

PAHO JAMAICA CO EOC - SITUATION REPORT #103

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS-COVID-2019 – 21 JUNE 2020 (as at 6:00 p.m.)

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Jamaica:

- a. Confirmed cases: 659 (2 new)
 - i. 155 imported, 222 contacts of confirmed cases, 39 local cases-not epidemiologically linked, 236 related to a workplace cluster and 7 under investigation
 - ii. Sex: 279 M (42%) 380 F (58%)
 - iii. Age: Mean: 33 years / Median 29 years / Age range: 2 months – 87 years
- b. Deaths: 10 (on 18 March, 31 March, 1 April, 7 April, 14 April, 20 April, 22 April, 23 April, 3 May 2020 and 2 June 2020)
- c. Recovered: 516
- d. Active cases: 133 (1 critically ill)
 - i. Hospital: 19
 - ii. Transition facilities: 0
 - iii. National isolation facilities: 17
 - iv. Home isolation: 97
- e. Isolation: 133 (Total, only active cases)
- f. Samples tested: 20,434, of which 659 are positive, 19,715 negative and 60 pending (3.2% positivity rate)
- g. Contacts: 3,968 (total), with 375 of these close contacts currently being followed
- h. Quarantine:
 - i. National Quarantine Facilities (NQF): 246
 - ii. Home quarantine: 1,827
 - iii. Community quarantine: 0

2. Bermuda: As of 20 June 2020

- a. Confirmed cases: 146 (2 new)
 - i. 42 imported, 85 local transmission (known contact / source) 12 local transmission (unknown contact / source, 7 under investigation)
- b. Deaths: 9
- c. Recovered: 132
- d. Active cases: 5, with 1 hospitalized and 4 non-hospitalized
- e. Samples tested: 9,979 with 146 positive and 9,833 negative
- f. Quarantine (with public health supervision): 178
- g. Phase 3B of the re-opening of Bermuda started on 18 June 2020 with masks to be worn in all public spaces, curfew from 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m., gatherings of no more than 20 persons with physical distancing observed and full personal services subject to public health guidelines. The phased re-opening of Bermuda started as of 2 May 2020 – Phase 2: Expansion of Services started on 21 May 2020 and Phase 3 on 11 June 2020.

3. Cayman Islands: As of 19 June 2020

- a. Confirmed cases: 195 (2 new)
- b. Deaths: 1
- c. Recovered: 143
- d. Active cases: 51, with 49 asymptomatic, 2 symptomatic
 - i. Hospital = 1
- e. Isolation: 359
- f. Samples tested: 20,370 with 195 positive

- g. There has been limited re-opening of some businesses and services as of 4 May 2020. Further relaxation of measures started on 7 June 2020, with easing of restrictions and opening of outdoor restaurants and bars according to protocols, maximum number of persons at public gatherings increased to six (including for exercise) and curfew hours from 10:00 p.m. – 4:30 a.m.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Jamaica, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands started preparedness for any possible introduction of the novel coronavirus – COVID-19 in early January 2020, immediately following identification of the novel coronavirus on 7 January 2020 in China.

The respective national level Committees / Councils continue to guide all sectors in the required preparedness and response actions.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

Jamaica:

- Government of Jamaica

The Government of Jamaica implemented the controlled entry phase for all travelers to Jamaica from 15 June 2020 until 30 June 2020, with sampling for the SARS-CoV-2 on arrival based on risk assessment, with RT-PCR testing. The majority (> 90%) of all travelers expected will be from high risk countries – USA, Canada and the UK and will be sampled. Quarantine and /or isolation will be carried out as necessary. Persons arriving from selected Caribbean countries will be screened and landed without sampling.

- MOHW:

1. The MOHW COVID-19 Updated Discharge Protocol was disseminated to health care workers islandwide on 19 June 2020.
2. The surveillance guidelines are being updated to include general hospital and Point of Entry surveillance for COVID-19.
3. A new guideline was developed – Management of the COVID-19 exposed neonate-22 May 2020
4. The three (3) communities in the parish of St. Mary were released from quarantine on 21 May 2020.
5. Two (2) of the eleven (11) National Quarantine Facilities (NQFs) remain active.
6. A new application for self-monitoring by persons in isolation and quarantine was implemented by the MOHW.
7. Additional isolation facilities have been identified to accommodate approximately 300 persons outside of hospital
8. Interim guidelines for the management of pregnant women completed and circulated.
9. Continue contact tracing, testing and quarantine of MOHW workers who are contacts of a confirmed case at the MOHW Head Office.
10. Further the planning and guidelines for lock-downs of parishes and possibly the country
11. Escalate the identification of cases and contacts, contact tracing, establishment of national quarantine and isolation facilities and installation of equipment and materials for case management.
12. Expand community engagement and risk communication for persons in home quarantine and isolation.

