



## The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands

December 7, 2022

### THE SITUATION IN NUMBERS

#### The Bahamas

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on March 15, 2020. During the period November 26 – December 2, 2022, The Bahamas reported fifteen (15) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases (the last report was released on November 30) and no (0) newly confirmed COVID-19 related deaths. Among the newly confirmed cases:

- 7 (46.7%) occurred in New Providence;
- 5 (33.3 %) were men and 10 (66.7%) were women.

As of November 30, The Bahamas conducted a total of 259,654 real time PCR tests.

#### Turks and Caicos Islands

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on March 23, 2020. During the period November 24 – 30, 2022, the Turks and Caicos Islands reported five (5) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and no (0) newly confirmed COVID-19 related deaths. Among the total confirmed cases since the start of the pandemic:

- 5,217 (80.9%) occurred in Providenciales;
- 3,051 (47.3%) were men, 3,383 (52.4%) were women, and 19 (0.3%) were unknown.

As of November 30, TCI conducted a total of 21,606 real time PCR tests.

#### THE BAHAMAS As of November 30, 2022

Confirmed	37,491
Active	55
Recovered	36,366
Hospitalized	16
Deaths	833

#### TURKS AND CAICOS As of November 30, 2022

Confirmed	6,453
Active	5
Recovered	6,397
Hospitalized	222
Deaths	36

### Total cases and deaths

#### The Bahamas (as of December 2, 2022)

#### Turks and Caicos Islands (as of November 30, 2022)

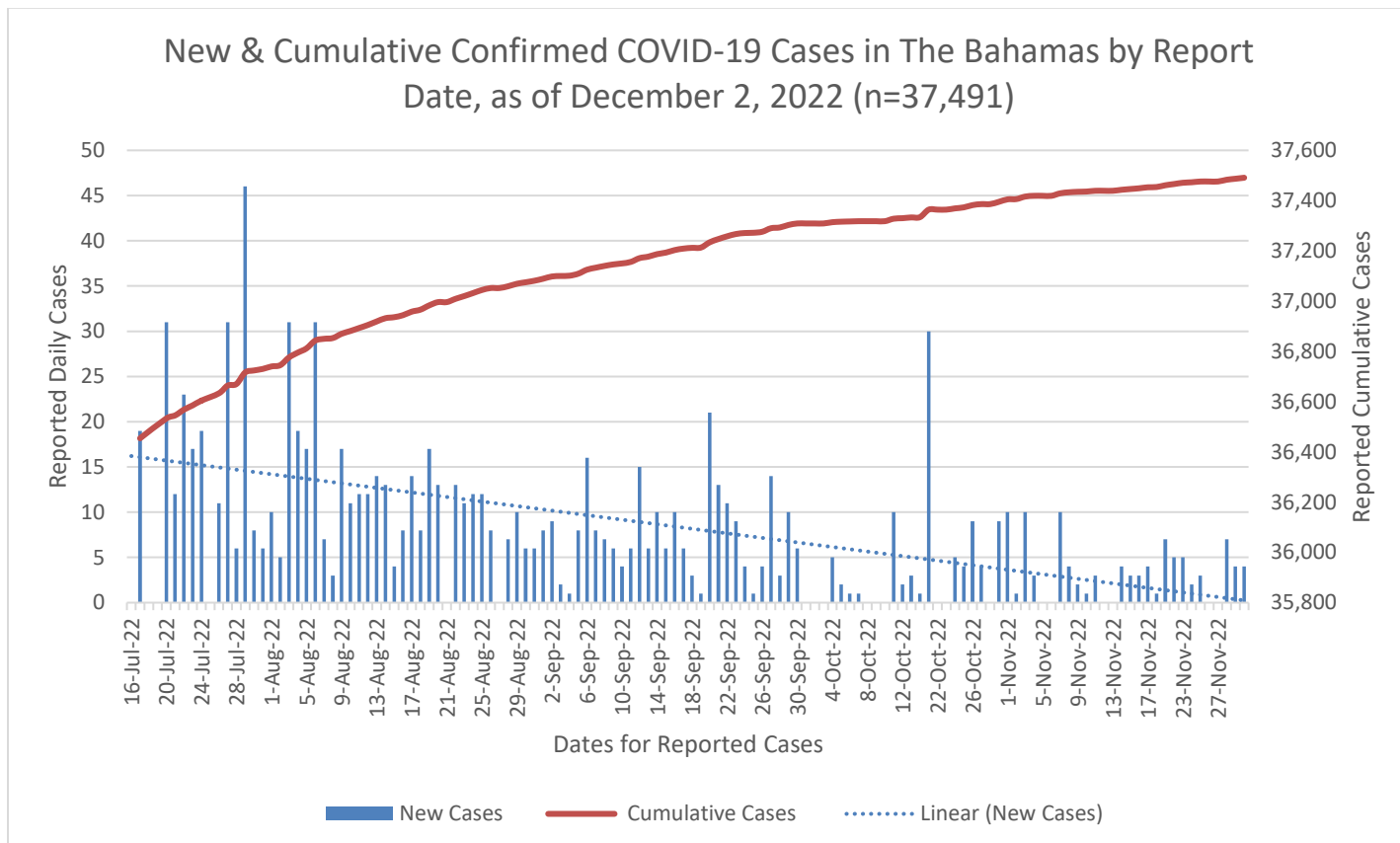
Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
New Providence	29,691	592
Grand Bahama	3,729	128
Abaco	870	26
Eleuthera	892	18
Exuma	594	11
Bimini & Cat Cay	288	13
Berry Islands	173	5
Inagua	95	4
Andros	417	10
Long Island	153	5
Cat Island	170	3
Acklins	45	0
San Salvador	21	0
Crooked Island	40	0
Mayaguana	21	2
Ragged Island	0	0
Locations Pending	292	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37,491</b>	<b>833</b>

