



Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curacao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustasius, and Saba

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE #3

1 May 2020

I. HIGHLIGHTS

Trinidad and Tobago

COVID-19 Update

On 1 May 2020, COVID-19 patients are across various facilities: no patients at the Caura Hospital and 6 at the Couva Hospital, where there are no patients in the Intensive Care Unit and none in the High Dependency Unit and 6 are ambulatory. The two Step-down/Transition Facilities have 8 patients at the Sangre Grande Center (Brooklyn Facility) who are all low risk and stable patients and there are 21 patients at the Home of the Football, Couva, who are also all low risk and stable patients. Nationally, there has been a noticeable decline in patients being admitted for respiratory illness.

COVID-19 Response: Parallel Healthcare System

The Ministry of Health established a parallel healthcare system as the Health Sector's response to the Covid-19 Pandemic while reorganizing services at the first level of care and ensuring the continuity of essential services at this level during the pandemic.

This parallel health system was operationalized on 12 March 2020, when the first confirmed Covid-19 case was admitted to the Isolation Ward at the Caura Hospital. Today, there are nine hundred and twenty-two (922) beds, 75 in Tobago, distributed across twelve facilities (12) offering four levels of care in Trinidad and Tobago as part of the parallel system.

The different levels of care by facility in the parallel system are as follows:

Severe/Critical: The Couva Medical and Multi-Training Facility, Augustus Long Hospital

Intermediate: The Arima General Hospital, the Caura Hospital, The Princess and Elizabeth Home, Scarborough General Hospital

Step Down: The Home of Football, Couva and the Sangre Grande Centre

Quarantine: The Tacarigua Centre, UWI St, Augustine Campus at Debe/Penal and the Balandra Centre.

(COVID-19 Response: Parallel Healthcare System. Office of the Principal Medical Officer, Institutions, Ministry of Health, Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago)

Dutch Territories

Step down Strategies

As the rates of infection slow down in all the Dutch Caribbean Islands, National Authorities are focusing their energies on developing "Step Down" Strategies to establish a new normal while maintaining some key public health and social

SITUATION IN NUMBERS (as of 1 May 2020)

Trinidad and Tobago

116 Confirmed Cases
8 Deaths
72 Discharges

Aruba

100 Confirmed Cases
2 Deaths
79 Discharges

Curacao

16 Confirmed Cases
1 Deaths
11 Discharges

Sint Maarten

76 Confirmed Cases
13 Deaths
44 Discharges

Bonaire

2 Confirmed Cases
0 Deaths
2 Discharge

St. Eustasius

2 Confirmed Cases
0 Deaths
0 Discharges

Saba

2 Confirmed Cases
0 Deaths
0 Discharges

measures. These islands are all tourist dependent and with the lock down and the cessation of tourism their economies have suffered financially.

Assistance from the Kingdom of the Netherlands

The Dutch Military Ship arrived in the Region. The military will provide assistance with food supplies, border control, medical supplies and has on board medical facilities such as trauma center and helicopters for medical evacuation. The Dutch Government is also working with the national and local governments to develop financial stimulus packages.

Sint Maarten

They have intensified their outreach in the community especial in areas where persons speak Spanish or Creole. They are obtaining the support from the informal community leaders from the Spanish and Haitian communities which has turned out to be very effective and positive intervention in reaching out to the people in those areas. These leaders have a good relationship with their people.

Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba

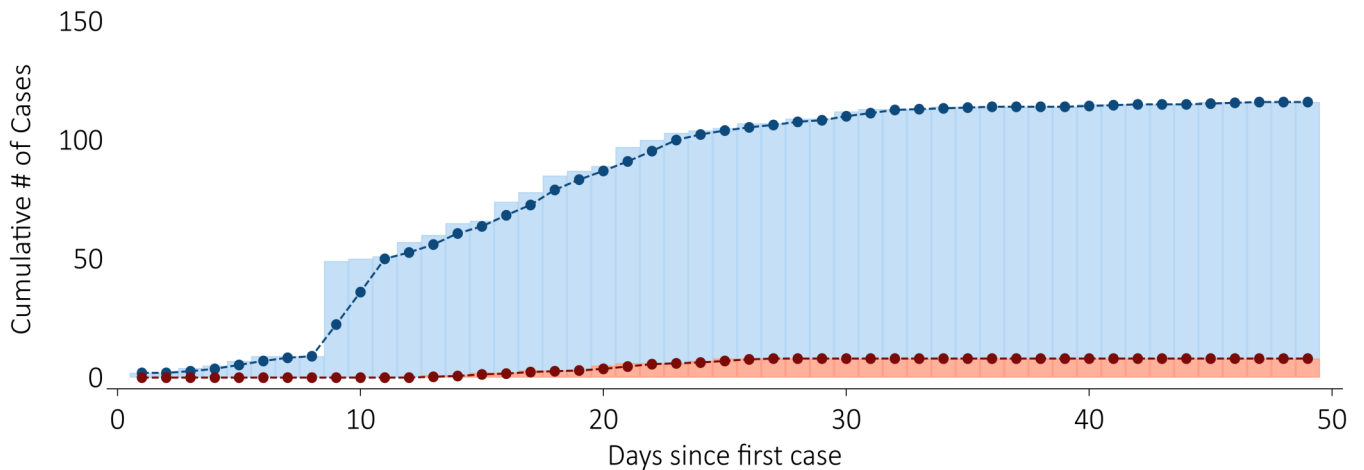
The Dutch government approved a compensation package to alleviate the socio-economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic for residents of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. Saba is facing an additional challenge because the Saba University School of Medicine (SUSOM) students have left the island.

II. SITUATION SUMMARY

Table 1. COVID-19 Status in Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curacao, Sint Marten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, 01, May 2020

