



The Bahamas & Turks and Caicos Islands

10 June 2021

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The Bahamas

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 15 March 2020. During the period 3-10 June 2021, there were 157 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 5 COVID-19 related deaths.

Among the new cases:

- 122 (78%) were from New Providence;
- 73 (46%) were males and 84 (54%) were females;
- 10 cases (5 from New Providence, 2 from Exuma and Grand Bahama and 1 from Abaco) were travel-related.

Among the total confirmed cases, 113,487 real time PCR tests have been conducted to date.

Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI)

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 23 March 2020. During the period 3-10 June 2021, there were 2 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 1 COVID-19 related death.

Among the new cases:

- 2 (100%) were from Providenciales

Among the total confirmed cases:

- 1161 (47.9%) were males, 1259 (52%) were females, and 1 (0.1%) was unknown gender as of 9 June 2021;
- 22,790 real time PCR tests and 100,593 Rapid Antigen Tests have been conducted.

GLOBAL

174,259,789 Cases
3,764,129 Deaths

REGION OF THE AMERICAS

69,131,242 Cases
1,816,357 Deaths

THE BAHAMAS

12130 Confirmed
728 Active
11081 Recovered
38 Hospitalized
237 Deaths

TURKS & CAICOS

2421 Confirmed
7 Active
2389 Recovered
1 Hospitalized
18 Deaths

Total cases and deaths, as of 10 June 2021

The Bahamas

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
New Providence	8945	174
Grand Bahama	1822	31
Abaco	369	8
Eleuthera	237	1
Exuma	159	2
Bimini/Cat Cay	138	4
Berry Islands	90	2
Inagua	24	0
Andros	167	2
Long Island	25	1
Cat Island	71	1
Acklins	7	0
San Salvador	12	0
Crooked Island	7	0
Mayaguana	3	0
Pending	54	11
TOTAL	12130	237

Turks and Caicos Islands

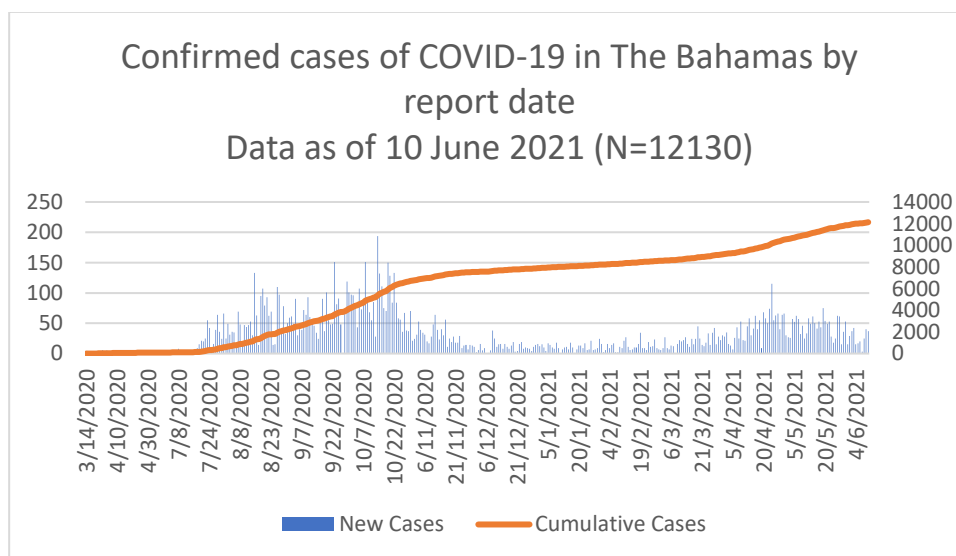
Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Providenciales	1942	12
North Caicos	96	0
Parrot Cay	13	0
Grand Turk	284	5
South Caicos	58	0
Middle Caicos	27	0
Ambergris Cay	1	0
TOTAL	2421	17

