



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

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE #2

24 April 2020

I. HIGHLIGHTS

Trinidad and Tobago

On 24 April 2020, COVID-19 patients are across various facilities: no patients at the Caura Hospital and 10 at the Couva Hospital, where there are no patients in the Intensive Care Unit and none in the High Dependency Unit. The two Step-down/Transition Facilities have 11 patients at the Sangre Grande Center (Brooklyn Facility) who were without symptoms and awaiting two negative tests before discharge as well as there are 38 patients at the Home of the Football, Couva, who are low risk and stable patients.

Thirty-three Trinidad and Tobago nationals returned earlier this week from Barbados and their COVID-19 results were received by the Chief Medical Officer and all were negative. These Nationals will undergo the same quarantine procedure (14 days) as persons who return to the country via air travel.

Community testing has begun in Trinidad and Tobago at 8 health centers in Trinidad and 1 in Tobago. Plans are being implemented to have PCR testing conducted, by Monday, 27 April 2020, at various sites, including the Trinidad Public Health Laboratory and the Mount Hope Hospital Laboratory under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health. To date a total of 1,473 samples were submitted to CARPHA for testing of COVID-19.

Dutch Territories

Financial Impact on Aruba, Curacao and Sint Maarten

Before the COVID-19 pandemic the financial situation in these countries was bleak and it has grown worse. These countries are heavily dependent on tourism. With the Cruise ships no longer calling on the islands and, the absence of air connections with the outside world, stay-over tourism has ceased. This has resulted in economic contractions on Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten.

Sint Maarten

Has expanded testing with over 600 persons in more than 200 households were contacted in 3 districts, of which 9 were confirmed as showing symptoms and 6 were tested. There are concerns that there may be some stigma in the community preventing persons from coming forward for testing if they have symptoms.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS (as of April 24th)

Trinidad and Tobago

115 Confirmed Cases
8 Deaths
48 Discharges

Aruba

100 Confirmed Cases
2 Deaths
69 Discharges

Curacao

15 Confirmed Cases
1 Deaths
11 Discharges

Sint Maarten

73 Confirmed Cases
12 Deaths
22 Discharges

Bonaire

2 Confirmed Cases
0 Deaths
1 Discharge

St. Eustasius

2 Confirmed Cases
0 Deaths
0 Discharges

Saba

2 Confirmed Cases
0 Deaths
0 Discharges

Bonaire

Has reported 2 COVID-19 cases of which one is reported to have recovered. This information is still being verified.

Sint Eustatius

Both patients are doing well.

Saba

Since April 21st Saba has tested 70 persons with 35 negative and 35 pending results.

One suspected case was hospitalized in Sint Maarten but received 2 negative PCR test results. All COVID-19 patients are doing well.

