

Situation in The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands 12th June 2020.

CONTEXT

On 30th January 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) a public health emergency of international concern. As of 11th June 2020, there were 7,349,304 cases and 416,773 deaths reported globally. The Region of the Americas accounted for 3,560,591 confirmed cases and 192,944 deaths.

On 15th March 2020, the first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported in The Bahamas. On 23rd March 2020, the first confirmed case was reported in The Turks and Caicos Islands.

HIGHLIGHTS The Bahamas

Since 4th June 2020, there was one newly confirmed case and no deaths from COVID-19.

The newly confirmed case is:

- Female in the age group: 40 to 59 (1);
- Resides in New Providence and is in isolation at home.

Among total confirmed cases:

- 41 male in age groups: ≤19 (1); 20 to 39 (7); 40 to 59 (21); 60-79 (9); and ≥80 (3);
- 62 female in age groups: ≤19 (4); 20 to 39 (21); 40 to 59 (22); 60-79 (13); and ≥80 (2);
- 2,252 real time PCR (RT-PCR) tests have been conducted;
- There have been no new deaths since 24th April 2020.

Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI)

Since 29th May 2020, there were no newly confirmed cases and no deaths from COVID-19. The last case was confirmed on 25th April 2020.

Among total confirmed cases:

- 8 are male in age groups: ≤19 (1); 20 to 39 (3); 40 to 59 (3); 60-79 (1);
- 4 are female in age groups: ≤ 20 to 39 (3); 40 to 59 (1);
- 1 person is hospitalized;
- 96 persons are quarantined/home isolation;
- 222 persons have been tested for COVID-19 to date;
- 687 individuals have been released from quarantine/observation status.

The Bahamas

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
New Providence	81	8
Grand Bahama	8	2
Bimini	13	1
Cat Cay	1	0
TOTAL	103	11

Turks and Caicos Islands

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Parrot Cay	2	0
Providenciales	10	1
TOTAL	12	1

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

TOTAL CASES

103 Bahamas
12 Turks & Caicos
Confirmed

36 Bahamas
0 Turks & Caicos
Active Cases

55 Bahamas
10 Turks & Caicos
Recovered

2 Bahamas
1 Turks & Caicos
Hospitalized

1 Turks & Caicos
Left country

11 Bahamas
1 Turks & Caicos
Deaths

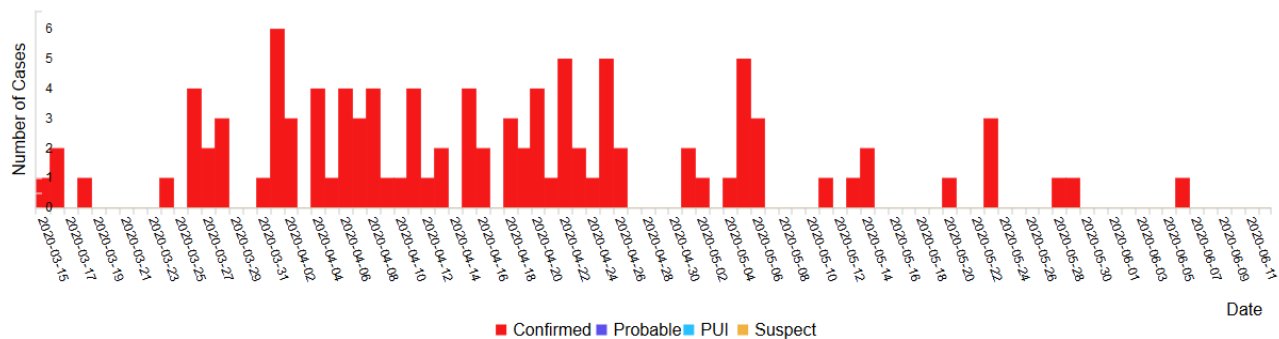
PAHO RESPONSE

- ✓ Donation of laboratory supplies
- ✓ Risk assessment and situational analysis
- ✓ Investigation of HCW infection in The Bahamas
- ✓ Technical guidance
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Support to local authorities on surveillance and health systems planning

The Bahamas

- The Emergency Orders have been extended to 29th June 2020. Effective 8th June 2020, a 9pm to 5am curfew commenced, Mondays through Sundays. Weekend lockdowns will be discontinued beginning 13th June 2020.
- The phased reopening of businesses in the tourism sector will commence 15th June 2020.
- The national budget was presented and is currently being debated in Parliament. The government allocated \$60 million in the current fiscal year for social assistance directly related to COVID-19.
- The Ministry of Environment and Housing released guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting of workplaces and is providing training for persons who are custodial staff.
- Schools and educational institutions remain closed throughout the islands. However, preschools and infant daycare centers are permitted to open with sanitizing, physical distancing, and face mask protocols on all islands except Bimini, Grand Bahama, New Providence and Paradise Island.
- Beaches and parks re-opened this past week on a few more islands, namely Eleuthera, Exuma, Harbour Island and San Salvador.
- Domestic flights resumed operations on 8th June 2020. Persons entering the country and travelling between islands are required to complete a travel and health form upon check-in to comply with public health measures of the Ministry of Health (MOH). Measures are aimed at risk assessment and to facilitate contact tracing, if needed.
- Returning Bahamian nationals and residents will no longer undergo mandatory quarantine. However, they are required to provide a negative COVID-19 molecular test result prior to their return and will be monitored by the MOH Surveillance Team through a mobile geographical fencing app and health check-in calls with surveillance personnel.
- Repatriated Bahamian nationals and residents arrived by flights from the United Kingdom and Europe, Turks and Caicos Islands and Cuba on 11th June 2020. Beginning 12th June 2020, the Government has approved two weekly flights from Fort Lauderdale, Florida for repatriation of returnees, and, approximately 400 to 500 nationals/residents are expected to return by 1st July.
- The Bahamas Power and Light Company approved 562 persons for a three-month bill payment deferral.

