



## COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE #13

11 July, 2020

### I. HIGHLIGHTS

#### Trinidad and Tobago

At the Ministry of Health’s Virtual Media Conference on COVID-19, held on Saturday, 11 July 2020, it was shared that ninety-nine (99) persons quarantined at various facilities in Trinidad & Tobago are expected to be discharged later today. The following is the breakdown:

**CASCADIA:** 18 persons

**CHANCELLOR HOTEL:** 19 persons

**NAPA:** 21 health care workers who completed their tours

**UWI DEBE CAMPUS:** 26 persons

**VISION ON MISSION:** 15 persons

Another hotel near the Piarco International Airport will be used as a State Quarantine facility. It is a 70-room facility that can accommodate families returning home.

To date, 4,515 exemptions have been granted for Trinidad and Tobago Nationals to return home.

At the same time 2,059 Public Sector Community Tests have been conducted and 1,507 Private Sector Community Tests have been conducted.

#### Dutch Territories

**Aruba** opened their borders to visitors from North America on 10 July 2020 after much discussion. Travellers must present a negative PCR COVID-19 test and purchase mandatory health insurance that covers them while they are in Aruba. It is anticipated that 4,000 travellers will arrive from across United States by 12 July 2020.

In **Curaçao** the borders remain closed to the United States, however, they are open to travelers from Bonaire, Aruba, Sint Maarten and the Netherlands.

In **Sint Maarten** the Council of Ministers decided to postpone all commercial flights to and from the United States for the next two weeks. The officials from the French side “strongly suggested” they would close the internal border if flights from the United States were permitted to land in Sint Maarten. The COVID-19 cases for Sint Maarten increased by 1 for the total of 78 cases.

#### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

(as of 11 July 2020)

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

133 Confirmed Cases

8 Deaths

120 Discharges

##### **Aruba**

105 Confirmed Cases

3 Deaths

99 Discharges

##### **Curaçao**

25 Confirmed Cases

1 Death

24 Discharges

##### **Sint Maarten**

78 Confirmed Cases

15 Deaths

63 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

**Bonaire, Saba, Sint Eustatius** have not announced when flights from the United States will resume. For Bonaire, flights to the United States are cancelled until August 2020. Flights for passengers from the United States to Saba may not resume until October 2020.

**Third Tranche of COVID-19 support from Holland**—The Prime Ministers from Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten met with the Kingdom Council of Ministers in Holland to negotiate the terms of the conditions for the 3rd tranche of the loan and the establishment of a new entity '*the Caribbean Reform Institution*' by Holland to manage the liquidity support for COVID-19.

## II. SITUATION SUMMARY

Table 1. COVID-19 Status in Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, 11 July 2020

Country	# Confirmed Cases	# Deaths	# Tests Conducted	# Discharges	Transmission Type	Non-pharmacological Interventions			
						Travel Restrictions	Schools closed	Essential Services	Other
Trinidad and Tobago	133	8	5804	120	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	99	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, the United States and Canada
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 to Holland, Aruba, Curaçao, and Sint Maarten
Sint Maarten	78	15	New total not available this week	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	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 Response to COVID-19, 11 July 2020

At the Ministry of Health's Virtual Media Conference on COVID-19, held on Saturday, 11 July 2020, the following were shared by the National Security Minister, Hon. Stuart Young:

- More than 200 Trinidad & Tobago Nationals are next on the list to return home and this includes 79 Nationals in Grenada and some Nationals in Canada, the United Kingdom, Europe and the Middle East.
- He has been in contact with the United States Government on the issue of Student Visas. Those students whose courses are fully online may have to return home but must seek clarification from their University and the US Government.
- As at Saturday, 11 July 2020, over one thousand applications have been received from Trinidad & Tobago Nationals in the United States to return home. This represents an increase in the number of persons in the US seeking exemptions, but priority will be given to those who applied earlier. Government is expected to make announcement on the return of some Nationals based there within the next week.
- Persons seeking to leave Trinidad & Tobago will be granted approval and they can email: [departexemption@mns.gov.tt](mailto:departexemption@mns.gov.tt)  
Persons seeking to enter Trinidad & Tobago can email: [travelexemption@mns.gov.tt](mailto:travelexemption@mns.gov.tt)
- The Minister stated that more than 200 persons will be entering Trinidad & Tobago for the Caribbean Premier League Cricket Tournament and they will stay at the Hilton Hotel. They will spend seven days in quarantine on their arrival before they begin training. The Ministry of Health has tight protocols in place to manage the players and their entourages. No spectators will be allowed on the grounds of the Cricket Matches so there is little chance of viral transmission.

Health Minister, Hon. Terrence Deyalsingh, stated that the Public Health Regulations also apply to political parties and candidates in relation to the General Election slated for 10 August 2020. The number per gathering remains at 25 persons per group on walkabouts, cottage meetings etc. Everyone must wear a mask, walk with hand sanitisers, and practice cough etiquette.

#### B. Key PAHO/WHO Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba Response to COVID-19, 11 July 2020

- The University of the West Indies initiated the Introduction of Critical Care Course to 25 Trinidad and Tobago Registered Nurses
- A Webinar entitled *Caring for the Carer* was conducted on 10 July 2020

#### 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
- 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>