

Situation in The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands 19th June 2020.

CONTEXT

On 30th January 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) a public health emergency of international concern. As of 18th June 2020, there were 8,320,139 cases and 449,061 deaths reported globally. The Region of the Americas accounted for 4,092,526 confirmed cases and 212,517 deaths.

On 15th March 2020, the first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported in The Bahamas. On 23rd March 2020, the first confirmed case was reported in The Turks and Caicos Islands.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Bahamas

Since 12th June 2020, there was one newly confirmed case and no deaths from COVID-19.

The newly confirmed case is:

- Male in the age group: 60 to 79 (1);
- Resides in New Providence and is hospitalized.
- Has a history of travel.

Among total confirmed cases:

- 42 are male in age groups: ≤19 (1); 20 to 39 (7); 40 to 59 (21); 60-79 (10); and ≥80 (3);
- 62 are female in age groups: ≤19 (4); 20 to 39 (21); 40 to 59 (22); 60-79 (13); and ≥80 (2);
- 2,326 real time PCR (RT-PCR) tests have been conducted;
- There have been no new deaths since 24th April 2020.

Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI)

Since 29th May 2020, there were no newly confirmed cases and no deaths from COVID-19. The last case was confirmed on 25th April 2020.

Among total confirmed cases:

- 8 are male in age groups: ≤19 (1); 20 to 39 (3); 40 to 59 (3); 60-79 (1);
- 4 are female in age groups: ≤ 20 to 39 (3); 40 to 59 (1);
- 200 persons are quarantined/home isolation;
- 364 persons have been tested for COVID-19 to date;
- 728 individuals have been released from quarantine/observation status.

The Bahamas

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
New Providence	82	8
Grand Bahama	8	2
Bimini	13	1
Cat Cay	1	0
TOTAL	104	11

Turks and Caicos Islands

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Parrot Cay	2	0
Providenciales	10	1
TOTAL	12	1

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

TOTAL CASES

104 Bahamas
12 Turks & Caicos
Confirmed

19 Bahamas
0 Turks & Caicos
Active Cases

74 Bahamas
10 Turks & Caicos
Recovered

1 Bahamas
0 Turks & Caicos
Hospitalized

1 Turks & Caicos
Left country

11 Bahamas
1 Turks & Caicos
Deaths

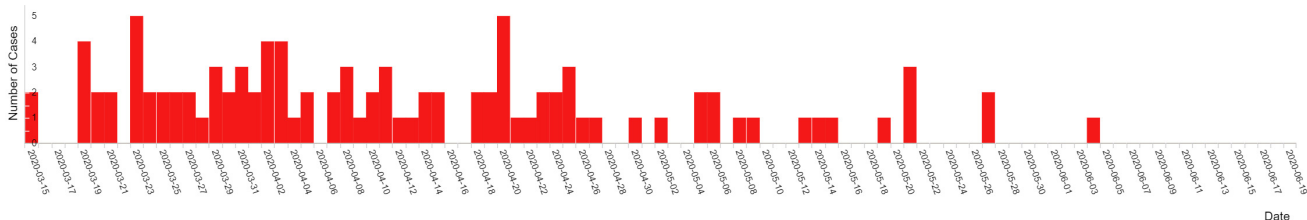
PAHO RESPONSE

- ✓ Donation of laboratory supplies
- ✓ Risk assessment and situational analysis
- ✓ Investigation of HCW infection in The Bahamas
- ✓ Technical guidance
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Support to local authorities on surveillance and health systems planning

The Bahamas

- The Emergency Orders have been extended to 29th June 2020. The 9pm to 5am curfew continues on Mondays through Sundays.
- Domestic travel is ongoing in compliance with public health measures implemented by the Ministry of Health (MOH) aimed at risk assessment and facilitating access to information for contact tracing, as necessary.
- International travelers entering the country between 15th and 30th June 2020 complete and on-line application and submit a report from an accredited laboratory documenting negative RT-PCR COVID19 test results for test conducted within 7-10 business days prior to travel.
- Returning Bahamian nationals and residents will no longer undergo mandatory quarantine. However, they are required to provide a negative COVID-19 molecular test result prior to their return and will be monitored by the MOH Surveillance Team through a mobile geographical fencing app and health check-in calls with surveillance personnel.
- Two repatriation flights on 12th June 2020 returned a total of 116 Bahamian nationals and residents who travelled from Fort Lauderdale or Dominican Republic/Haiti.
- A major resort in New Providence is partnering with global health experts to develop new hospitality health and safety standards.
- The U.S. Department of State and United States Agency for International Development committed \$750,000 to strengthen The Bahamas' COVID19 response for risk communication and community engagement, infection prevention and control, surveillance and rapid response, and strengthening of case management.

