

COVID-19

PAHO JAMAICA CO EOC - SITUATION REPORT #80

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS-COVID-2019 – 29 MAY 2020 (as at 6:00 p.m.)

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Jamaica:

- a. Confirmed cases: 575 (7 new)
 - i. There was adjustment of the previous total from 569 to 568 due to duplication (name error).
 - ii. 82 imported, 215 contacts of confirmed cases, 27 local cases-not epidemiologically linked, 251 under investigation - 234 related to a workplace cluster and 17 under investigation
 - iii. Sex: 241 M (42%) 334 F (58%)
 - iv. Age: Mean: 32 years / Median 28 years / Age range: 2 months – 87 years
- b. Deaths: 9 (on 18 March, 31 March, 1 April, 7 April, 14 April, 20 April, 22 April, 23 April and 3 May 2020)
- c. Recovered: 289
- d. Active cases: 277
 - i. Hospital: 17
 - ii. Transition facilities: 8
 - iii. National isolation facilities: 130
 - iv. Home: 122
- e. Isolation: 310 (Total, including active cases)
 - i. Hospital: 19
 - ii. Transition facilities: 8
 - iii. National isolation facilities: 161
 - iv. Home: 122
- f. Samples tested: 12,078, of which 575 are positive, 11,484 negative and 49 pending
- g. Contacts: 3,812 (total), with 1,006 of these close contacts currently being followed
- h. Quarantine:
 - i. National Quarantine Facilities (NQF): 595
 - ii. Home quarantine: 1,817
 - iii. Community quarantine: The three communities in St. Mary were released from quarantine on 22 May 2020. However, 48 persons in these communities remain in quarantine.
 - iv. Cruise ship:
 1. Disembarkation, sampling and transfer to NQFs started from the fourth cruise ship with Jamaican crew members.

2. Bermuda: As of 28 May 2020

- a. Confirmed cases: 140 (1 new)
 - i. 41 imported, 83 local transmission (known contact / source) 10 local transmission (unknown contact / source, 6 under investigation
- b. Deaths: 9
- c. Recovered: 92
- d. Active cases: 39, with 9 hospitalized and 30 non-hospitalized
- e. Samples tested: 6,941, with 140 positive and 6,801 negative

- f. Quarantine (with public health supervision): 184
 - g. A phased re-opening of Bermuda started as of 2 May 2020 – Phase 2:
Expansion of Services started on 21 May 2020.
3. **Cayman Islands:**
- a. Confirmed cases: 141 (1 new)
 - b. Deaths: 1
 - c. Active cases: 72: 71 asymptomatic, 1 symptomatic
 - i. In hospital = 0
 - d. Recovered: 68
 - e. Isolation: 360 – as of 28 May 2020
 - f. Samples tested: 11,139, with 141 positive
 - g. There has been limited re-opening of some businesses and services as of 4 May 2020.

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:

