

Situation in The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands 10th July 2020.

On 30th January 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) a public health emergency of international concern. As of 9th July 2020, there were 12,013,050 cases and 549,245 deaths reported globally. The Region of the Americas accounted for 6,264,626 confirmed cases and 276,370 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 3rd July 2020, there were three newly confirmed cases and no deaths from COVID-19. There have been no new deaths since 24th April 2020.

Among the confirmed cases:

- There are 7 active cases and none are hospitalized.

Among total confirmed cases:

- 44 are male in age groups: ≤19 (1); 20-39 (9); 40-59 (21); 60-79 (10); and ≥80 (3);
- 63 are female in age groups: ≤19 (4); 20-39 (22); 40-59 (22); 60-79 (13); and ≥80 (2);
- 2,501 real time PCR (RT-PCR) tests have been conducted to date.

Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI)

Since 3rd July 2020, there were 22 newly confirmed cases and no deaths from COVID-19.

Among the confirmed cases:

- 53 are active cases and 4 of are hospitalized;

Among total confirmed cases:

- 37 (56.1%) are females and 29 (43.9%) are males.
- The age distribution of all cases is 0-5 (3.0%), 6-19 (18.2%), 20-29 (12.1%), 30-39 (31.8%), 40-49 (19.7%), 50-59 (9.1%), and 60-79 (6.1%);
- 276 persons are quarantined/home isolation;
- 870 persons have been tested for COVID-19 to date;

The Bahamas

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
New Providence	82	8
Grand Bahama	11	2
Bimini	13	1
Cat Cay	1	0
TOTAL	107	11

Turks and Caicos Islands

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Parrot Cay	2	0
Providenciales	64	2
TOTAL	66	2

