



## COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE #11

27 June 2020

### I. HIGHLIGHTS

#### Trinidad and Tobago

At the Ministry of Health's Virtual Media Conference on COVID-19, held on Saturday 27 June 2020, the breakdown of returning nationals quarantined at various facilities included the following:

- CAURA HOSPITAL: 9 COVID-19 patients (from the Cruise Vessel, Enchantment of the Seas)
- CHANCELLOR HOTEL: 9 persons
- KAPOK HOTEL: 48 persons
- HOME OF FOOTBALL: 3 persons
- NAPA: 18 health care workers who completed their tours
- SANGRE GRANDE BROOKLYN SETTLEMENT: 24 persons
- UWI CANADA HALL: 100 persons
- UWI FREEDOM HALL: 46 persons
- UWI DEBE CAMPUS: 45 persons (including two female deportees)
- VISION ON A MISSION IN CLAXTON BAY: 18 male deportees

There were 1,793 community tests administered throughout Trinidad and Tobago with all results returning negative for COVID-19.

#### Dutch Territories

For **Aruba** the reopening of the borders is happening in phases and it is being monitored closely by the Government of Aruba and the Department of Public Health. The reopening dates for region and country are as follows:

- 15 June 2020 – Bonaire & Curaçao
- 1 July 2020 - Canada
- 1 July 2020 - Europe
- 1 July 2020 - The Caribbean (excluding the Dominican Republic & Haiti)
- 10 July 2020 – The United States of America

The link below provides information on the requirements for entry:

<https://www.aruba.com/us/traveler-health-requirements#opening-dates>

There was no change in the number of cases.

#### **Curaçao**

Riots broke out in Curaçao in protest against the Dutch imposed budget-cuts as a condition for COVID-19 liquidity support from Holland. Protesters clashed with the police and stormed a government building as they demanded the resignation of the Prime Minister. The curfew was re-instated for the rest of the week. One

### SITUATION IN

### NUMBERS

(as of 27 June 2020)

#### **Trinidad and Tobago**

126 Confirmed Cases

8 Deaths

109 Discharges

#### **Aruba**

101 Confirmed Cases

3 Deaths

98 Discharges

#### **Curaçao**

23 Confirmed Cases

1 Death

19 Discharges

#### **Sint Maarten**

77 Confirmed Cases

15 Deaths

62 Discharges

#### **Bonaire**

2 Confirmed Cases

0 Deaths

2 Discharges

#### **St. Eustatius**

2 Confirmed Cases

0 Death

2 Discharges

#### **Saba**

3 Confirmed Cases

0 Deaths

3 Discharges

example of the budget cuts is that The Netherlands requires politicians, civil servants and administrators of public companies to surrender part of their salary. Curaçao will open borders to Dutch tourists from 1 July 2020. New entry requirements have been put in place. There was no change in the number of cases.

There are no changes in **Sint Maarten** in relation to the COVID-19 cases. Peaceful marches organized by the Unions also occurred in Sint Maarten, objecting to the budget cuts being imposed by The Netherlands for the country to receive COVID-19 relief funds. Sint Maarten will open their borders to travelers from United States of America, Canada and Europe on 1 July 2020. The entry requirements can be found at <https://stmaartenupdates.com/>

**BES**

Bonaire’s air space will open in a limited form from on 1 July 2020. Travel is possible between the BES and Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten. All persons must still practice physical distancing and safe hygiene protocols.

Saba

Persons wishing to enter Saba, must send an email to info@Sabagov.nl. The entry policy is risk-based. Each country of origin is classified into three categories by the public health department based on the current level of Covid-19 and the level of spread of Covid-19 within the relevant country.

Risk of Covid-19	Countries
No to very low	Sint-Eustatius, Bonaire, Curacao
Medium	Netherlands, France, Sint Maarten, Aruba, and many European countries
High	United States of America, Dominican Republic, most South and Central American countries

As of 1 July 2020, leisure travel between Curaçao, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba will be possible, if passengers do not transit in Sint Maarten, because these islands have a similar epidemiological situations and are very low risk. As Sint Maarten and Aruba are also opening their borders to North America, leisure travel from those islands remains prohibited. The possibility of leisure travel from medium and high-risk countries is not expected before 1 October 2020.

For more information see link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/public-entity-saba/entry-and-quarantine-policy-saba/3407320699292770/>

**3rd Tranche of COVID-19 Liquidity Support from Holland**

A four-country consultation between the Netherlands, Curaçao, Aruba, and Sint Maarten was held on Thursday, 25 June 2020, with the main agenda item being the new entity proposed by The Netherlands as a condition for the 3rd Tranche of COVID-19 liquidity support. The new entity formed a part of the “take it or leave it” proposal made on 12 May 2020, and confirmed in the Kingdom Council of Ministers Meeting held on 15 May 2020, in order for the Caribbean countries within the Dutch Kingdom to receive COVID-19 support.