- **MOHW:**
 1. A new guideline was developed – Management of the COVID-19 exposed neonate-22 May 2020
 2. The three (3) communities in the parish of St. Mary were released from quarantine on 21 May 2020.
 3. Three of the nine National Quarantine Facilities (NQFs) remain active.
 4. A new application for self-monitoring by persons in isolation and quarantine was implemented by the MOHW.
 5. Additional isolation facilities have been identified to accommodate approximately 300 persons outside of hospital
 6. Interim guidelines for the management of pregnant women completed and circulated.
 7. Continue contact tracing, testing and quarantine of MOHW workers who are contacts of a confirmed case at the MOHW Head Office.
 8. Further the planning and guidelines for lock-downs of parishes and possibly the country
 9. 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.
 10. 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.
 - i. Focus for the week of 24 May 2020 was on the preparation of guidelines for the re-opening of businesses and offices on 1 June 2020 and partial re-opening of schools on 8 June 2020.
 - b. PAHO CO led the revision and submitted the Health Pillar of the UN consolidated matrix for COVID-19 response (May 2020 – June 2021) to the RCO (a.i) in collaboration with members of the UNCT Health Pillar Group, to include budget, funds available and gaps – 29 May 2020
 - c. 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 Multi-Partner Trust Fund, with on-going procurement.
 - d. PAHO CO participated in the internal technical alignment meeting with IMST/HQ – 26 May 2020
 - e. PAHO CO finalized the date for handing-over ceremony by USAID – PAHO to the MOHW, which will take place on 16 June 2020.
 - f. 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 heightened its collaboration with MOHW on messaging and production of videos for COVID-19 response. Focus is on re-opening of businesses and offices on 1 June 2020 and upper schools on 8 June 2020, mental health and nutrition - 26 May 2020.
 - b. PAHO CO supported the placement of a full-page newspaper advertisement in collaboration with MOHW and partners, including the Jamaica Coalition for Tobacco Control on World No Tobacco Day, 31 May 2020, under the theme for Jamaica, ***‘COVID-19 is no joke, it gets worse with smoke’***. A joint statement was also prepared with MOHW and partners for release on 31 May 2020 - 30 May 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 30 May 2020.
3. Surveillance, Rapid Response Teams and Case Investigation
- a. PAHO CO shared the WHO Surveillance Protocol for SARS-CoV-2 infection among HCWs – 29 May 2020. The MOHW is currently updating its surveillance protocol.
 - b. PAHO CO collaborated with the MOHW in the training of field teams in the use of Go.Data and provided 25 tablets which expanded the reach for contact tracing within communities during the week.
4. Points of Entry
- a. PAHO CO co-hosted with the MOHW on 20 May 2020, the IHR Stakeholders Advisory Group with representatives of all Ministries, Departments and Agencies, the Airports and Ports Authorities and Jamaica Defence Force on their roles within the IHR (2005) in the context of COVID-19.

- b. PAHO CO collaborated with the IHR NFP, Jamaica to facilitate the selection of the Designated airport and Contingent Designated airport for retrofitting of a quarantine / isolation facility, with one airport to be funded by USAID through their agreement with PAHO and MOHW.
- 5. National Laboratory
 - a. PAHO CO requested a webinar for the Caribbean Sub-Region and recommended areas of focus to the PHE laboratory team on the new guidance on SARS-CoV-2 laboratory testing with the E gene only and interpretation of results – 29 May 2020.
- 6. Infection prevention and control
 - a. PAHO CO in partnership with UNAIDS trained members of 11 Civil Society Organizations working in the area of HIV/AIDS on use of PPEs and infection prevention and control – 28 May 2020.
 - i. Focus continues on the printing of requested materials on cough etiquette and hand hygiene.
 - b. 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 the MOHW with the WHO Scientific Brief on Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children and Adolescents with COVID-19, with a subsequent webinar hosted by the MOHW for over 250 persons during the week
 - b. PAHO CO shared the WHO Interim Guidance Clinical Management of COVID-19 – 27 May 2020 with the MOHW, resulting in updating of the MOHW clinical management guidelines by their Clinical Working Group on 28 May 2020.
 - c. PAHO CO collaborated with the MOHW on the development of a national Emergency Medical Team and implementation of Alternative Medical Care Sites and will continue the dialogue with the MOHW and Jamaica Defence Force on this initiative, with the PAHO WDC EMT team – 21 May 2020.
 - d. 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 continued its advocacy through providing guidance to the Technical Working Group of the HSS project of the MOHW, Jamaica including re-programming of funds to strengthen first level of care and information systems-as of 30 May 2020.
 - b. Discussions on PAHO guidelines on Blood Supply, as well as considerations on Convalescence Plasma. The National Institute on Blood has submitted a proposal for offering Convalescent Plasma in Jamaica to the CMO – as of 15 May 2020.
- 9. Research
 - a. PAHO CO has maintained membership on the Essential National Health Research Committee and provides support to formulate the research agenda for COVID-19, including for early investigations

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.