



Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Marten, Bonaire, St. Eustasius, and Saba

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE #9

13 June 2020

I. HIGHLIGHTS

Trinidad and Tobago

On Saturday, 13 June 2020, at the Ministry of Health Virtual Media Conference, the Health Minister, Hon. Terrence Deyalsingh, categorically stated, in response to the question of quarantine at home for repatriated nationals, that this option is not being considered at this time due to the difficulty in enforcing it and the danger it poses to the community.

Principal Medical Officer of Health for Institutions, Dr. Maryam Richards, gave an update on the status of the parallel health care system in Trinidad and Tobago. She indicated that to date, 616 returning nationals and 957 people in total have been treated under the parallel health care system.

Dr. Richards also stated that as of Friday, 12 June 2020, 306 nationals were received on the Royal Caribbean Cruise.

See the Clinical Update on COVID-19 and Repatriation of Nationals under III. Response, Key Trinidad and Tobago/Ministry of Health Response to COVID-19, 15 June 2020, page 4.

Dutch Territories

Aruba continues their step-down process. “Bubble ABC” has began which includes travel between Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao. Travel is possible between these Dutch Kingdom Islands without having to go into quarantine but doing a medical screening or taking a test upon arrival. As of 10 June 2020, visiting elderly care homes was permitted, following the protocols and guidelines developed. Indoor sporting activities are now permitted. At the same time, conferences and places to meet/gather could reopen, but bars and nightclubs were reopened. There has been no change in COVID-19 cases and deaths.

Curaçao

As of Friday, 12 June 2020, travel between Curaçao and the BES islands (Bonaire, St. Eustasius and Saba) started without passengers having to be quarantined on arrival in Curaçao. In preparation for the gradual reopening of the borders, the Curaçao Tourist Board (CTB), in close collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health, the Environment and Nature (GMN), the Ministry of Economic Development (MEO), the Curaçao Civil Aviation Authority (CCAA) and the private

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

(as of 13 June 2020)

Trinidad and Tobago
117 Confirmed Cases
8 Deaths
109 Discharges

Aruba
101 Confirmed Cases
3 Deaths
98 Discharges

Curaçao
22 Confirmed Cases
1 Death
16 Discharges

Sint Maarten
77 Confirmed Cases
15 Deaths
61 Discharges

Bonaire
2 Confirmed Cases
0 Death
2 Discharges

St. Eustasius
2 Confirmed Cases
0 Death
2 Discharges

Saba
3 Confirmed Cases
0 Death
3 Discharges

sector are all working on the implementation of a new set of protocols for the hospitality industry. With “A Dushi Stay, the Healthy Way”, the CTB wishes to convey that Curaçao is virtually COVID-19 Free and is a destination offering visitors a safe, healthy and pleasant stay, while ensuring that visitors and workers in the industry adhere to the protocols that come with the new normal. One new case was reported at the end of 12 June 2020.

Sint Maarten will enter the fourth and final phase of its internal de-escalation measures on Monday 15 June 2020, when all remaining businesses will be allowed to reopen. Dutch St. Maarten currently has zero active cases. The state of emergency has been lifted but persons must still practice physical distancing and safe hygiene protocols. No change in the COVID-19 figures.

BES

Borders between Bonaire, Aruba and Curaçao opened. Saba has lifted its ban on limitation on gatherings and events, and contact sports are now allowed. As the BES islands are currently COVID-19 Free, the public entities have collectively decided to allow specific and essential travels between the three islands without the requirement of the mandatory 14-day quarantine, as long as three islands remain closed to international flights. This travel allowance is being referred to as the “BES Bubble”. However, this situation is being closely monitored to ensure the safety of the community while also ensuring that essential needs are being met.

Loan from Holland

Curaçao and Sint Maarten have met the Dutch conditions in time to qualify for payment of the second tranche of liquidity support in the context of the COVID-19 Crisis. These funds are to pay wages and subsidies to prevent redundancies and will only be granted after the islands themselves had contributed 20% to workers. The Financial Supervision Council has established that both countries have met this condition.

