



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

## COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE #8

6 June 2020

### I. HIGHLIGHTS

#### Trinidad and Tobago

##### Rollback

On 6 June 2020, at the Prime Minister's Media Conference, he stated that the reopening of borders will be a public health issue and not an election issue and that the Government will continue to follow health protocols to protect the people of Trinidad and Tobago. He also indicated that Government is maintaining Caribbean Airlines and its workers at the expense of taxpayers. Prime Minister Rowley announced that the new Arima Hospital will be opened on 9 June 2020.

The Minister of National Security, Hon. Stuart Young, announced that in the next 7 days, approximately 600-1000 nationals are expected to return to Trinidad and Tobago. It is anticipated that the 300-400 students who should be returning will be quarantined at the UWI, St. Augustine Campus. Minister Young also stated that the Government is expecting 25 nationals to be deported from the U.S at some point in June 2020.

**See the specific actions of rollback under III. Response, Key Trinidad and Tobago/Ministry of Health Response to COVID-19, 6 June 2020, page 4.**

#### Dutch Territories

##### Relaxation Measures

**Aruba** continues their step-down process. As of 1 June, the country moved to Level 3 of reactivating the local economy and the curfew has been lifted. Restaurants and bars have re-opened for inside seating once they have instituted key policies to ensure physical distancing and hygiene practices, but they must close by 10pm. Schools have also re-opened. The number of active positive COVID-19 cases remains at zero with total recovered at 98 and the overall total confirmed positive cases at 101.

The Government has not yet announced a date for reopening of Aruba's borders for international travel, but it is expected sometime between 15 June and 1 July. However, a KLM repatriation flight brought residents back to Aruba from Amsterdam on 6 June.

In the meantime, the airport, accommodations, most sections of Aruba's

#### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

(as of 6 June 2020)

##### **Trinidad and Tobago**

117 Confirmed Cases  
8 Deaths  
108 Discharges

##### **Aruba**

101 Confirmed Cases  
3 Deaths  
98 Discharges

##### **Curacao**

21 Confirmed Cases  
1 Death  
15 Discharges

##### **Sint Maarten**

77 Confirmed Cases  
15 Deaths  
61 Discharges

##### **Bonaire**

2 Confirmed Cases  
0 Death  
2 Discharges

##### **St. Eustasius**

2 Confirmed Cases  
0 Death  
2 Discharges

##### **Saba**

3 Confirmed Cases  
0 Death  
3 Discharges

tourism industry along with the tourist organizations and the Department of Health are working closely to develop and implement the protocols and procedures deemed necessary to balance the pressing economic needs of

Aruba and visitor safety as well as safety of the local population. Some of these measures include airport screening with temperature checks, short interviews by doctors, flow control at the airport, placing plexiglass shields at all counters, revised sanitation protocols in all airport, PPE equipment is mandatory for all airport staff, enhancing air quality at the airport, and airline protocols will be updated. At places of accommodation, some of the measures include glass/plexiglass shields on check-in, contactless room entry, rigorous sanitation regimens etc.

**Curacao** has 21 confirmed cases of COVID-19. The 4 most recent cases were imported by returning Nationals. All returning Nationals have been placed in mandatory quarantine facilities. Curacao lifted its curfew order on 5 June 2020. Dutch tourists may be able to fly to Curaçao again from 1 July.

The island may also open its airport to travelers from a number of other European countries, including Germany and Belgium. Certain requirements such as PCR testing before boarding the flight, travel insurance, and health statement are being considered.

The Curaçao Tourist Board is actively working to ensure that all parties follow proper safety precautions in accordance with the World Health Organization. Persons are permitted to gather in groups no larger than 25, must maintain a distance of 2 meters and must adhere to all hygiene protocols.

**Sint Maarten** is currently in Phase 3 of re-opening. COVID-19 Prevention and Safety Plans and Guidelines for the Business Community have been developed for most sectors such as supermarkets, mini-markets and outlets; restaurants, food vendors and beach bars; daycare centers and early stimulation; beach vendors and beach goers; casinos; churches and religious gatherings (including weddings and funerals); barbershops, beauty salons and spas; bars and nightclubs; indoor activities and recreational centers; indoor sports facilities (gyms); cinemas and theatres. <http://www.sintmaartengov.org/government/VSA/Health-Updates/NOVELCORONAVIRUS/Pages/lockdown.aspx>

St. Maarten Tourism Bureau and its partners and stakeholders have launched 'Rediscover Your Island' campaign to encourage staycations as part of the local economic revitalization. Physical distancing and hygiene practices must still be maintained. Sint Maarten also continues to prepare for the 2020 Hurricane season.

