

I. HIGHLIGHTS

Trinidad and Tobago

At the Virtual Media Conference, held on Monday 27 July 2020, the Principal Medical Officer for Epidemiology, Dr. Naresh Nandram, confirmed that the most recent COVID-19 case is a male and there are at least 8 persons in this household. One child in this household is a Secondary Entrance Assessment student at a Presbyterian School which is closed from today and contact tracing for students, families and teachers has begun. Officials are therefore testing everyone the individual came into contact with through work, and sanitization has begun at business places. At the same time contact tracing and swabbing continues for primary, secondary, and tertiary contacts for the recently confirmed COVID-19 Positive case.

Health officials are also concentrating on preventing spread and therefore the public is urged to wear face masks and practice proper hygiene at all times, to stay home if they are ill and do not go to work, keep sick children at home, get tested immediately at any public health facility and use the COVID-19 Hotline numbers: 800-WELL (Trinidad) and 800-HEAL (Tobago).

At the Ministry of Health's Virtual Media Conference, held on Wednesday 29 July 2020, Minister Deyalsingh addressed issues that his Ministry is facing with contact tracing and explained that persons are being uncooperative and hostile towards Health Officials. He implored citizens to bear with the questions even if they are personal in nature and cooperate with the process. The Minister indicated that shutting down the country again will cause many economic issues and is a decision that must not be taken lightly. He stated that the population must learn to live with the virus and all do our part.

Dutch Territories

In **Aruba**, as of 30 July 2020, the total number of positive cases has increased to 120 (108 residents and 12 visitors). The Government has implemented mandatory COVID-19 procedures for visitors to be granted entry and stay in Aruba. Persons must also take out Visitors Insurance. The visitors website is divided into 3 main sections: new online embarkation/disembarkation process; procedures during flights, upon arrival and during one's stay in Aruba; and countries/regions with which Aruba's borders are open for travel (<https://www.visitaruba.com/traveling-to-aruba/entry-requirements-and-visas/aruba-travel-restrictions-covid-19/>).

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

(as of 31 July 2020)

Trinidad and Tobago

169 Confirmed Cases
8 Deaths
132 Discharges

Aruba

120 Confirmed Cases
3 Deaths
100 Discharges

Curaçao

29 Confirmed Cases
1 Death
27 Discharges

Sint Maarten

128 Confirmed Cases
15 Deaths
64 Discharges

Bonaire

5 Confirmed Cases
0 Death
2 Discharges

St. Eustatius

3 Confirmed Cases
0 Death
2 Discharges

Saba

5 Confirmed Cases
0 Death
3 Discharges

In **Curaçao**, the COVID-19 cases remained at 29. Curaçao has developed a list identifying countries as low and medium risk. Passengers on this list must complete a form online and receive approval before travelling. Travelers who have been physically present in a high-risk country (including the United States) within the past 14-days cannot enter Curaçao. To request an exception in very limited circumstances, travelers must write to reisverificatie.cur@gobiernu.cw to request permission, provide a negative COVID-19 PCR test result and agree to a 14-day mandatory quarantine in a quarantine facility at the traveler's expense. Travelers can also wait 14 days in a low-risk third country (Aruba, for example) and then travel to Curaçao without quarantine restrictions.

In **Sint Maarten**, as of 30 July, two additional persons tested positive for the COVID-19 making the total number of cases 128. With the increase in contact tracing this figure is expected to increase. (Source: <https://www.facebook.com/SXMGOV/>). The Collective Prevention Services (CPS) are monitoring 48 people in home isolation. Two COVID-19 confirmed/suspected patients have been admitted to Sint Maarten Medical Center (SMMC), all other COVID-19 care is administered at the Mobile Medical Pavilion (MMP) and ICU Hospitainer located across from SMMC at the Raoul Illidge Sports Complex. The Government continues to stress the importance of wearing masks, social distancing and washing your hands with soap or using proper hand-sanitizers as the main steps for reducing the spread and flattening the curve. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Hague put out an orange travel advisory for Sint Maarten urging people to only travel to and from the island for urgent reasons. Sint Maarten is the first Dutch Caribbean Island that Foreign Affairs has issued a code orange. No United States tourist are being allowed to cross the border from the Dutch to the French side of the Island.

For **Bonaire, Saba, Sint Eustatius**, Saba reported 2 new cases. These cases were imported and the persons were placed in isolation. Even though the cases are imported Saba has re-instated key measures: banning events, physical distancing measures, strict hand hygiene and gatherings of no more than 25 people. Quarantine has been re-established for all residents returning from St. Maarten, including those who travelled for medical purposes. The "BES Bubble" is still in place. This means that all persons travelling from Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Curaçao are permitted to enter Saba. Saba is also exploring the possibility of directing more medical referrals to Curaçao and Bonaire. Bonaire has closed its airspace with Sint Maarten until 1 September 2020. Sint Eustatius has confirmed one new case on the island bringing the total number of cases to 3.