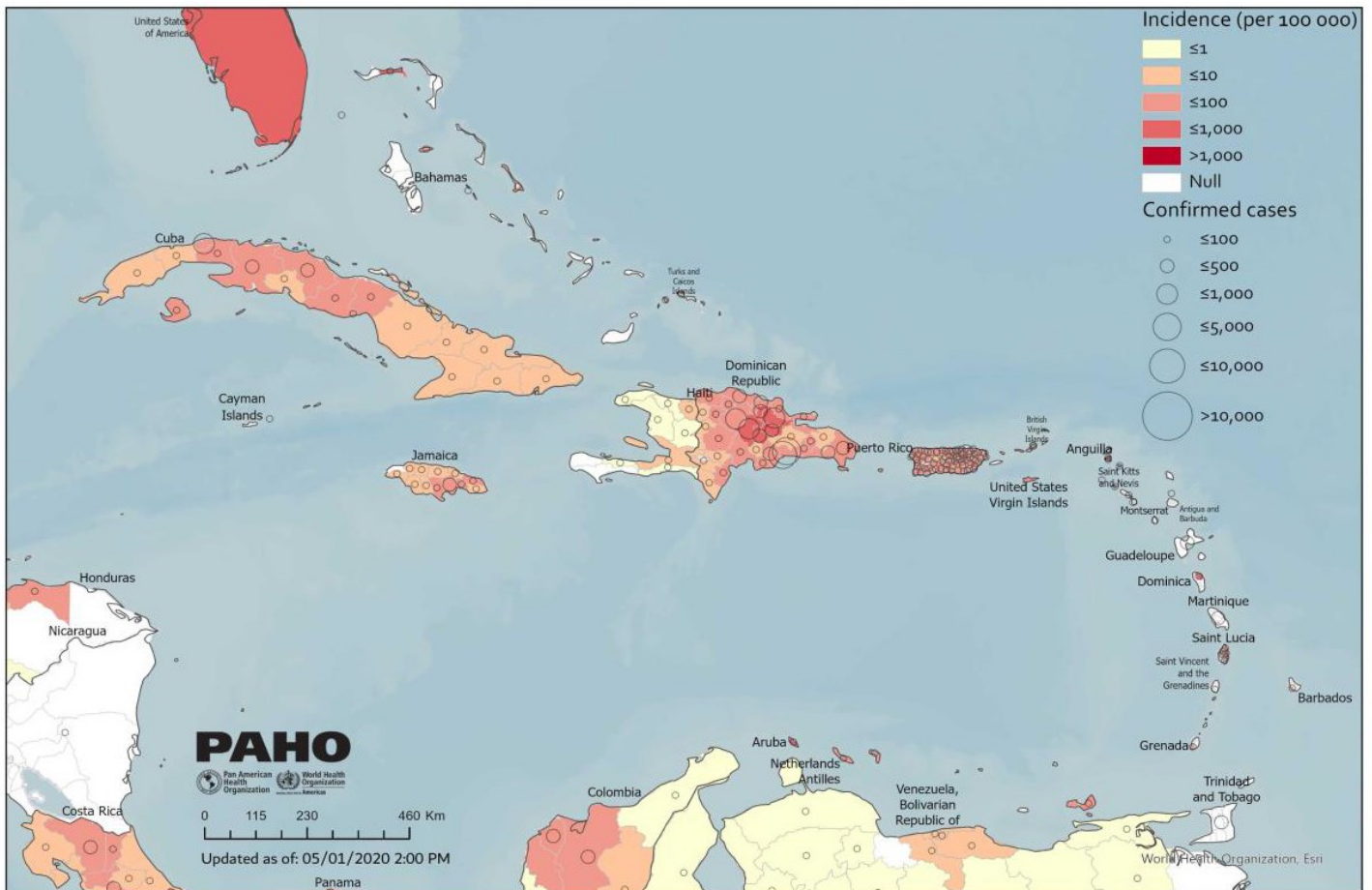
<u>Country</u>	# Confirmed Cases	# Deaths	# Tests Conducted	# Discharges	Transmission Type	Non-pharmacological Interventions			
						Travel Restrictions	Schools Closed	Essential Services	State of Emergency
Trinidad	116	8	1772	73	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Aruba	100	2	1691	79	Cluster of Cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	Curfew in place from 9.00pm-6.00am
Curacao	16	1	350	13	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	Stay at home restrictions in
Sint Maarten	76	13	Not Available	44	Cluster of Cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	Stay at home restrictions in
Bonaire	2	0	Not	2	Sporadic Cases				
St. Eustatius	2	0	Not Available	0	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	Stay at home restrictions in
Saba	2	0	85	0	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	Stay at home restrictions in Place

Graph 1. Cumulative cases and deaths in Trinidad and Tobago, 1 May 2020



Source. COVID-19 trajectory for Trinidad and Tobago. George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Center and Public Health Group of the Faculty of Medical Services, Cave Hill Campus, UWI, 1 May 2020

Map 1. Reported number of cumulative COVID-19 cases in the Caribbean Sub-region and corresponding incidence rate (per 100,000 persons) by country/territory, 1 May 2020



Data Sources: Member States Ministries of Health
Map Production: Health Emergency Information & Risk Assessment (HIM),
PAHO Health Emergencies Department (PHE)
Digital cartography sources: SALB-PAHO