- PAHO:

1. Coordination, planning and monitoring
 - a. PAHO CO remains embedded in the MOHW EOC and provides 24-hour technical support and guidance, including to the twice daily EOC briefing meetings.
 - a. Focus for the week of 14 June 2020 was on the preparation of guidelines for international travelers testing positive in Jamaica and documents to certify their recovery to facilitate travel home.
 - b. The handing-over ceremony by PAHO CO (PWR) in collaboration with USAID (US Ambassador) to the MOHW Minister of Health) was held on 16 June 2020. In this first phase of the US\$700,000.00 project, emergency items were provided to enhance coordination activities of the MOHW EOC, such as 50 Smartphones, 50 VHF radios, 43 tablets, 6 laptops and a high capacity printer / copier. 500 backpacks were also provided for field workers to enhance community engagement activities.



US Ambassador, H.E. Donald Tapia, Dr. the Hon Christopher Tufton, Minister of Health, Dr. Jacqueline Bisasor-McKenzie, CMO and Dr. Bernadette Theodore-Gandi, PWR

- c. PAHO CO in collaboration with the MOHW completed and submitted the WHO COVID-19 Monitoring and Evaluation weekly report for 7 – 13 June 2020- 18 June 2020.
 - d. PAHO CO heightened its collaboration with MOHW to advance timely implementation of work plans for the COVID-19 response for USAID, DFID, Global Affairs Canada, UN SG Multi-Partner Trust Fund, with on-going procurement.
 - e. PAHO CO maintained the technical lead for health for the COVID-19 response within the UNCT and the GOJ system.
2. Risk Communication and Community Engagement
 - a. PAHO CO collaborated with the MOHW on World Blood Donor Day 2020 in the context of COVID-19 and supported the placement of a one-page ad in the major daily newspaper, production of a promotional package, including a video and social media content and an awards ceremony for blood donors – 14 June 2020.
 - b. PAHO CO collaborated with the MOHW and finalized the script for a video on Breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19 – 12 June 2020.
 - c. PAHO CO continued collaboration with partners to develop and mount the course on Mental Health Literacy in Schools, also in the context of COVID-19 on the Virtual Campus of Public Health – up to 13 June 2020.
 3. Surveillance, Rapid Response Teams and Case Investigation

- a. PAHO CO shared the Go.Data implementation / deployment guide – 3 June 2020 with MOH, Jamaica, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands – 10 June 2020
- 4. Points of Entry
 - a. PAHO CO collaborated with the MOHW, Jamaica and reviewed the design for the isolation facility at the Sangster International airport within the PAHO-USAID COVID-19 response work plan – 18 June 2020.
- 5. National Laboratory
 - a. PAHO CO handed-over ThermoFischer laboratory test kits for 500 reactions to the Director, National Laboratory Services, MOHW, to support the enhanced testing protocol – 11 June 2020.
 - b. PAHO CO provided the MOHW with laboratory guidance and reference documents on testing with the E gene only for the La Charite protocols and on interpretation of E gene RT-PCR results – 9 June 2020.
- 6. Infection prevention and control
 - a. PAHO CO provided the MOHW with PAHO posters on Infection Prevention and Control, such as hand hygiene and use of masks, for their Public Education campaign – 17 June 2020
 - b. PAHO CO collaborated with UNAIDS and CSOs and finalized materials for printing on cough etiquette and hand hygiene for vulnerable populations – 3 June 2020.
 - c. PAHO CO is collaborating with the MOHW on infection prevention and control and will implement the updated schedule for a new round of sensitization and training for IPC in health care settings islandwide.
- 7. Case management
 - a. PAHO CO provided guidance material to the MOHW to complete the COVID-19 Updated Discharge Protocol which was disseminated to health care workers on 19 June 2020.
 - b. PAHO CO provided CMOs of Jamaica, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands with the Use of Chest Imaging in COVID-19 – Rapid Advice Guide – 13 June 2020
 - c. PAHO CO continues its collaboration with MOHW counterparts on the re-organization of health services to ensure required capacity for isolation beds, including for mechanical ventilation in High Dependency Units and ICUs.
- 8. Maintaining essential health services
 - a. PAHO CO provided guidance to the MOHW on maintaining immunization programmes in the context of COVID-19 – June 2020
- 9. Research
 - a. PAHO CO provided information on the discontinuation of the hydroxychloroquine arm of the WHO Solidarity Trial and the positive results with the use of dexamethasone in the critically ill patient. – 19 June 2020.
 - b. PAHO CO continued its collaboration with the MOHW on the Research Group for COVID-19 and the Working Group on Health Systems, focusing on the modelling exercise using COVIDSim and EpiEstim, the global seroepidemiological study and the WHO Solidarity Clinical trial – 19 June 2020.

NEEDS

- 1. Jamaica

- a. PPEs, laboratory supplies, UTM and swabs, equipment and supplies for isolation and quarantine facilities, wards and rooms
 - b. Additional guidance on laboratory testing and interpretation of results
 - c. Digital thermometers
2. Bermuda: No needs identified at this time.
3. Cayman Islands: No immediate needs were identified during dialogue with the CMO on 15 May 2020. However, strengthening of the disaster risk management programme and surveillance were noted as priorities to enhance the COVID-19 and any other responses for health emergencies.