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Providenciales	5,217	24
North Caicos	132	0
Parrot Cay	20	0
Grand Turk	929	11
South Caicos	110	1
Middle Caicos	36	0
Ambergris Cay	4	0
Pine Cay	1	0
Salt Cay	4	0
Unknown	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,453</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.



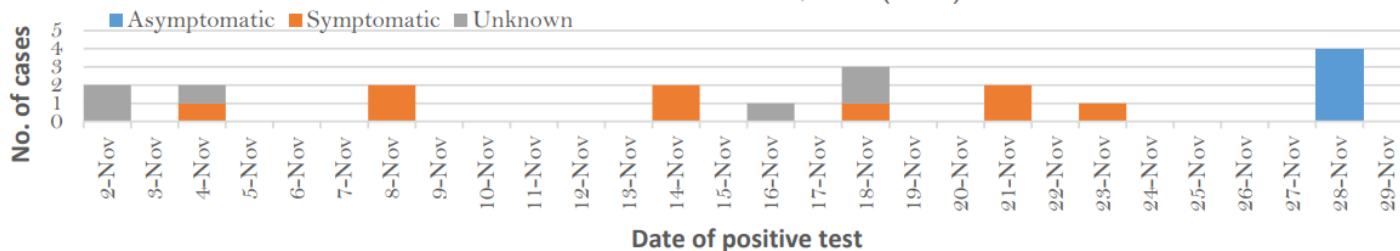
Source: Bahamas Ministry of Health & Wellness COVID-19 Report Updates #945-959

(\*Note: The COVID-19 reports for October 15, 16, 18, 19 and 29-31 were not available to show new and cumulative confirmed cases accurately on the chart. They were compiled, resulting in the appearance of an uptick in new cases.)

### 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 November 2 to 29, 2022 (n=19)**



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands COVID-19 Situation Report #136

## 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.
- Access to treatment for moderate to severe COVID-19 cases continues to be available at Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH), Doctors Hospital West, Sandilands Rehabilitation Center, and Referral Center and the Rand Memorial Hospital (RMH). The Ministry of Health & Wellness closed the South Beach Acute Care until further notice.
- The COVID-19 Mobile Unit continues to operate and is available to 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.
- The Ministry of Health & Wellness continues to provide telemedicine, telepsychology, mental health, and psychosocial support services.
- The Bahamas has aligned its cruise arrival protocols with air arrival COVID-19 protocols.
- 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.
- As of September 20, 2022 the Ministry of Health & Wellness eliminated the requirement for unvaccinated persons arriving in The Bahamas to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test.
- Effective 1 October 2022, the national mask mandate was removed. However, masks are still required in public and private healthcare facilities and visitors/non-residential workers at long-term care facilities.
- As of November 30, The Ministry of Health and Wellness advised that the COVID-19 Report dashboard will no longer be published weekly Monday through Friday. Instead, the COVID-19 Report will be merged with the Bahamas COVID-19 Vaccination Tracker to form one report that will be published a week after the end of each month.

### Turks and Caicos Islands

- The Turks and Caicos Islands continues to offer 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.

- COVID-19 vaccination remains the same: 30,717 residents are fully vaccinated and 20.4% of the population has received at least one booster dose. The country has achieved 87.8% coverage.
- 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.
- 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 21,563 RT-PCR tests as of November 23, 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**

- 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. Vaccine hesitancy/resistance is also affecting childhood vaccination coverage, which is putting the countries at risk of reintroduction of some diseases that have been eliminated.