SITUATION SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS

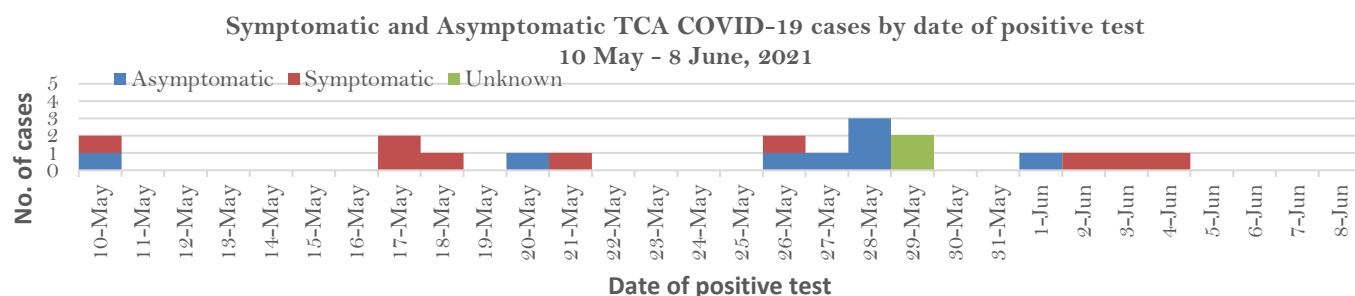
The Bahamas

- The number of reported cases has begun show a decreasing trend since the start of the third wave.
- Emergency Orders have been extended for three months until 19th August 2021.
- Nightly curfews continued for Grand Bahama and New Providence.
- The 14-day lockdown was extended for Bullocks Harbour and Great Harbour Cay (both a part of The Berry Islands) to 5:00 am, 7 June 2021; and for Central Andros, North Andros, and Cat Island to 5:00 am, 14 June 2021.
- Businesses on The Berry Islands and South Andros are permitted to operate from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm.
- Harvesting of crabs is permitted on Cat Island, Central Andros and North Andros from 8:00 pm to 5:00 am; and on South Andros and The Berry Islands from 10:00 pm to 5:00 am.
- School examinations are permitted during the lockdown on Bullocks Harbour and Great Harbour Cay (both a part of The Berry Islands), Cat Island, Central Andros, and North Andros.
- Restrictions on vessels and travelers from Haiti into The Bahamas were extended to 11 July 2021.
- On 7 June 2021, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lowered the COVID-19 risk assessment level from Level 4 (Very high) to Level 3 (High) for The Bahamas.

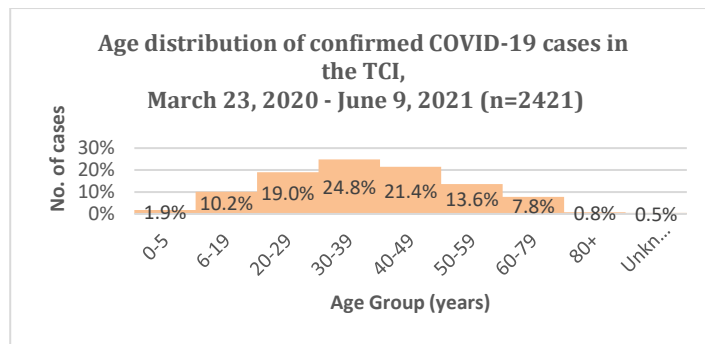


Turks and Caicos Islands

- The pandemic public health regulations and protocols related to physical distancing, wearing of masks and other related measures including screening for travel have been extended to 30 June 2021.
- On 7 June 2021, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lowered the COVID-19 risk assessment from Level 4 (Very high) to Level 1 (Low) for the Turks and Caicos Islands.



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 60



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RESPONSE

PAHO/WHO continues to provide both The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands with access to updated technical guidelines, technical assistance and situational updates related to the COVID-19 response.