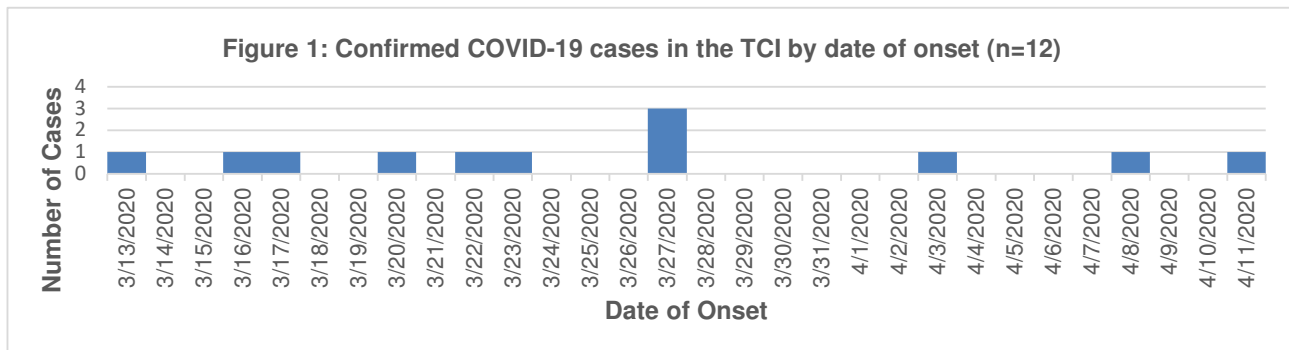
Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in The Bahamas by Date of Onset



Turks and Caicos Islands

- Emergency Powers continue with nightly curfews extended to 22nd June 2020 from 10:00 pm to 5:00 am. Closure of businesses on Sunday remain in effect until 22nd July 2020.
- Between 22nd June and 6th July 2020, the country will transition to phase 2B of reopening which will allow essential travel for residents, social gatherings of up to 25 persons, and reopening of all government offices. Full reopening is projected for 1st July 2020.
- In preparation for regional and international border reopening, testing requirements are under discussion by Cabinet.
- A Cuban Medical Brigade arrived on 15th June 2020 for a three-month mission to provide additional expert medical support for COVID-19 and other medical issues.
- As of 15th June 2020, 6,400 applications have been approved for the Employee Stimulus Cash Grant and payouts are expected to continue.

- The Ministry of Social Services continues to issue food vouchers to persons in need.
- University students returned from the United Kingdom and other territories this past week and have commenced a 14-day quarantine at a government facility.



NATIONAL RESPONSE

The Bahamas Ministry of Health (MOH)

- Monitoring of health of individuals in quarantine continues through phone calls with surveillance personnel and movement monitoring using a geographical fencing and security mobile app.

Turks and Caicos Islands Ministry of Health

- In-country COVID-19 PCR testing is ongoing and 29 tests have been performed to date.
- Testing is available for frontline workers, persons desirous of inter-island travel, and travel outside of the country for medical purposes and other reasons.
- The MOH has developed multisectoral Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines for preparedness and response to COVID19. The guidelines address safety measures for seacrafts, use of facial masks, religious gatherings, public transportation, recreational sports, the construction sector, post pandemic cleaning in non-health care settings, reopening of tourism accommodation, reopening international ports of entry, and general cleaning and disinfecting measures.
- MOH continues to produce public health communication materials in English, Creole and Spanish including messages on protecting vulnerable populations, reducing stress and coping with stigma.
- MOH is receiving technical support from Public Health England for the COVID19 response.
- Through private contracted relationships, the MOH now has the capacity for oxygen generation to supply the health care system.

PAHO/WHO RESPONSE

PAHO continues to provide both The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands with access to updated technical guidelines and technical assistance.

The Bahamas

- PAHO Country Office (CO) personnel remain embedded within the Bahamas' MOH Emergency Operating Centre (EOC) to provide technical advice.
- PAHO CO continues to provide technical assistance to the MOH for COVID-19 outbreak data management using the WHO GoData surveillance platform.

Turks and Caicos Islands

- The CO provided communication materials for Environmental Public Health, mental health and psychosocial support, gender-based violence during crisis, and harmful alcohol use, among others.

GAPS/CHALLENGES

The Bahamas

- Monitoring of movement of older persons via the geographical fencing and security mobile app.

Turks and Caicos Islands

- No in-country intensive care capacity.