II. SITUATION SUMMARY

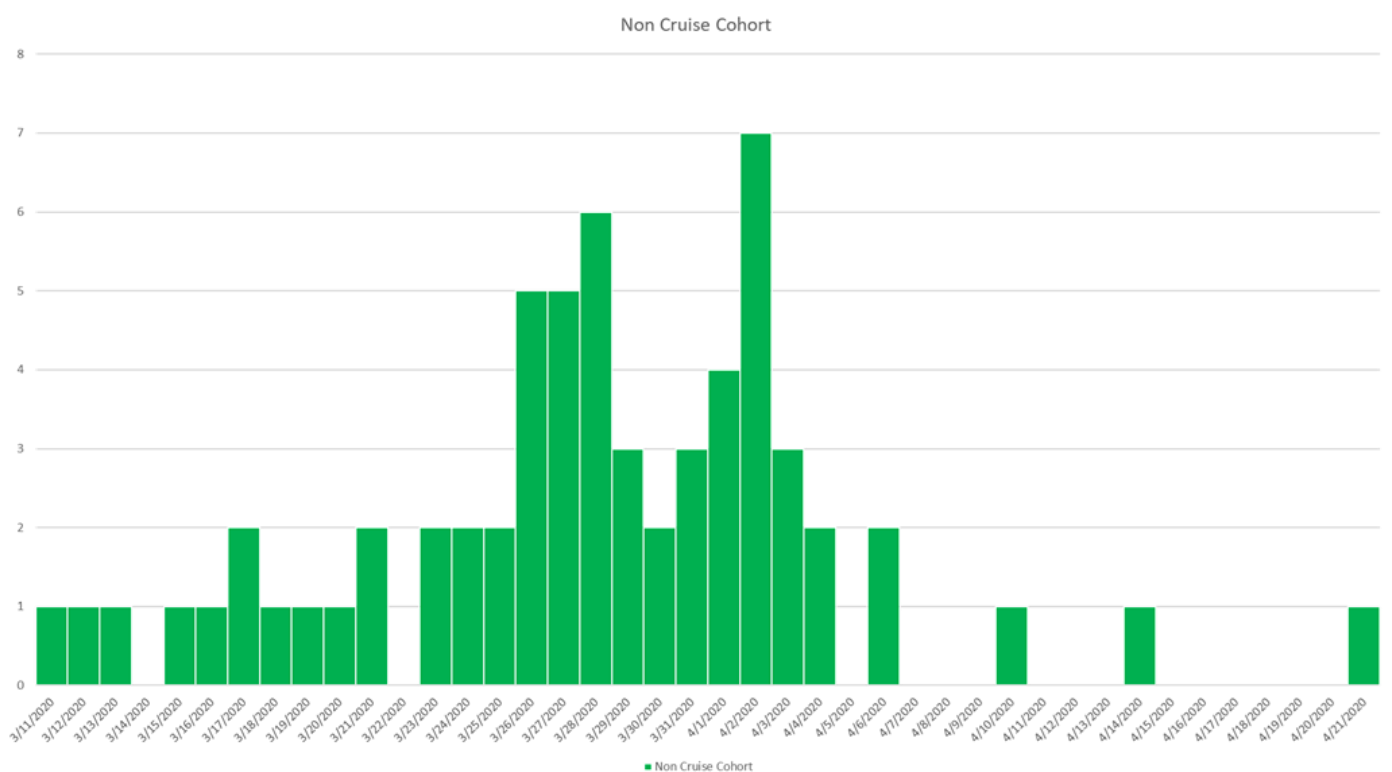
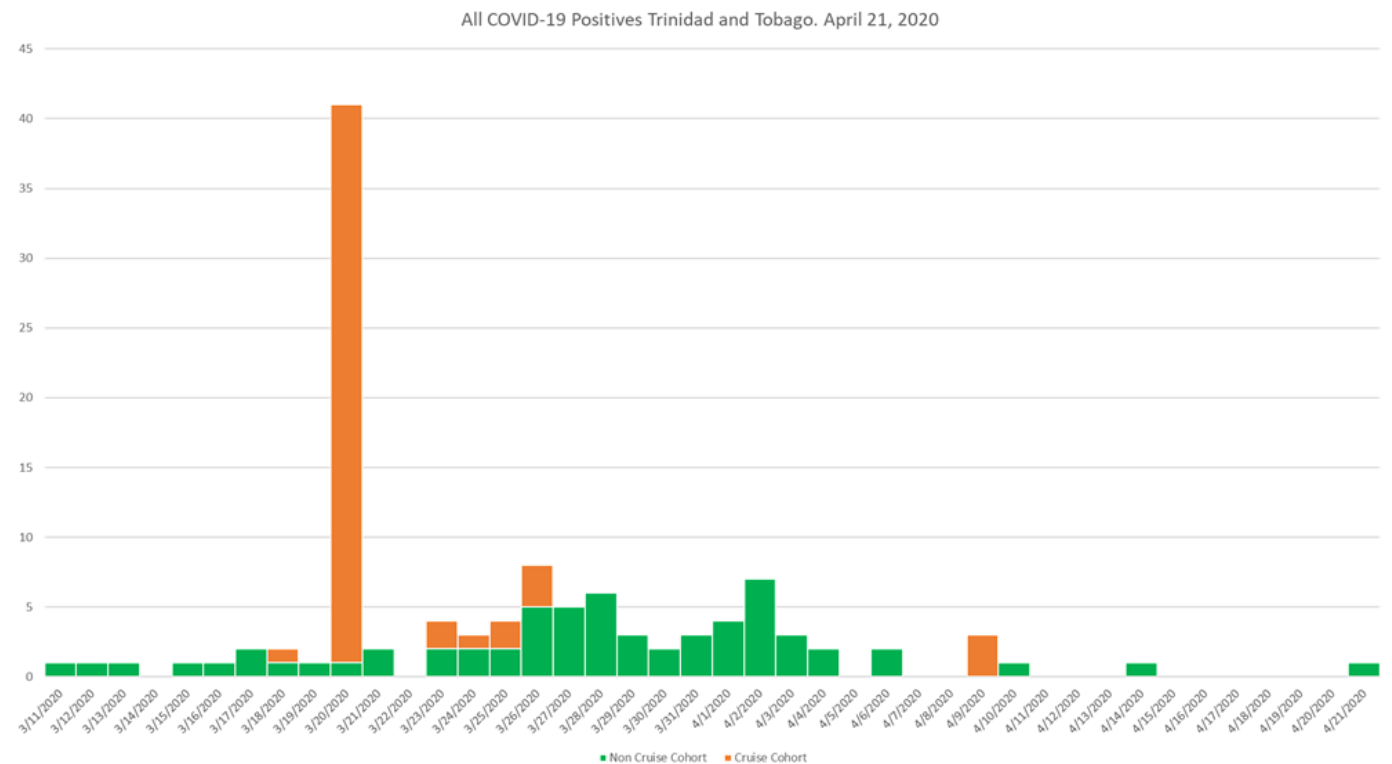
Table 1. COVID-19 Status in Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curacao, Sint Marten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, 22 April