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in The Bahamas by Date of Onset

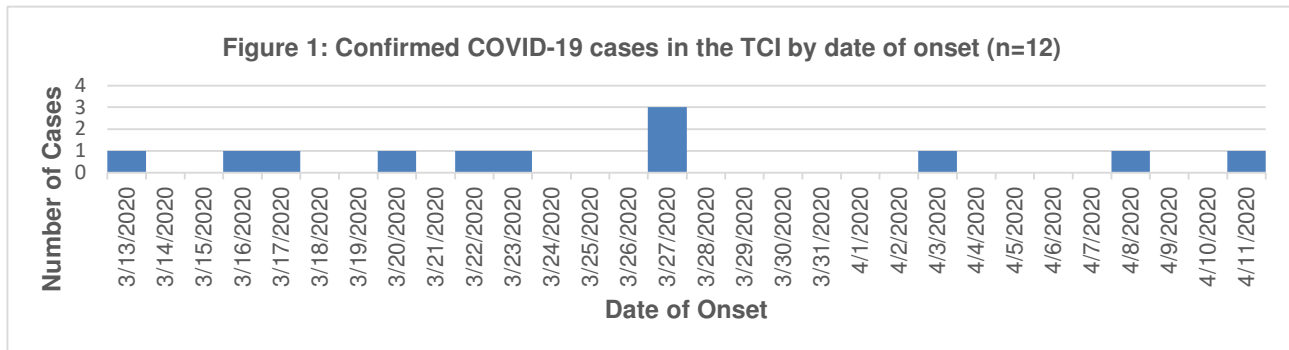


Turks and Caicos Islands

- Emergency Powers continue with nightly curfews extended to 22nd June 2020 from 10:00 pm to 5:00 am. Closure of businesses on Sunday remain in effect until 22nd July 2020.
- Incoming international air travel commenced and is restricted to TCI nationals, permanent residents,

British Overseas Territory Citizens, and residence permit holders. A British Airways flight from the UK to TCI returned 114 residents on 11th June 2020. All incoming persons are subject to a 14-day quarantine or other measures, as directed by the Chief Medical Officer.

- Consultations were conducted with the TCI Hotel and Tourism Association and Transportation sector to discuss the draft health protocols related to COVID-19.
- On 6th June 2020, 271 undocumented migrants were repatriated to their countries of origin.
- The Department of Gender Affairs will facilitate virtual live discussions on COVID-19 and Domestic Violence between 15-17th June 2020.



NATIONAL RESPONSE

The Bahamas Ministry of Health (MOH)

- Contact tracing nears completion for the most recent active cluster of cases in New Providence.
- Monitoring of health of individuals in quarantine continues through phone calls with surveillance personnel and their movement is monitored using a geographical fencing and security mobile app.
- MOH received a donation of medical supplies from the Rhode Island National Guard State Partnership Program.
- MOH in collaboration with the Bahamian Cosmetologists and Barbers Association and other partners commenced Infection and Prevention Control courses for Beauty Trade professionals in preparation for their opening on 15th June 2020.

Turks and Caicos Islands Ministry of Health

- In-country COVID-19 PCR testing is ongoing. To date 26 tests have been performed in-country.
- Testing is available for frontline workers, persons desirous of inter-island travel, and travel outside of the country for medical purposes and other reasons.
- The United Kingdom Security Assistance team along with Public Health England continue to provide technical assistance to the MOH.
- Public health communication continues, providing prevention advice for COVID-19. Specific messages were released this week on the use of gloves in public.
- The MOH has developed multisectoral Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines for preparedness and response to COVID19. The guidelines address safety measures for seacrafts, use of facial masks, religious gatherings, public transportation, recreational sports, the construction

sector, post pandemic cleaning in non-health care settings, reopening of tourism accommodation, reopening international ports of entry, and general cleaning and disinfecting measures.

PAHO/WHO RESPONSE

PAHO continues to provide both The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands with access to updated technical guidelines and technical assistance.

The Bahamas

- PAHO Country Office (CO) personnel remain embedded within the Bahamas' MOH Emergency Operating Centre (EOC) to provide technical advice.
- PAHO CO and MOH continue to collaborate on an investigation of HCW COVID19 infections and exposures.
- PAHO CO continues to provide technical assistance to the MOH for COVID-19 outbreak data management using the WHO Go Data surveillance platform.

GAPS/CHALLENGES

The Bahamas

- Monitoring of movement of older persons via the geographical fencing and security mobile app.

Turks and Caicos Islands

- No in-country intensive care capacity.
- Shortage of oxygen therapy equipment and oxygen supplies.