitalized	220
Deaths	36

### Total cases and deaths

The Bahamas (as of September 16, 2022)

Turks and Caicos Islands (as of September 14, 2022)

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
New Providence	29,488	592
Grand Bahama	3,677	128
Abaco	865	26
Eleuthera	889	18
Exuma	593	11
Bimini & Cat Cay	288	13
Berry Islands	173	5
Inagua	95	4
Andros	412	10
Long Island	153	5
Cat Island	156	3
Acklins	45	0
San Salvador	21	0
Crooked Island	40	0
Mayaguana	21	2
Ragged Island	0	0
Locations Pending	287	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37,203</b>	<b>833</b>

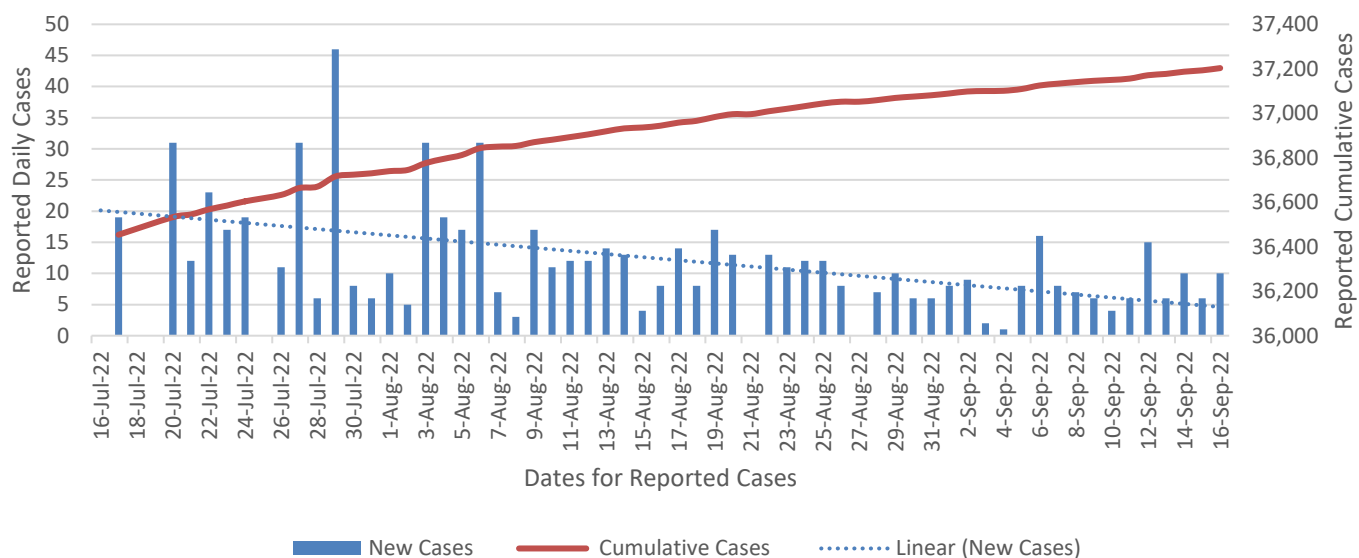
Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Providenciales	5,177	24
North Caicos	132	0
Parrot Cay	20	0
Grand Turk	898	11
South Caicos	110	1
Middle Caicos	36	0
Ambergris Cay	4	0
Pine Cay	1	0
Salt Cay	3	0
Unknown	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,381</b>	<b>36</b>

## SITUATION SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

### The Bahamas

- The incidence of new COVID-19 cases in the country continues to decline, with a stable 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.

New & Cumulative Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in The Bahamas by Report Date, as of September 16, 2022 (n=37,203)

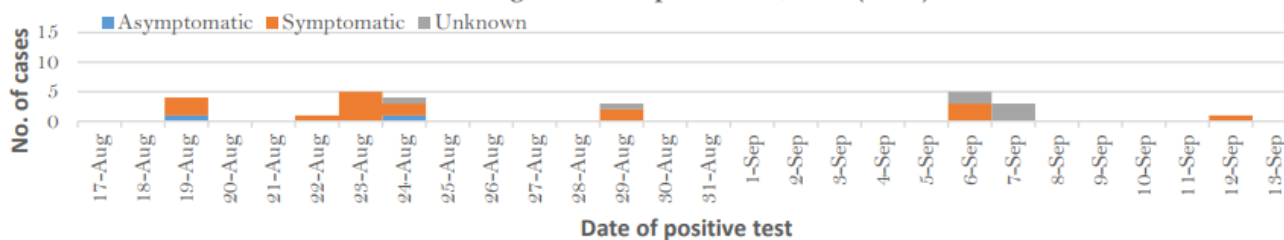


Source: Bahamas Ministry of Health & Wellness COVID-19 Report Updates

### Turks and Caicos Islands

- The incidence of new COVID-19 cases in country remains low, with a stable increase in the cumulative cases.
- There were no reported deaths since February 15, 2022.