<u>Country</u>	# Confirmed Cases	# Deaths	# Tests Conducted	# Discharges	Trans-mission Type	Non-pharmacological Interventions			
						Travel Restrictions	Schools closed	Essential Services	State of Emergency
Trinidad and Tobago	115	8	1473	48	Imported and Local Transmission	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Aruba	100	2	1577	69	Imported and community transmission	Yes	Yes	Yes	Curfew in place from 9.00pm-6.00am
Curacao	15	1		11	Imported and Local Transmission	Yes	Yes	Yes	Stay at home restrictions in
Sint Maarten	73	10	Not available	22	Imported, Local and cluster	Yes	Yes	Yes	Stay at home restrictions in
Bonaire	2	0	Not	1					
St. Eustatius	2	0	Not available	0	Imported	Yes	Yes	Yes	Stay at home restrictions in
Saba	2 (1 other case sent to Sint Maarten suspected but tested negative to PCR)	0	Not available	0	Community	Yes	Yes	Yes	Stay at home restrictions in Place

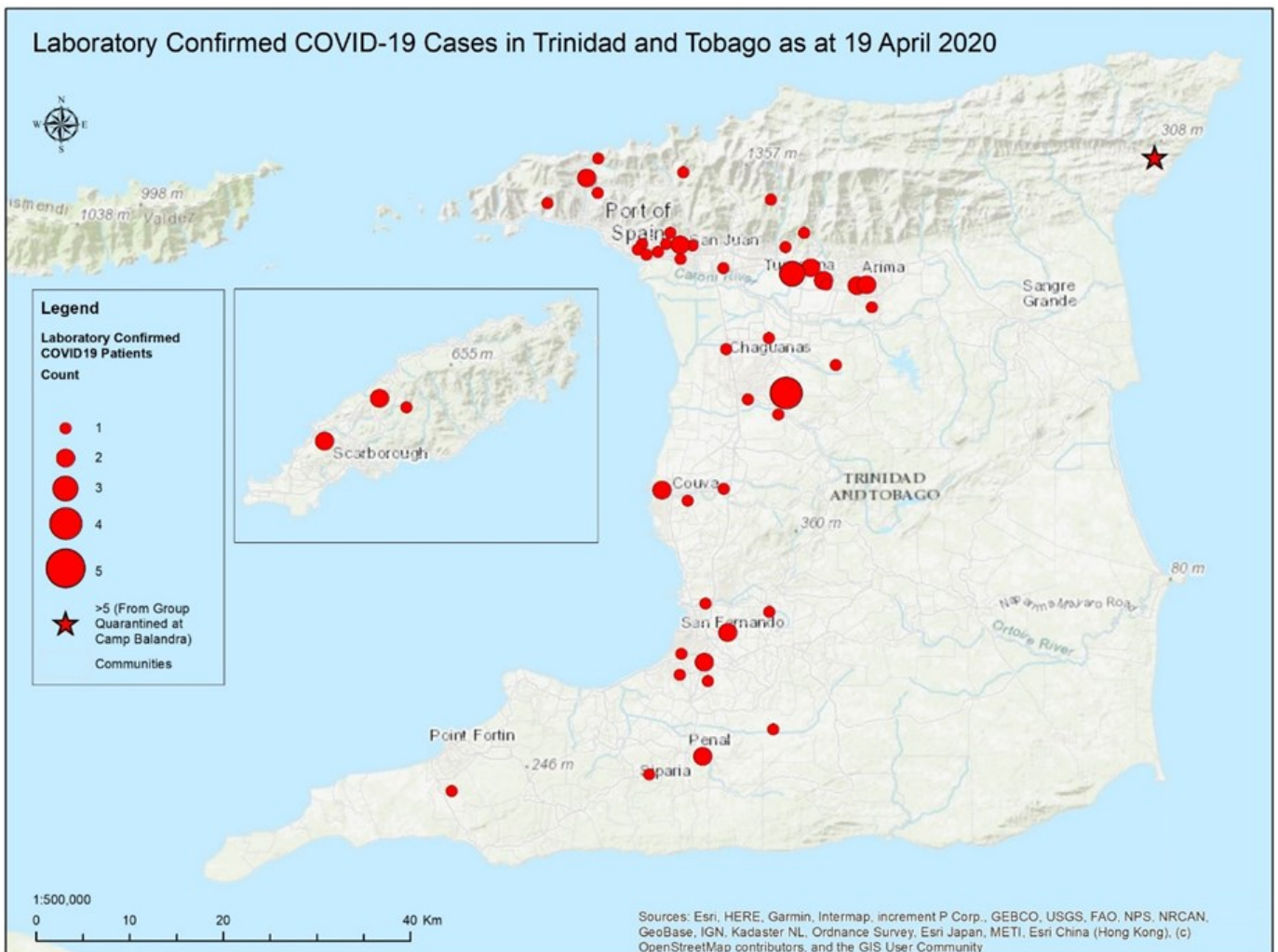
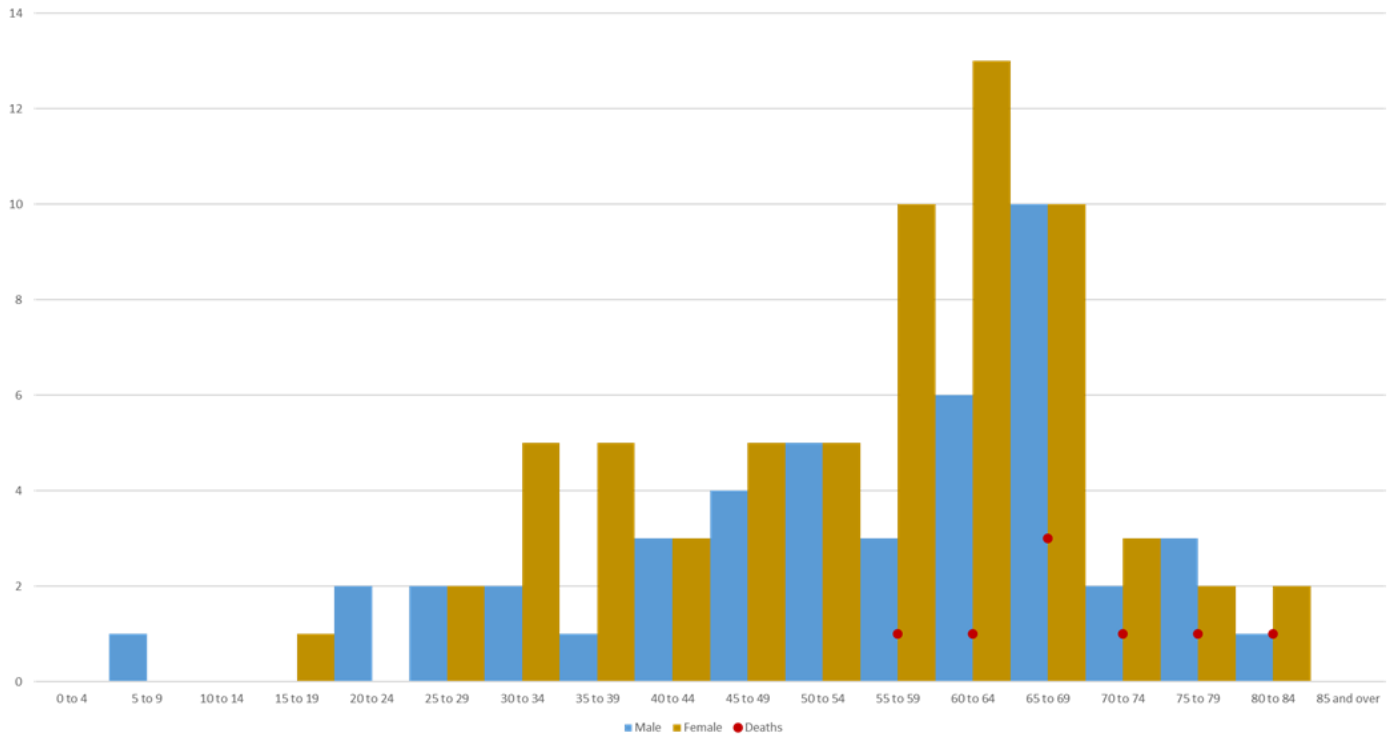
On 18 March 2020, the Ministry of Health, Trinidad and Tobago, advised that sixty-eight (68) nationals returned to Trinidad and Tobago from a Caribbean Cruise. The nationals were quarantined due to the presence of other persons on the cruise ship who tested positive for COVID-19.