3rd Tranche of COVID-19 support from The Netherlands — Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten are still negotiating with Holland with regards to the conditions of the loan.

II. SITUATION SUMMARY

Table 1. COVID-19 Status in Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Marten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, 31 July 2020

Country	# Confirmed Cases	# Deaths	# Tests Conducted	# Discharges	Transmission Type	Non-pharmacological Interventions			
						Travel Restrictions	Schools closed	Essential Services	Other
Trinidad and Tobago	169	8	7950	132	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	No	Physical distance, the use of cloth masks in public spaces, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, no touching of face, restriction of gathering (25 persons) and restricted hours for bars.
Aruba	120	3	7167	100	Cluster of Cases/	Yes	Yes	Lifted	Physical distance, the use of cloth masks in public spaces, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, no touching of face. Borders opened between Aruba, Bonaire Curaçao, Europe, the United States and Canada.
Curaçao	29	1	Not available this week	23	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Lifted	Physical distance, the use of cloth masks in public spaces, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, no touching of face . Borders open to Holland, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten.
Sint Maarten	128	15	722	63	Cluster of Cases	Yes	Yes	Lifted	Physical distance, the use of cloth masks in public spaces, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, no touching of face Borders open to Aruba and Curaçao, Canada and Europe.
Bonaire	5	0	New total not available this week	2	Sporadic Cases				Social distancing and hygiene requirements have been maintained. Borders open to Aruba, Curaçao and some European countries.
St. Eustatius	3	0	Not available	2	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Lifted	Social distancing and hygiene requirements have been maintained Borders open to BES islands.
Saba	5	0	166	3	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Re-instated	Social distancing and hygiene requirements have been reinstated. Borders open to BES islands, Aruba and Curaçao but not Sint Maarten.

III. RESPONSE

A. Key Trinidad and Tobago/Response to COVID-19, 31 July 2020

At the Prime Minister's Virtual Conference, held on Friday, 31 July 2020, Dr. Keith Rowley announced the following changes in response to the presence of COVID-19 clusters now existing in Trinidad and Tobago:

- Government has decided to reduce the number of persons who can gather in public spaces in a bid to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Congregation in public spaces will now be reduced to groups of ten (10) from the previous twenty-five (25). However, the numbers for funerals, religious gatherings will remain unaffected. Dr. Rowley appealed to Political Parties to adhere to the new public space gathering limit of 10.
- Secondary Entrance Assessment exam preparation classes will remain unchanged for now. This will remain under active watch over the next 72 hours as the contact tracing exercise continues.
- Permanent Secretaries in the Public Service will be asked to reduce the number of public servants required to work at any one time through a rotation system for the next fourteen days. This will reduce the daily workforce by 50 percent.
- Active cases have been linked to Bars, therefore, Bars, Restaurants and Public Transportation will be placed under active watch and adjustments will be made, as necessary.
- The Prime Minister stated that Government continues to carefully address exemptions as the borders remain closed. He also announced the following figures as of 29 July 2020:
 - A. Exemptions for Entry (Exemptions to enter have been granted from 40 countries):
 - Number of persons seeking exemptions to enter Trinidad and Tobago: 5539 persons
 - Number of exemptions granted: 2250 persons
 - Number of individuals awaiting exemption: 3289 persons
 - B. Exemptions for Exit:
 - Number of persons seeking exemptions to leave Trinidad and Tobago: 5580 persons
 - Number of exemptions granted: 3556 persons
 - Number of persons finalizing travel arrangements to leave: 2024 persons

IV. NEEDS

- COVID-19 Tests (Extraction and Amplification Kits as well as Enzymes)
- Nasopharyngeal swabs

V. GAPS/CHALLENGES

- Lack of continuous supply of RNA extraction kits which also remains a principal challenge at the regional level
- Nasopharyngeal swabs are difficult to obtain as there are overall production and shipping challenges
- Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten continue to negotiate with the Kingdom Council of Ministers about the restrictions being placed on the countries in order to access the 3rd tranche of COVID-19 funding from Holland.

VI. REFERENCES

- Ministry of Health, Trinidad and Tobago: <http://www.health.gov.tt/>
- Aruba: <https://www.arubacovid19.org/>
- Sint Maarten: <https://vromi-sxm.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/285fa99a4fc442fcb4a71ea7297d1ec6>
- Saba: <http://www.sabagovernment.com/index.html>