Figure 1: Symptomatic and Asymptomatic TCI COVID-19 cases by date of positive test August 10 to September 13, 2022 (n=26)



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands COVID-19 Situation Report #126

## RESPONSE

- PAHO/WHO continues to provide both The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands with access to updated technical guidelines, technical assistance and situation updates related to the COVID-19 response.
- PAHO/WHO continues to support the country in efforts to increase COVID-19 vaccination coverage through an ongoing communication campaign.
- PAHO/WHO continues to provide technical support to fully implement the Electronic Immunization Registry (EIR), which will be used as a repository for COVID-19 vaccination data.

## The Bahamas

- The Bahamas continues to distribute COVID-19 vaccine doses, including booster dose vaccinations and pediatric vaccinations for children ages 5-11.
- As of September 10, 172,105 persons were fully vaccinated - including those who received the one dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.
- Moderate to severe COVID-19 cases continue to be treated at Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH), Doctors Hospital West, Sandilands Rehabilitation Center and the Rand Memorial Hospital (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.
- The NRL is using a National Respiratory Surveillance Genomics Database for genetic analysis. They have identified several genomic deletions and variant mutations.
- The NRL has confirmed that the Alpha, Delta, Gamma and Omicron variants of concern, and the Iota, variant of interests in the country. Omicron continues to be the main circulating variant.
- PAHO/WHO and the COVID-19 Genomic Surveillance Regional Network continue to support the Ministry of Health & Wellness to implement in-country genomic sequencing for SARS-CoV-2.
- The University of The Bahamas continues to offer an on-line contact tracing course.
- The country still utilizes Go.Data to collect data on 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 28 Cuban specialized Nurses continues to support clinical care through a bilateral agreement between the two countries.
- Ministry of Health & Wellness continues to provide telemedicine, telepsychology, mental health, and psychosocial support services.
- Ministry of Health & 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 June 19, 2022 vaccinated persons are no longer required to have a negative COVID-19 test or travel health visa to enter or travel among the islands of The Bahamas.
- The Ministry of Health & Wellness, through a collaboration with PAHO/WHO, continues to conduct training for the Electronic Immunization Registry; COVID-19 vaccinations will soon be included in the database. They will continue to conduct training exercises in the Family Islands through November 2022.
- Deputy Prime Minister Chester Cooper announced that The Bahamas will align its cruise arrival protocols with air arrival COVID-19 protocols.
- Prime Minister Phillip "Brave" Davis stated that when the country's vaccination rate reaches a "comfortable" level, wearing masks will become voluntary; the vaccination committee is monitoring the rate.

## Turks and Caicos Islands

- The Turks and Caicos Islands continues to distribute COVID-19 vaccine doses, including booster dose vaccinations and pediatric vaccinations for children ages 5-11.
- Persons 16 years and over are eligible and continue to receive booster vaccines.
- Vaccination counts remain the same: 30,312 residents are fully vaccinated and 21% of the population has received a booster dose. The country has achieved 86.6% coverage for COVID-19 vaccination.
- The Alpha, Gamma, Delta B.1.617.2 and Omicron and Omicron BA.2 Variants of Concern have been confirmed in-country. Omicron continues to be 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.
- The country continues to utilize Go.Data for field data collection and contact tracing investigations.
- Residents can still access COVID-19 tests via community drive-through services throughout the islands.
- The National Public Health Laboratory continues to conduct COVID-19 PCR testing; they have performed 21,279 RT-PCR tests as of September 14, 2022.
- The Ministry of Health and Human Services continues to provide health promotion materials about the COVID-19 vaccine through both traditional and social media platforms.

## GAPS/CHALLENGES

- Public compliance with public health protocols, vaccination hesitancy and resistance, and COVID-19 fatigue 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.