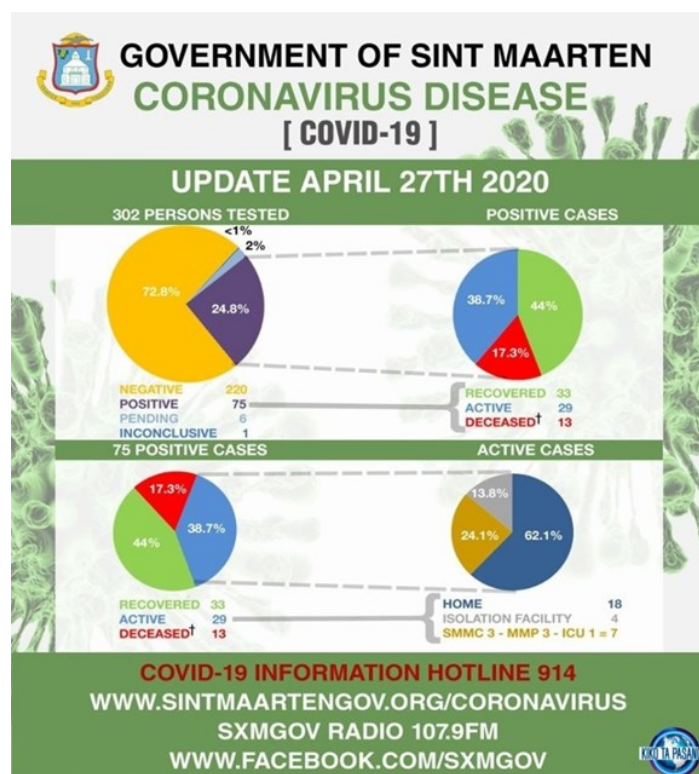
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Source. PAHO/WHO, Global & Regional Update, 1 May 2020

Map 2. COVID-19 Parallel Healthcare System Facilities and number of beds in Trinidad and Tobago, 1 May 2020



Source. COVID-19 Response: Parallel Healthcare System. Office of the Principal Medical Officer, Institutions, Ministry of Health, Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago



III. RESPONSE

A. Key Trinidad and Tobago/Ministry of Health Response to COVID-19, 1 May 2020

- ⇒ Since 27 April 2020 the local testing facility located at Mount Hope has been providing PCR testing in tandem with the MOH Initiative to increase testing.
- ⇒ The Community Testing Initiative has resulted in 304 samples submitted and all had negative results.
- ⇒ The COVID-19 Parallel Health System has significantly reduced the risk of exposure for patients seeking attention across the system.

B. Key PAHO/WHO Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curacao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba Response to COVID-19, 1 May 2020

- ⇒ Technical guidance was provided on different aspects of the COVID-19 response to Trinidad and Tobago and the Dutch Caribbean Islands
- ⇒ The United Nations Country Plan was shared with Trinidad and Tobago National Authorities and uploaded onto the Partners Platform
- ⇒ Support the Mental Health Team to conduct an assessment of the mental health psychosocial response and identified gaps and needs for PAHO technical collaboration.
- ⇒ Explored with the Ministry of Health and PAHO/Washington DC areas to strengthen tobacco cessation services since some cessation clinics were closed due to COVID-19 response.

⇒ Developed costed workplan with the identification of key activities to support COVID-19 response of the Ministry of Health.

⇒ Provision of continuous technical support in the review and analysis of the available stock of medicines for HIV, TB, Malaria and others. This is due to the interruptions in the logistics chain in the supply of medicines and the Strategic Fund supplies as a result of COVID-19.

IV. NEEDS

- ⇒ 10,000 COVID-19 Tests (Extraction and Amplification Kits)
- ⇒ PAHO/WHO will provide primers, probes and controls for 10,000 tests during the week of 20-25 April 2020
- ⇒ 10,000 Nasopharyngeal swabs
- ⇒ PAHO/WHO will ship swabs, uncertain about the numbers at this moment, after receiving during the coming week

V. GAPS/CHALLENGES

- ⇒ Lack of continuous supply of RNA extraction kits which also remains a principal challenge at the regional level
- ⇒ Insufficient nasopharyngeal swabs that are also difficult to obtain as there are overall production and shipping challenges

VI. REFERENCES

Ministry of Health, Trinidad and Tobago:
<http://www.health.gov.tt/>