The Bahamas

- COVID-19 vaccine distribution administration continued. As of 5 June 2021, 48,434 persons received the first dose and 13,749 persons received the second dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.
- CIBC First Caribbean International Bank made a \$100,000 donation to the Ministry of Health on 10 June 2021 to support the COVID-19 vaccination efforts.
- Moderate to severe COVID-19 cases continue to be treated at Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH), Doctors Hospital West and the Rand Memorial Hospital. PMH continues to only service emergency cases and operate outpatient clinic services via telehealth and virtual means.
- The national authorities continue to require non-fully vaccinated travelers to have a negative real time PCR test, the completion of a daily on-line survey for fourteen days after arrival and depending upon the responses, rapid antigen testing five- and ten-days post entry.
- Results are pending for ten COVID-19 samples sent to the Caribbean Public Health Agency for genomic sequencing in March 2021.
- A National Respiratory Surveillance Genomics Database is in use by the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for genetic analysis. Several genomic deletions and variant mutations have been identified by the NRL.
- COVID-19 laboratory PCR testing continues at the NRL, PMH, Rand Memorial Hospital and private sector laboratories.
- An on-line contact tracing course continues to be offered through the University of The Bahamas.
- A SharePoint platform continues to be utilized for multiple user entry of contact tracing data, case investigation and laboratory test results whilst Go.Data is used for epidemiology analysis of a subset of exported data variables.
- The Public Hospital's Authority continues to distribute personal protective equipment across all public hospitals and clinics.
- MOH continues to provide telemedicine, telepsychology, mental health, and psychosocial support services.
- MOH continues to implement a communication campaign to increase immunization coverage for influenza and other vaccines.
- Work continues in adapting and implementing the National COVID-19 Vaccine Plan to the changing situation with respect to access to vaccines, with support from PAHO/WHO.
- The communication campaign for COVID-19 vaccine continues.

Turks and Caicos Islands

- The daily number of new confirmed cases of COVID-19 remains low.
- COVID-19 vaccine distribution continued. As of 6 June 2021, 22,700 persons received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and 55% of the entire population was fully vaccinated.

- Persons continue to register for the COVID-19 vaccine via the online portal which is available in three languages: English, French-Creole, and Spanish.
- Go.Data continues to be utilized for field data collection and contact tracing investigations.
- Community drive-through services continue to provide access to COVID-19 tests throughout the islands.
- The National Public Health Laboratory continues to conduct COVID-19 PCR testing.
- The communication education campaign continues with communication materials on the COVID-19 vaccine shared via traditional means and social media.
- A Cuban health contingent of 20 persons continues to operate in medical facilities through a bilateral agreement between the two countries.

GAPS/CHALLENGES

- Public compliance with public health protocols and vaccination hesitancy continue to present challenges in both The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands.
- There continues to be a risk of introduction of new variants to both The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands due to the emergence and spread of COVID-19 variants in several countries from which tourists originate.
- While The Bahamas has capacity to identify the presence of COVID-19 variants, neither The Bahamas nor Turks and Caicos Islands have in-country sequencing capacity. This presents a challenge for the timely identification of new variants.
- Both countries are challenged by the limited global supply of Cepheid Test Kits and other supplies required for COVID-19 testing. Turks and Caicos Islands is particularly challenged as it is only possible for them to source Cepheid Test Kits through the United Kingdom Government.
- The Bahamas risks using current stocks of syringes for their National Immunization Programme for COVID-19 vaccine distribution due to limited global supply.
- A nursing shortage has been identified in The Bahamas and there are concerns about the delivery of healthcare services.
- In Turks and Caicos Islands, while vaccine roll-out has been significant, vaccine uptake is now reduced and the risk of expiration of AstraZeneca doses before use is possible, as there is high vaccine hesitancy for this vaccine.
- In the Turks and Caicos Islands, stigma and discrimination of COVID-19 confirmed and suspected cases remain a concern.