



## The Bahamas & Turks and Caicos Islands

17 June 2021

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

#### The Bahamas

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 15 March 2020. During the period 11-17 June 2021, there were 193 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 4 COVID-19 related deaths.

Among the new cases:

- 156 (81%) were from New Providence;
- 91 (47%) were males and 102 (53%) were females;
- 15 cases (10 from New Providence and 5 from Grand Bahama) were travel-related.

Among the total confirmed cases, 103,444 real time PCR tests have been conducted to date.

#### Turks and Caicos Islands

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 23 March 2020. During the period 11-17 June 2021, there were 2 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19.

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

176,893,061 Cases  
3,835,979 Deaths

#### REGION OF THE AMERICAS

70,303,157 Cases  
1,848,197 Deaths

#### THE BAHAMAS

12,322 Confirmed  
758 Active  
11,239 Recovered  
39 Hospitalized  
241 Deaths

#### TURKS & CAICOS

2,423 Confirmed  
9 Active  
2,389 Recovered  
1 Hospitalized  
18 Deaths

### Total cases and deaths, as of 10 June 2021

#### The Bahamas

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
New Providence	9100	177
Grand Bahama	1847	31
Abaco	372	8
Eleuthera	238	1
Exuma	160	2
Bimini/Cat Cay	142	5
Berry Islands	90	2
Inagua	24	0
Andros	170	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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12322</b>	<b>241</b>

#### Turks and Caicos Islands

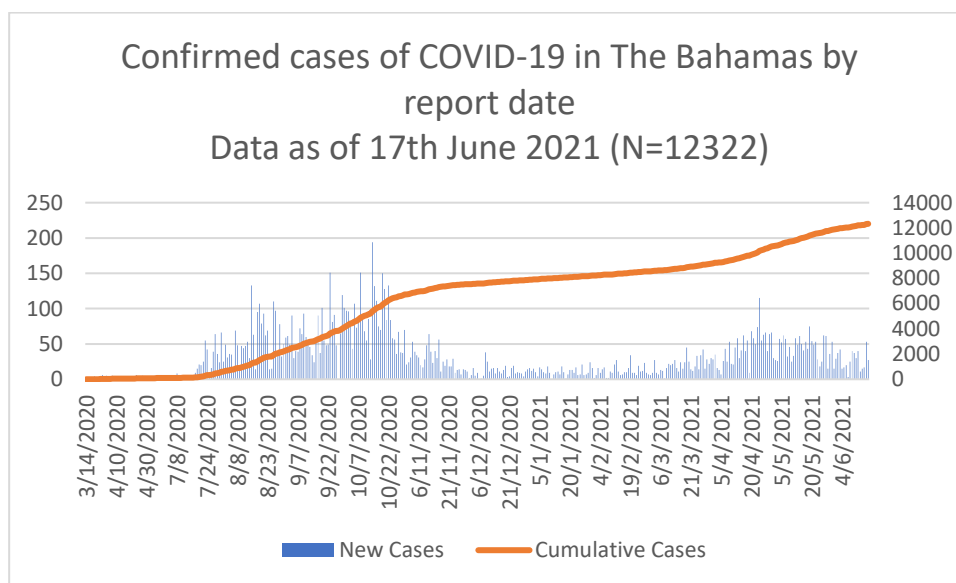
Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Providenciales	1944	13
North Caicos	96	0
Parrot Cay	13	0
Grand Turk	284	5
South Caicos	58	0
Middle Caicos	27	0
Ambergris Cay	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2423</b>	<b>18</b>

## SITUATION SUMMARY

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### The Bahamas

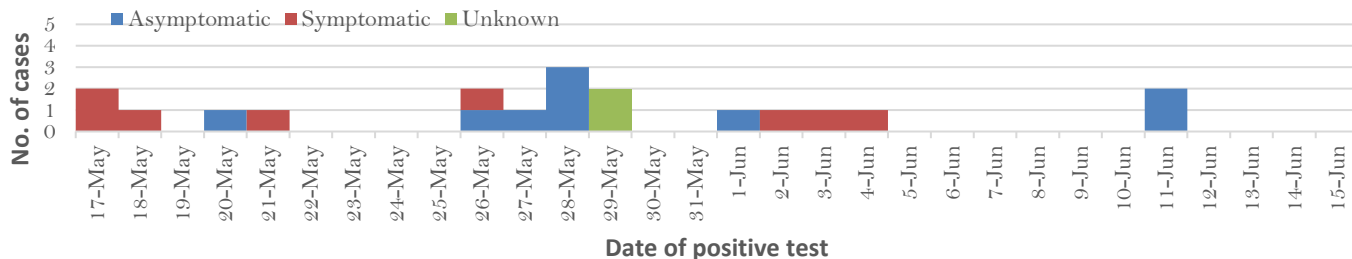
- The number of reported cases continues to show a decreasing trend since the start of the third wave.
- Emergency Orders have been extended for three months until 19 August 2021.
- The extended lockdown for Cat Island, Central Andros, and North Andros ended at 5:00 am, 14 June 2021.
- Nightly curfews continued for the Berry Islands, Grand Bahama, New Providence and South Andros. A nightly curfew was implemented from 14 June 2021 at 6:00 pm for Central Andros and North Andros and 8:00 pm for Cat Island.
- Restaurants on Eleuthera and Exuma are permitted to operate later than 9:00 pm.



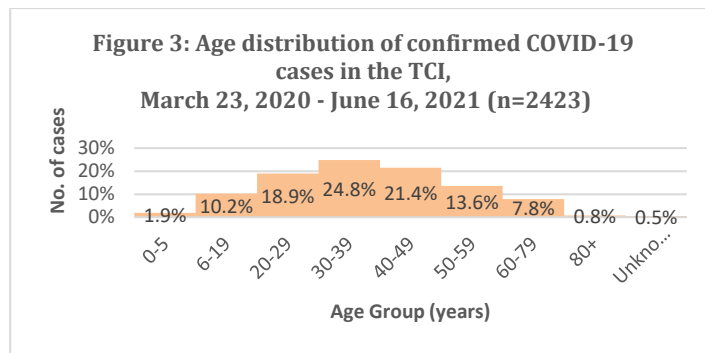
#### Turks and Caicos Islands

- The daily number of new confirmed cases of COVID-19 remains low.
- 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.

**Symptomatic and Asymptomatic TCI COVID-19 cases by date of positive test**  
May 17 - June 15, 2021



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 61



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 61

## 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 throughout Grand Bahama and New Providence. COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution recommenced on Abaco from 12 June to 14 June 2021, and will re-commence on Acklins, Andros, Bimini, Cat Cay, Cat Island, Crooked Island, Eleuthera, Exuma, Inagua, Long Island, Mayaguana, Rum Cay, San Salvador, and the Berry Islands from 21 June to 25 June 2021.
- As of 11 June 2021, 50,292 persons received the first dose and 17,827 persons received the second dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.
- 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.
- Ministry of Health continues to provide telemedicine, telepsychology, mental health, and psychosocial support services.
- Ministry of Health 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. A video highlighting the COVID-19 vaccination efforts in Cat Island was released this past week.

## Turks and Caicos Islands

- COVID-19 vaccine distribution continued. As of 17 June 2021, 57% 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. COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy public service announcements were released this past week.
- 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 due to vaccine hesitancy.
- In the Turks and Caicos Islands, stigma and discrimination of COVID-19 confirmed and suspected cases remain a concern.