## **BES**

Stay at home lifted but borders are still closed.

### **Loan from Holland for Curacao, Aruba and Sint Maarten**

The Netherlands is prepared to offer Aruba, Curacao and Sint Maarten a loan, however, it comes with very stringent requirements. The details of these requirements are still being negotiated by the countries. Some of the requirements will affect how patient referrals are made for healthcare overseas, the reduction in the costs of medicines and the reduction in the costs of laboratory procedures. More information will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

## II. SITUATION SUMMARY

Table 1. COVID-19 Status in Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curacao, Sint Marten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, 8 May 2020

Country	# Confirmed Cases	# Deaths	# Tests Conducted	# Discharges	Transmission Type	Non-pharmacological Interventions			
						Travel Restrictions	Schools closed	Essential Services	State of Emergency
Trinidad and Tobago	117	8	3238	108	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Aruba	101	3	1985	95	Cluster of Cases	Yes	Yes	Have started lifting restrictions with the opening of non-essential services	Social distancing and hygiene requirements and care for employee and customers have been maintained. Borders remain closed. Curfew adjusted to 10 pm -5am.
Curacao	21	1	Not available this week	15	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Being lifted as of 8 May	Social distancing and hygiene requirements and care for employee and customers have been maintained. Borders remain closed. Curfew remains in effect from 9 pm-6 am
Sint Maarten	77	15	New total not available this week	61	Cluster of Cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	Social distancing and hygiene requirements and care for employee and customers have been maintained. Borders remain closed. Curfew remains in effect from 9 pm-6 am
Bonaire	2	0	293	2	Sporadic Cases				
St. Eustatius	2	0	Not available	2	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	Stay at home restrictions in place lifted
Saba	3	0	Over 85, recent figures not available	3	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes		Stay at home restrictions lifted

#### **A. Key Trinidad and Tobago/Ministry of Health Response to COVID-19, 6 June 2020**

On 6 June 2020, at the Prime Minister Media Conference on COVID-19, he declared the following:

- Monday, 8 June 2020 - All hairdressers, barbers, spas and domestic workers will be allowed to get back to work.
- Monday, 8 June 2020 - Public transport capacity will increase to 75%.
- Friday, 12 June 2020 - Places of Worship will be allowed to reopen with some conditions like initiating sanitizing and physical distancing protocols, making masks a requirement and also all religious services be kept to under an hour at this time.
- Monday, 22 June 2020 - The Public Service should return to complete normalcy and all public transport will be allowed to operate at 100% capacity.
- Monday, 22 June 2020 - Gyms, Bars (there will be a restriction on gatherings, the exact number of which will be confirmed on 20 June), Casinos, Cinemas, In House Dining and Sporting Activities should resume once they comply with sanitizing and physical distancing protocols.
- Monday, 22 June 2020—Beaches and Rivers are set to reopen to the public.
- September 2020 - Schools will reopen for classes and CSEC/CAPE exams will be held in July. However, a date for the SEA exam will be decided in the coming week.

#### **B. Key PAHO/WHO Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curacao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba Response to COVID-19, 6 June 2020**

- Conducted COVID-19 and the School Environment Webinar – 524 participants including principals, education officers, teachers, schools’ administrators, librarian, parents etc. from across the region
- Delivered a presentation on COVID-19 and respiratory illnesses surveillance and interruption of transmission, and participated in discussions, on a Webinar for epidemiologists, persons working in surveillance and contact tracers in the Caribbean.
- Delivered a presentation on Considerations for the Reopening of Schools in the context of COVID-19, and participated in discussions, on a Webinar for Ministries of Education and Health, principals and teachers in the Caribbean

### **IV. NEEDS**

- COVID-19 Tests (Extraction and Amplification Kits)
- Nasopharyngeal swabs
- Personal Protective Equipment

### **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

- The Dutch territories are challenged with when and how to open their borders.
- The Netherlands is prepared to help Curaçao, Sint Maarten and Aruba with a loan to mitigate some of the effects of COVID-19 crisis. The loan comes with very stringent requirements that the countries must meet. These demands have led to challenges between the Netherlands and the other countries in the Kingdom.

## 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>