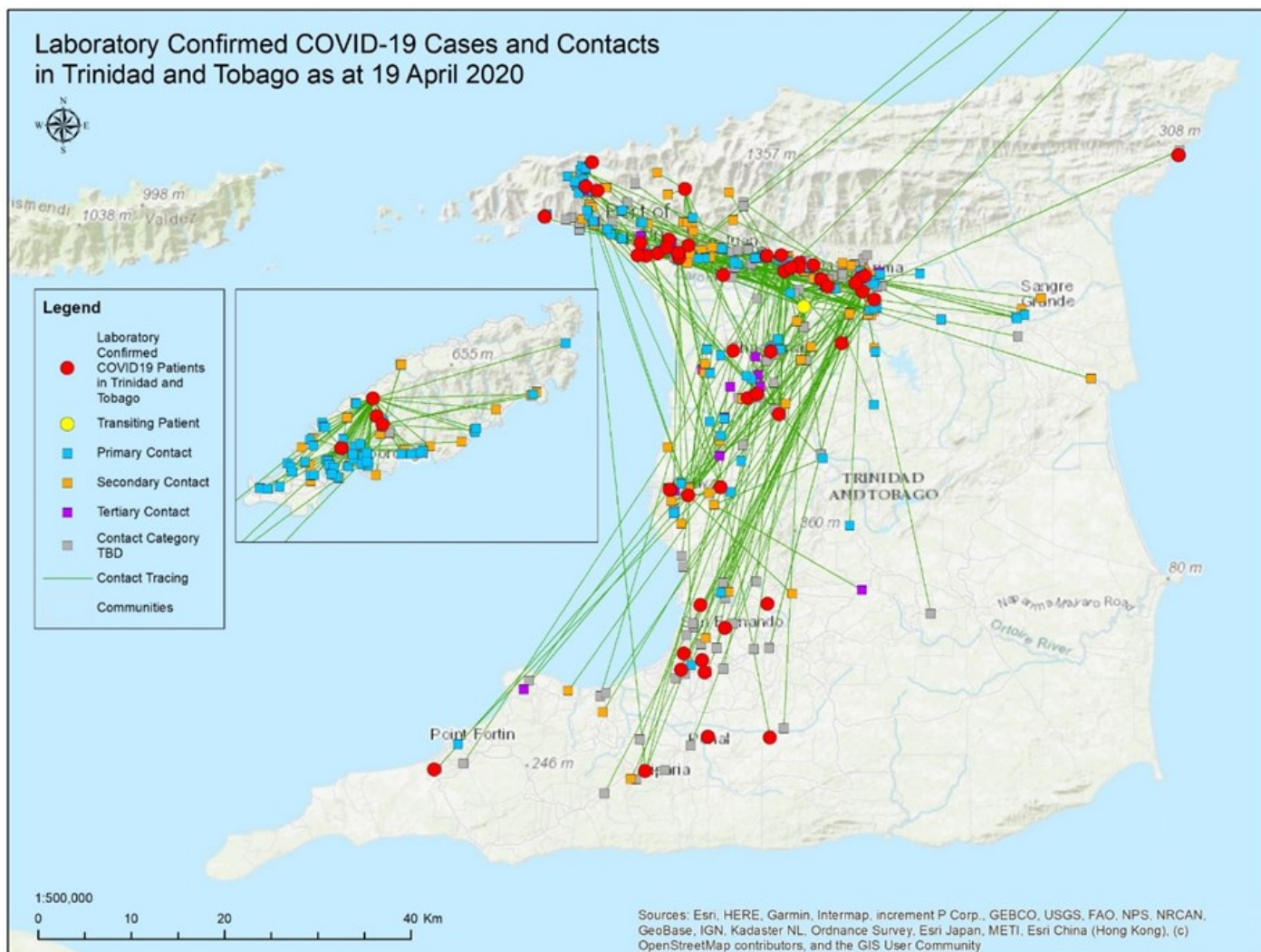
Of the total number of positive cases, 52 of these positive cases came from the group of nationals who returned from a cruise:

