



COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE #12

4 July, 2020

I. HIGHLIGHTS

Trinidad and Tobago

At the Ministry of Health’s Virtual Media Conference on COVID-19, held on Saturday, 4 July 2020, it was shared that the breakdown of Returning Nationals quarantined at various facilities included the following:

- BALANDRA: 42 persons
- CASCADIA: 12 persons
- CAURA: 23 persons
- CHANCELLOR HOTEL: 20 persons
- COUVA MEDICAL AND MULTI-TRAINING FACILITY: 142 persons
- NAPA: 13 health care workers who completed their tours
- MAERSK DEVELOPER RIG: 94 persons
- SANGRE GRANDE BROOKLYN SETTLEMENT: 32 persons
- UWI DEBE CAMPUS: 19 persons
- UWI FREEDOM HALL: 45 persons
- TACARIGUA: 40 persons
- VISION ON MISSION: 15 persons

Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Roshan Parasram, said the Health Ministry has been working with the Elections and Boundaries Commission to ensure that health guidelines are followed in the lead-up to the General Election and on Polling Day on 10 August 2020.

Dutch Territories

Aruba reported 4 new COVID-19 cases bringing the total to 105. To date they have currently conducted 2,689 tests. The borders were reopened to travellers from Europe, Canada and Caribbean islands on 1 July 2020. On that date, the Prime Minister also indicated that the possible timing and details for the border reopening with the USA were being re-evaluated. With the high incidence of COVID-19 cases in the USA, visitors from certain states will only be allowed entry if they provide proof of a negative test result prior to traveling to Aruba and will not have the option of taking a test in Aruba. The states of concern are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The proof of the negative result would need to be submitted via the [ED Card website](#).

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

(as of 4 July 2020)

Trinidad and Tobago

130 Confirmed Cases
8 Deaths
115 Discharges

Aruba

105 Confirmed Cases
3 Deaths
98 Discharges

Curaçao

25 Confirmed Cases
1 Death
23 Discharges

Sint Maarten

77 Confirmed Cases
15 Deaths
62 Discharges

Bonaire

2 Confirmed Cases
0 Death
2 Discharges

St. Eustatius

2 Confirmed Cases
0 Death
2 Discharges

Saba

3 Confirmed Cases
0 Death
3 Discharges

Two new COVID-19 cases have been reported in **Curaçao**, bringing the total to 25 confirmed cases. The Curaçao Tourist Board continues to work closely with the Ministry of Public Health, Environment and Nature, the Ministry of Economic Development, the Curaçao Civil Aviation Authority and Government Agencies to guarantee a safe reopening. “A Dushi Stay, the Healthy Way” guidelines were developed and implemented in the tourism industry to avoid the spread of COVID-19. Curacao’s reopening is happening in phases and as of 1 July 2020 visitors from the following countries of Belgium, Canada, China, Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain were allowed to enter.

In **Sint Maarten** there have been no change in the COVID-19 cases. The entry requirements can be found on <https://stmaartenupdates.com/>. The Government of St. Maarten is continuously monitoring global developments to ensure the safety of its visitors and citizens. On 1 July 2020, the country opened its borders to Canada and Europe. To ensure the safety and well-being of visitors, entry requirements have been put in place for visitors to enter Sint Maarten along with other safety measures at the Princess Juliana International Airport. <https://stmaartenupdates.com/>

In relation to **BES**, Bonaire’s air space opened in a limited form on 1 July 2020 for visitors from the European Netherlands, Belgium, Luxemburg, Germany and France. Travel is possible between the BES and Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten. Special protocols have been put in place for the airport, hotels and tourism activity companies. All persons must still practice physical distancing and safe hygiene protocols.. <https://www.infobonaire.com/bonaire-road-map-for-the-future-after-covid-19/>

As a result of St. Maarten and Aruba opening their borders to North America, leisure travel from those islands remains prohibited in Saba and Sint Eustatius. The possibility of leisure travel from medium and high risk countries is not expected before 1 October 2020. For more information see link below

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/public-entity-saba/entry-and-quarantine-policy-saba/3407320699292770/>

3rd Tranche of COVID-19 support from Holland

Ministers Plenipotentiary of Curaçao, Aruba and St. Maarten have expressed their frustration with the recent reform measures to the Kingdom Council of Ministers. The three countries’ Ministers of Plenipotentiary are critical of the speed at which the Hague is demanding for the implementation of these reform measures in the 3 countries. They are of the view that the Dutch conditions for the financial loans are too strict and not tailored to the specific situation within each country. The planned decision-making with regard to the third liquidity-support tranche for the countries has been postponed until Friday, 10 July 2020. The Ministers also noted that the countries were still awaiting documentation with regard to the new “entity” that the Hague wants to establish and through which to channel future tranches of liquidity support.

II. SITUATION SUMMARY

Table 1. COVID-19 Status in Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, 4 July 2020

Country	# Confirmed Cases	# Deaths	# Tests Conducted	# Discharges	Transmission Type	Non-pharmacological Interventions			
						Travel Restrictions	Schools closed	Essential Services	Other
Trinidad and Tobago	130	8	5533	115	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	105	3	2689	98	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 and Curaçao. Borders open to Europe
Curaçao	25	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 with limited returning nationals from Holland, Aruba and Curaçao.
Sint Maarten	77	15	New total not available this week	62	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	2	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	2	0	Not available	2	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Lifted	Social distancing and hygiene requirements have been maintained Borders open to BES islands.
Saba	3	0	New total not available this week	3	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Lifted	Borders open to BES islands, but not Sint Maarten and Aruba.

III. RESPONSE

A. Key Trinidad and Tobago/Economic Response to COVID-19, 27 June 2020

Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Roshan Parasram, said that physical distancing must be maintained at all times in relation to the General Elections and Polling Day on 10 August 2020. On Polling Day, voters must wear masks and wash hands in view of electoral officials. They must also sanitize their hands before and after casting their ballot. A Mock Polling Station will be set up on Tuesday for health officials to run through the steps for voting. If all goes well, the Public Health Guidelines on voting will be published. A special section in the Guidelines will address voting by quarantined Nationals.

Dr. Rohit Doon, Advisor for Health Promotion, Communications and Public Health, addressed COVID-19 Protocols at Homes for the Aged and Long Stay Residential Homes. He confirmed that visitation has resumed but they will be guided by the following:

- * Visits by appointment only
- * Visits will be conducted in an outdoor setting
- * Visitors must have their temperatures checked on arrival at the Home
- * Visitors must wear face masks and sanitize their hands
- * Homes must institute a visitor log

Dr. Doon also stated that COVID-19 guidelines for voting for the elderly will be released at a later date.

B. Key PAHO/WHO Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba Response to COVID-19, 27 June 2020

- Completion of Service Contract with the University of the West Indies to impart the Introduction of Critical Care Course to 25 Trinidad and Tobago Registered Nurses
- NCD Proposal led to the receipt of financial resources for expanding HEART Initiative to improve management of hypertension and diabetes at Primary Healthcare Level

IV. NEEDS

- COVID-19 Tests (Extraction and Amplification Kits as well as Enzymes)
- 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/opstdashboard/index.html#/285fa99a4fc442fcb4a71ea7297d1ec6>
- Saba: <http://www.sabagovernment.com/index.html>