



Situation Overview

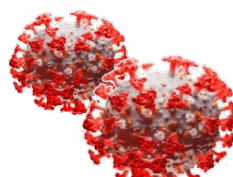
- The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines on the advice of Scientists from the Seismic Research Centre, University of the West Indies, has taken the decision to lower the Volcanic Alert Level from orange to yellow. Activities at the La Soufriere have declined for the last three (3) months and are consistent with a period of unrest following eruptive magmatic activity (explosive eruption) which can be seen by the emission of hot, degassing, near surface magma at the summit of the volcano. A yellow alert means that the volcano is still restless: seismic or fumarolic activity or both are above the historical level at the volcano but have reduced significantly since the last eruption on 22nd April, 2021.
- The lowering of the Volcano Alert Level to Yellow means that all residents who previously evacuated can now return to their homes, this includes residents of the communities of Point and Fancy. All persons in emergency shelters should return to their homes by Monday 20th September, 2021, once it is habitable.

HIGHLIGHTS

# of villages evacuated	0
# of active public shelters (As of 18th October 2021)	9
# of adults in public shelters	102
# of displaced children (under 18)	25
# evacuated health facilities (clinics)	3
# Active COVID-19 cases (Specimens collected as of October 17, 2021) ¹	1,643
10-day average # new COVID-19 cases	42
Total vaccines administered (as of October 18, 2021) - ¹	38,030
Total first dose vaccines administered	23,127
Total second dose vaccine administered	14,903

Health Situation

- The MOH announced on 6th August, 2021 the COVID-19 Delta Variant had been identified.
- The MOH announced on 7th September, 2021 that the COVID-19 Mu Variant has been identified in samples collected between 19th July, 2021 and 9th August, 2021.
- The MOH announced on September 12th the Gamma variant of concern (VOC) – P.1 was detected in one sample collected on August 14, 2021.



- The EWARS pilot by MOH will be conducted in Modern Medical & Diagnostic Center (Georgetown District), Stubbs Polyclinic (Calliaqua District) and Buccament Polyclinic (Pembroke District). The date of the pilot is pending by MOH.
- Three clinics remain closed: Fancy Clinic, Owia Clinic, and Sandy Bay Clinic. All other health clinics and hospitals have re-opened for services.
- COVID-19 case reporting:

Report Date	New COVID-19 Cases	Active Cases
October 18, 2021	10	1643
10-day average	42	

PAHO Response Actions

Air Quality Monitoring

The implementation of the project approved in June 2021, to establish temporary air quality monitoring network to provide air quality and meteorological data in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and inform potential health risks due to volcanic activity and other emission sources has been begun.

- From September 20- 24th a field mission was deployed to perform the installation of the air quality monitoring network. Mission trip included the participation of an air quality monitoring expert from Sonoma Technology (USA); PAHO staff and a team from the Environmental Health Department.
- Equipment was installed on 5 monitoring locations and includes 21 sensors as follows:

Site	Description	Monitoring Parameters
S1	NEMO	Particulate Matter, H2S, SO2, Weather
S2	Belmont Volcano Observatory	Particulate Matter, H2S, SO2, High Range SO2, CO2, Weather
S3	Georgetown SMART Hospital	Particulate Matter, H2S, SO2, High Range SO2, CO2, Weather
S4	South Rivers VINLEC Power Station	Particulate Matter, H2S, SO2
S5	Fair Hall Primary School	Particulate Matter, H2S, SO2

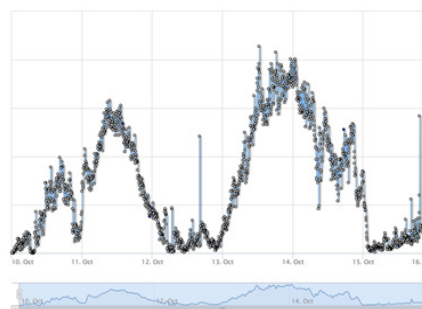
- October has served as a stabilization process to troubleshoot equipment; verify data access and identify capacity building needs. PAHO personnel has supported equipment operations.
- Air quality and weather data is being processed.



Belmont Observatory



Georgetown SMART Hospital



PM2.5 Concentrations
10/10-10/16 S2

- Planned activities: a) equipment stabilization; b) preparation of weekly air quality reports to inform stakeholders at MOH; c) training session for key EHD personnel; and d) preparation of outreach event.

Surveillance

Update on EWARS in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and plans moving forward:

- The MoH has requested assistance from PAHO in setting up their weekly syndromic surveillance data collection from Health Facilities using EWARS
- There are 50 reporting sites and MOH collect data on 7 syndromes. PAHO will code the data collection process into SVG's EWARS profile and have it ready for receiving data.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MPHSS)

- PAHO is currently partnering with the Ministry of Health to produce a jingle for use in a social media campaign.
- Public Service Announcements are currently being aired on selected local radio stations aimed at strengthening resilience.
- A four series weekly webinar is being planned to commence Thursday October 28 at 1:00pm and will continue on November 4th, 11th and 18th at the same time. The webinars will be hosted by PAHO and UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, St Vincent and the Grenadines and facilitated by members of the Caribbean Alliance of National Psychological Associations (CANPA) – Dr Katija Khan and Dr Peter Weller. The focus will be on “What to do in times of Stress” and will target front line workers (health-care workers, teachers and community leaders).

Non-communicable Diseases (NCD)

- The refresher trainings for the utilization of the NCD kits were held on September 22 and 29.
- Nutrition: A series of audio messages are currently being aired on the local radio “What yo Cooking” aimed at educating the general population on eating habits post-volcanic eruption.

Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH)

- PAHO has completed the contract process and WASH interventions as identified by MOH in consultation with PAHO WASH expert in 20 health facilities located throughout St. Vincent as part of the grant awards from ECHO, USAID and PAHO has begun. The 20 clinics selected by MOH are:

Fancy Clinic	Diamond Village Health Centre
Owia Clinic	South Rivers Health Centre
Sandy Bay Clinic	Stubbs Poly Clinic
Overland Clinic	Doreen John (Greggs) Health Centre
Troumaca Clinic	Evesham Health Centre
Rose Hall Clinic	Biabou Health Centre
Coulls Hill Clinic	Argyle COVID IC
Spring Village Health Centre	Calliaqua Health Centre
Byera Health Centre	Mental Health Rehabilitation Facility
Colonaire Health Centre	Buccament Polyclinic



Figures 1 and 2: Concrete bases for water tanks at Biabou Clinic

- The following agencies are also involved in the WASH project in St. Vincent and the Grenadines:
 - UNICEF
 - CARITAS
 - Red Cross

Health Partner Activities

- WFP - Working along with Mobilization in the area of food packaging and cash transfers
- IOM - Working in the area of Shelter and Housing, including transitional housing
- UNICEF - Working along with MOH as it pertains to creating friendly spaces in the community
- Red Cross - Providing rental assistance, back to school grants, food distribution

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