II. SITUATION SUMMARY

Table 1. COVID-19 Status in Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Marten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, 13 June 2020

Country	# Confirmed Cases	# Deaths	# Tests Conducted	# Discharges	Transmission Type	Non-pharmacological Interventions			
						Travel Restrictions	Schools closed	Essential Services	State of Emergency
Trinidad and Tobago	117	8	3876	109	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Aruba	101	3	2220	98	Cluster of Cases	Yes	Yes	Lifted	Social distancing and hygiene requirements and care for employee and customers have been maintained. Borders opened between Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao
Curaçao	22	1	Not available this week	16	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Lifted	Social distancing, hygiene requirements and care for employee and customers have been maintained. Borders open to Aruba with limited returning nationals from Holland.
Sint Maarten	77	15	New total not available this week	61	Cluster of Cases	Yes	Yes	Lifted	Social distancing and hygiene requirements and care for employee and customers have been maintained. Borders remain closed.
Bonaire	2	0	293	2	Sporadic Cases				
St. Eustatius	2	0	Not available	2	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	Stay at home restrictions lifted. Borders open to BES islands.
Saba	3	0	125	3	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes		Stay at home restrictions lifted. Borders open to BES islands.

III. RESPONSE

A. Clinical Update on COVID-19 and Repatriation of Nationals, Key Trinidad and Tobago/Ministry of Health Response to COVID-19, 15 June 2020

On Monday, 15 June 2020, at the Ministry of Health's Virtual Media Conference, the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Roshan Parasram, provided a clinical update on COVID-19 as well as the status of the Repatriation of Trinidad and Tobago Nationals:

- There are currently 503 persons within the parallel health care system:
 1. UWI Debe Campus - 11 persons
 2. Cascadia Hotel - 2 persons
 3. Chancellor Hotel - 14 persons
 4. Tacarigua Facility - 29 persons
 5. NAPA Facility - 12 Health Care Workers
 6. The Home of Football - 8 persons
 7. The Sangre Grande Facility - 24 persons
 8. UWI Canada Hall - 100 students
 9. Enchantment of the Seas Cruise Ship - 300 persons
- The CMO indicated that six (6) persons tested positive for Covid-19 of the 300 persons on the Cruise Ship. This increased the total confirmed COVID-19 cases from 117 to 123 on 14 June 2020. All six persons were transferred to the Caura Hospital for treatment.
- Dr. Parasram indicated that protocols and guidelines for the reopening of schools should be finalized by Tuesday, 16 June 2020, and there are currently three main measures that are being considered:
 1. Sanitizing surfaces on a regular basis
 2. Making sure hands are being washed or sanitized as much as possible
 3. If teachers or students are ill they would be required to stay home.He said that students having to wear masks, is not a measure being strongly considered but discussions are still underway.

B. Key PAHO/WHO Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curacao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba Response to COVID-19, 13 June 2020

- Webinar on "Coping with the Stressors associated with COVID-19 for Young People on their Parents"
- Collaborated with UWI, St. Augustine Campus to launch a Rapid Response Psychological Impact of COVID-19 (RaPICo) Survey. This survey will run for one week with a target sample size of 800 respondents.
- On Wednesday, 10 June 2020, there was a handing over to the Minister of Health of six (6) laptops to strengthen COVID-19 Surveillance and 400 Nasopharyngeal swabs to aid in conducting COVID-19 PCR Testing.

IV. NEEDS

- COVID-19 Tests (Extraction and Amplification Kits)
- Nasopharyngeal swabs
- Personal Protective Equipment

V. GAPS/CHALLENGES

- Lack of continuous supply of RNA extraction kits which also remains a principal challenge at the regional level
- Nasopharyngeal swabs are difficult to obtain as there are overall production and shipping challenges
- The Dutch territories are challenged with when and how to open their borders
- The Netherlands is prepared to help Curaçao, Sint Maarten and Aruba with a loan to mitigate some of the effects of the COVID-19 crisis. The loan comes with very stringent requirements that the countries must meet. These demands have led to challenges between the Netherlands and the other countries in the Kingdom.

VI. REFERENCES

- Ministry of Health, Trinidad and Tobago: <http://www.health.gov.tt/>
- Aruba: <https://www.arubacovid19.org/>
- Sint Maarten: <https://vromi-sxm.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/285fa99a4fc442fcb4a71ea7297d1ec6>
- Saba: <http://www.sabagovernment.com/index.html>