- 49 cases came from the group of 68 nationals who returned from the cruise together
- 3 positive cases came from the group of nationals who returned from the same cruise separately from the other 68 nationals



All COVID-19 Positives, by Age & Sex. April 21, 2020





III. RESPONSE

A. Key Trinidad and Tobago/Ministry of Health Response to COVID-19, 24 April 2020

⇒ The Public Health [2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)] (No. 11) Regulations, 2020 was developed by the Minister under Section 105 and confirmed by the President under Section 167 of the Public Health Ordinance.

https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fmoh.gov.tt%3A1337%2Fdirectus%2Fpublic%2Fuploads%2F_%2Foriginals%2F76-public-health-2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-no.-11-regulations-2020.pdf&data=02%7C01%7Cedwardsp%40paho.org%7Ce2367a68726e4682d64d08d7e87c04c8%7Ce610e79c2ec04e0f8a141e4b101519f7%7C0%7C1%7CG37233491836296455&sdata=pPCEsz4obsR

<pkV4HT6%2FyhvkfXOpgkXm8U2Tg900QM%3D&reserved=0>

B. Key PAHO/WHO Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curacao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba Response to COVID-19, 24 April 2020

- ⇒ Meetings were held with Ministry of Health, Trinidad and Tobago, on strengthening national COVID-19 surveillance, including the development, maintenance and submission of the country's database to PAHO.
- ⇒ Received and shared the completed updated TTO Infection Prevention and Control Manual based on a mission conducted in 2019.
- ⇒ Supported the finalization of IPC guidelines for Children Homes and Residential Facilities.

- ⇒ Held meeting with health promotion team to identify the health education and promotion products for the different vulnerable settings
- ⇒ Provided support for the strengthening of the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) plan for Curacao
- ⇒ Handing over of 960 Nasopharyngeal Swabs, Amplification Kits for 10,200 reactions that included COVID-19 gene kit, primers and probe, positive control and enzymes to the Trinidad Public Health Laboratory as well as provided technical support to implement COVID-19 PCR Testing on Monday, 27 April 2020

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/>