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

TOTAL CASES

107 Bahamas

66 Turks & Caicos

Confirmed

7 Bahamas

53 Turks & Caicos

Active Cases

89 Bahamas

10 Turks & Caicos

Recovered

0 Bahamas

4 Turks & Caicos

Hospitalized

1 Turks & Caicos

Left country

11 Bahamas

2 Turks & Caicos

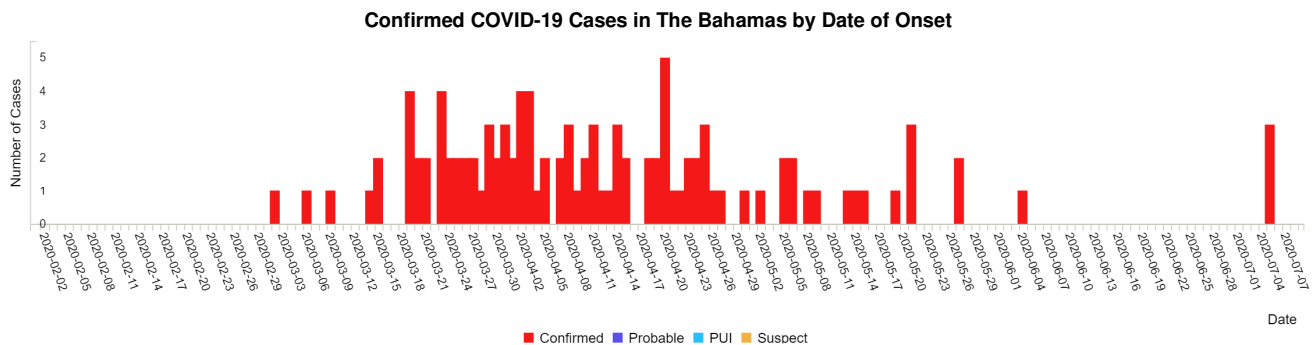
Deaths

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

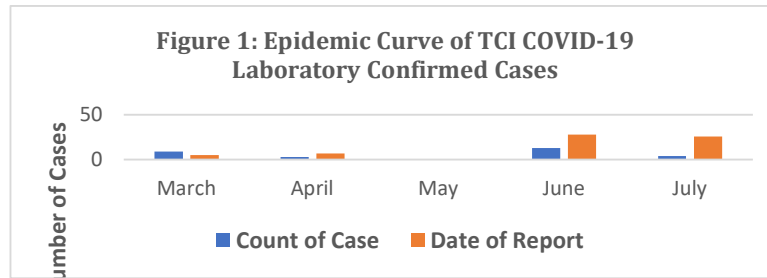
The Bahamas

- The Emergency Orders have been extended through 31st July 2020. A 10pm to 5am curfew will remain in effect, Mondays through Sundays. All businesses are to close by 8pm daily.
- Public beaches and parks in New Providence, Paradise Island and Grand Bahama will be closed over the Independence holiday weekend from 10pm 9th July 2020 to 5am 13th July 2020.
- A private hospital announced commencement of COVID-19 PCR testing with same-day test results, as well as layoffs of 43 persons due to declining patient activity in the outpatient department of the hospital.
- Thirty-five physician graduates of the University of the West Indies were sworn-in to join the health workforce in country.
- Effective 6th July 2020, tourism attractions, excursions and tours resumed operations on all Family Islands.
- The Government extended its Unemployment Assistance Programme by 13 weeks for self-employed tourism workers and Hurricane Dorian survivors who remain unemployed and were receiving assistance prior to 1st July, national Insurance contributors under age 35 who did not meet the benefit threshold, and persons who exhausted their 13-week eligibility under the ordinary unemployment benefit scheme. Payments will commence on 17th July 2020.



Turks and Caicos Islands

- Emergency Powers remain in effect. Closure of businesses on Sunday remain in effect until 22nd July 2020.
- All islands except Providenciales moved to Phase 3 of the COVID19 Recovering Plan on 6th July 2020. Because of recent rapid increase in confirmed cases, Providenciales is subject to the extension restrictions of Phase 2B with nightly curfew, delayed reopening of businesses, gatherings of only 10 persons and no travel from Providenciales to other islands.
- The Ministry of Tourism has established a quality assurance portal for international travelers to indicate their pre-test certification, insurance information, and other travel requirements to the TCI authority. Certifications stickers will be provided to visitors who provide proof of medical insurance, completed health screening questionnaire, and a negative COVID-19 PCR test result at least 72 hours prior to arrival.
- Upon resumption of international travel on 22nd July 2020. Visitors without health certificates will be tested at the port of entry and will undergo a mandatory 14-day quarantine.
- The Grand Turk Cruise Center will remain closed until 31st August 2020.
- A repatriation flight from Fort Lauderdale, Florida brought home residents on 9th July 2020.



NATIONAL RESPONSE

The Bahamas Ministry of Health (MOH)

- Contact tracing for newly detected cases is ongoing.
- MOH continues work with armed forces, the Office of the Attorney General, and Data Protection to monitor individuals in self-quarantine using a geographical fencing and security mobile app.

Turks and Caicos Islands Ministry of Health

- In-country COVID-19 PCR testing is ongoing by the National Public Health Laboratory, where 823 tests have been performed.
- Testing is ongoing for frontline workers, suspected COVID-19 cases, contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases, persons desirous of inter-island travel, and travel outside of the country for medical purposes and other reasons.
- Twelve rooms of the Outpatient Department of the Cheshire Hall Medical Centre have been renovated to support ventilator connections. The Department will be used for surge in cases and critical care of COVID-19 patients.
- A taskforce, aided by armed forces, has been operating since 1st July 2020 to ensure residents adhere to public safety guidelines. Spot checks in community business establishments are ongoing, and citations are also being issued for violations of public health safety measures.
- The Security Assistance Team continues to assist with strengthening of the healthcare system. A Wildcat Helicopter from RFA Argus has been deployed to increase aerial surveillance in TCI.

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 continues to provide technical assistance to the MOH for COVID-19 outbreak data management, working actively to assist MOH to transition to the WHO Go Data surveillance platform.

GAPS/CHALLENGES

A resurgence in cases is a concern for both countries. In BHS the increase coincide with resumption of international travel.

The Bahamas

- Limited staffing in the Surveillance Unit. A trained epidemiologist and public health nurses are needed.
- Immunization activities have been reduced. A plan is being developed to address this issue.

Turks and Caicos Islands

No in-country intensive care capacity.