

# HURRICANE PAULETTE - BERMUDA

Situation Report No. 1

13 SEPTEMBER 2020 @ 8:30 P.M. (EST/UTC-5 hours)

## HIGHLIGHTS

Hurricane Paulette is expected to pass near or over Bermuda on the morning of Monday, 14 September 2020, with hurricane force winds and heavy rainfall experienced overnight.

The Ministry of Health, Bermuda and the Department of Health have completed the preparedness actions of the health sector, while ensuring cold chain for vaccines and other pharmaceuticals. All health facilities, including those managed by the Bermuda Hospitals Board have been secured.

There are 2 emergency medical centres – King Edward VII hospital and the Urgent Care Centre.

There is 1 approved pre-hurricane shelter – Cedarbridge Academy Gymnasium which is open. Other schools and church sites may be used as determined by Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) (the National Emergency Management Organization).

The L.F. Wade international airport closed at 6:00 p.m. today and may re-open on Monday night (14 September 2020) or Tuesday morning (15 September 2020), depending on the impact of the hurricane,

All Government buildings and schools will be closed on Monday and Tuesday.

<https://www.gov.bm/articles/minister-ming-hurricane-paulette-update-13-september>

Since Friday, 11 September 2020, daily meetings of the Public Health Emergency Response Team were held, with today's meeting attended as well by the new Chief Medical Officer (appointed on 1 September 2020) and Health Disaster Coordinator. In addition, the health sector was represented at meetings of the EMO.

All health staff have been briefed on their roles and will take up their assigned positions at the agreed times prior to 6:00 p.m.

The Health Disaster Coordinator will operate from the EMO Operations Room and is in place until Tuesday, 15 September 2020 with representatives of other key sectors.

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

N/A

Affected

#



Deaths

#



Damaged

#



Missing

#



Evacuated

#



Sources

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

A Hurricane Warning is in effect for Bermuda as rain bands of Hurricane Paulette are now bringing heavy rain and tropical storm force winds to Bermuda, with conditions to deteriorate through the night.

<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/text/refresh/MIATCPAT2+shtml/132354.shtml>

Location: 30.9N 63.6W

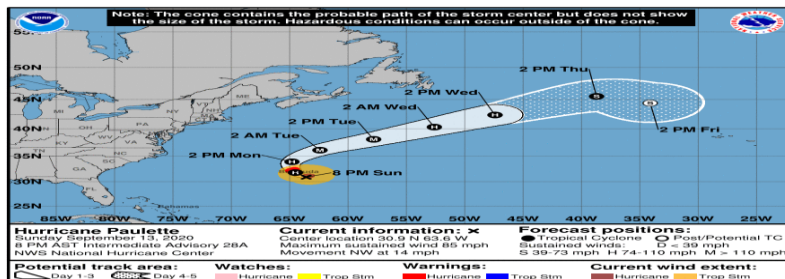
About 120 miles / 195 km SE of Bermuda

Maximum sustained winds are 85 mph / 140 km/h

Present movement NW or 310 degrees at 14 mph / 22 km/h

Minimum central pressure 974 MB / 28.77 inches

**CONTEXT**  
Hurricane Paulette is expected to affect Bermuda with hurricane force winds from 3:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. on 14 September 2020.



## HEALTH SITUATION

All health programmes and projects were in place with COVID-19 transmission at low levels – Total=177, Active cases=7 (3.9%) – 0 hospitalized, Recovered=161 (91%), 0 new in the last 24 hours and 9 deaths.

## RISK ASSESSMENT

To be completed after passage of the hurricane.

## NEEDS

No needs were identified by the Ministry of Health, Bermuda at this time.

## PRIORITY CONCERNS

1. Increased potential for transmission of COVID-19 with sheltering
2. Ability to maintain health services, if facilities damaged or flooded
3. Limited provision of critical emergency health services to vulnerable groups during the period of impact of the hurricane, e.g. at Long Term Care Facilities and persons requiring oxygen.

## RESPONSE ACTIONS

### PAHO/WHO

**Friday, 11 September:** PAHO CO EOC remains activated for the COVID-19 response and Tropical Storm / Hurricane Paulette. Radio checks were conducted in collaboration with the UNDSS..Review of preparedness actions conducted by PHE Focal Point with HDC, Bermuda.

**Saturday, 12 September 2020:** PAHO CO EOC provided technical guidance.

**Sunday, 13 September 2020:** PAHO CO, Jamaica contacted CMO, Ministry of Health, Health Disaster Coordinator and the Emergency Response Coordinator, King Edward VII hospital.

Technical guidance was provided for health sector priority actions, including for health facilities and coordination of activities. Last dialogue with HDC at 7:00 p.m. (EST/UTC-5 hours).

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SOURCES