## II. SITUATION SUMMARY

Table 1. COVID-19 Status in Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, 27 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	126	8	4912	109	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	No	No
Aruba	101	3	Not available this week	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 Curaçao.
Curaçao	23	1	Not available this week	19	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Lifted	Social distancing, hygiene requirements and care for employee and customers have been maintained. Borders open with limited returning nationals from Holland, Aruba and Curaçao.
Sint Maarten	77	15	New total not available this week	62	Cluster of Cases	Yes	Yes	Lifted	Social distancing and hygiene requirements and care for employee and customers have been maintained. Borders open to Aruba and Curaçao
Bonaire	2	0	New total not available this week	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, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten.
Saba	3	0	New total not available this week	3	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes		Stay at home restrictions lifted. Borders open to BES islands, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten.

### III. RESPONSE

#### A. Key Trinidad and Tobago/Economic Response to COVID-19, 27 June 2020

The Minister of Finance, The Honourable Colm Imbert, provided an update on the following:

- There are 26,000 Permanent Food Card users in T&T which has cost Government TT\$146 million.
- To date the total additional support through the Food Card system is TT\$64 million.
- 20,500 persons with children on the School Feeding Programme were assisted at a cost of TT\$31.4 million.
- Assistance from the Ministry of Social Development has included the following:
  - \* 17,824 persons on Public and Disability Assistance through Top-Ups at a cost of TT\$11.4 million.
  - \* Food Support to 2,818 persons who applied for their Senior Citizens Pensions but are yet to receive them due to processing with a cost of TT\$12.6 million.
  - \* Food Support to 500 new persons who applied for Disability Assistance costing TT\$1.5 million.
  - \* Emergency hampers are being provided to 1,400 families at a cost of TT\$500,000 and market boxes have also been provided to 11,900 families at a cost of TT\$3 million.
  - \* Rental assistance has been provided to 1,133 families at a cost of TT\$4.8 million.
- The Ministry of Social Development is coordinating with the Office of the Prime Minister to provide funding to religious organizations to assist the needy in their communities. To date, 67 umbrella religious organizations have been assisted at a cost of TT\$9.7 million whereby 34 groups have distributed 41,314 hampers.
- As at 24 June 2020, 26,000 persons have received Salary Relief Grants for the month of April and 16,500 citizens for May with more processing taking place. So far, 29,000 Income Support Payments have been processed.
- The Ministry of Works and Transport has provided funding for a Fuel Grant for maxi taxi/taxi operators at a cost of TT\$21 million with the ongoing processing of applications.
- So far, TT\$1.7 billion in tax refunds has been issued. The first tranche of VAT bonds was completed at a cost of TT\$1 billion. Cabinet has also approved a second tranche for TT\$2 billion. This is in addition to cash refunds issued for individual income tax refunds, Corporation Tax refunds and VAT refunds in cash at a cost of TT\$700 million.
- In order to keep jobs, Government is implementing the SME Loan Programme (interest-free loans for Small and Medium Enterprises). Government is paying all interest on these loans, which will range from TT\$75,000 to TT\$325,000 depending on the size of the organization.
- TT\$100 million provided to Credit Unions for their members for loans up to TT\$5,000 a month. A further TT\$100 million for small businesses will be provided.

#### B. Key PAHO/WHO Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba Response to COVID-19, 27 June 2020

Materials for the Communications Campaign:

[https://www.facebook.com/PAHOWHOCaribbean/?ref=aymt\\_homepage\\_panel&eid=ARDWn6umuYaNU2XogUtoxy-OT7RthqR\\_S4kkFNCCBynbh4A9ysLL7rUpyXTyhRwsapy5kx-tfqGWdhxV](https://www.facebook.com/PAHOWHOCaribbean/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel&eid=ARDWn6umuYaNU2XogUtoxy-OT7RthqR_S4kkFNCCBynbh4A9ysLL7rUpyXTyhRwsapy5kx-tfqGWdhxV)

The link below contains the following communication material for the campaign thus far:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16k9ISQbozJJCCN13kS88wa4wg-Pcdl6n?usp=sharing>

- Digital Billboard video
- Radio Ads (x4)
- Press Ads (x3)

- Social media posts

See below for the radio/videos on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/aoXHJLqkz3o> - Domestic Violence Radio

<https://youtu.be/KHkAkx0MQ-A> - Elderly and those with underlying medical conditions - Radio

[https://youtu.be/1606i\\_hgRdk](https://youtu.be/1606i_hgRdk) - Message to all audiences - Radio

<https://youtu.be/qdDikkjgINc> - Celebrity jingle Dwayne Bravo (radio)

<https://youtu.be/UL8CeAaTiZA> - Social media video

<https://youtu.be/ZejsXyAZFvc> - Billboard video

#### 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 measures to put in place for opening of their borders.
- The Netherlands is prepared to help Curaçao, Sint Maarten and Aruba with a loan to mitigate some of the effects of COVID-19 crisis. The loan however, 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>