

PAHO JAMAICA CO EOC - SITUATION REPORT #135

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS-COVID-2019 – 23 JULY 2020 (as at 6:00 p.m.)

HIGHLIGHTS

Countries /Territories	Cases (New cases - 24 hrs.)	Active cases	Recovered	Deaths (New deaths - 24 hrs.) [Crude case fatality rate]	Samples tested (Positivity rate)
*Jamaica	821 (5)	64 (7.8%)	711 (86.6%)	10 (0) [1.2%]	33,762 (2.4%)
Bermuda	153 (0)	5 (3%)	139 (91%)	9 (0) [6.0%]	18,320 (0.8%)
Cayman Islands	203 (0)	1 (0.5%)	200 (99%)	1 (0) [0.5%]	28,464 (0.7%)

*36 confirmed cases (returned overseas prior to recovery)

- a. Confirmed cases: 821 (5 new)
 - i. 288 imported, 247 contacts of confirmed cases, 44 local cases-not epidemiologically linked, 236 related to a workplace cluster and 6 under investigation
 - ii. Sex: 358 M (44%) 463 F (56%)
 - iii. Age: Mean: 33 years / Median 30 years / Age range: 2 months – 87 years
 - b. Deaths: 10 (on 18 March, 31 March, 1 April, 7 April, 14 April, 20 April, 22 April, 23 April, 3 May 2020 and 2 June 2020)
 - c. Recovered: 711 (87%)
 - d. Returned overseas prior to recovery: 36
 - e. Active cases: 64 (7.8%) (0 critically ill, 2 moderately ill)
 - f. Isolation: 88 (Total, including active cases)
 - g. Samples tested: 33,762 of which 821 are positive, 32,875 negative and 66 pending (2.5% positivity rate)
 - h. Contacts: 4,462 (total), with 380 of these close contacts currently being followed
 - i. Quarantine:
 - i. National Quarantine Facilities (NQF): 4
 - ii. Home quarantine: 17,869
 - iii. Community quarantine: 0
- 2. Bermuda:**
- a. Confirmed cases: 153 (0 new)
 - i. 49 imported, 85 local transmission (known contact / source) 19 local transmission (unknown contact / source, 0 under investigation)
 - b. Deaths: 9 (6.0%)
 - c. Recovered: 139 (91%)
 - d. Active cases: 5 (3%) (0 hospitalized)
 - e. Samples tested: 18,320 with 153 positive and 18,167 negative (0.8% positivity rate)
 - f. As of 1 July 2020, Bermuda is in Phase 4 of re-opening – New Normal, with masks to be worn indoors. Outdoor wearing of masks must take place if physical distancing cannot be maintained. The international airport is open for commercial flights. As of 19 July 2020, the curfew is lifted, except for liquor stores which will close at midnight.
Phase 3B of the re-opening of Bermuda started on 18 June 2020 with masks to be worn in all public spaces, curfew from 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m., gatherings of

no more than 20 persons with physical distancing observed and full personal services subject to public health guidelines. The phased re-opening of Bermuda started as of 2 May 2020 – Phase 2: Expansion of Services started on 21 May 2020 and Phase 3 on 11 June 2020.

3. **Cayman Islands:**

- a. Confirmed cases: 203 (0 new)
- b. Deaths: 1 (0.5%)
- c. Recovered: 202 (99%)
- d. Active cases: 0
- e. Samples tested: 28,839 with 203 positive (0.7% positivity rate)
- f. As of 19 July 2020, there has been an easing of Cayman COVID-19 suppression measures restrictions, while observing social distancing, which will remain in place until 31 August 2020. The use of 3 feet social distancing is now permitted for churches and offices. Other measures include up to 50 persons now allowed to gather in public, dancing and karaoke are allowed and nightclubs can open and accommodate up to 50 persons.

On 17 July 2020, the Government of the Cayman Islands announced that it will re-open its borders to international travelers on 1 September 2020.

As of 21 June 2020, The Cayman Islands is operating at Suppression Level 2 – minimal suppression. In public spaces, measures include wearing of masks, keeping six feet distance and gatherings of up to 25 persons. Masks must also be worn in certain indoor places. There has been a lifting of the shelter-in-place order, with no hard or soft curfew or restriction of movement by surname. Staff can return to work if safety measures such as physical distancing can be maintained. Only emergency international travel and essential domestic travel are allowed, with specific measures in place for domestic travel to and from all ports.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Jamaica, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands started preparedness for any possible introduction of the novel coronavirus – COVID-19 in early January 2020, immediately following identification of the novel coronavirus on 7 January 2020 in China.

The respective national level Committees / Councils continue to guide all sectors in the required preparedness and response actions.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

Jamaica:

- Government of Jamaica

The Government of Jamaica continues its border management at Points of Entry from 1 July 2020 with health screening and risk assessment to determine the need for sampling for SARS-CoV-2.

- As of 15 July 2020, it is mandatory that non-residents, except business travelers, visiting Jamaica aged 12 years and older who are residents of locations designated as high risk obtain a COVID-19 PCR test within 10 days prior to their intended date of travel to Jamaica.

-The locations currently designated as high risk for this purpose by the Jamaican health authorities are Florida, New York, Arizona and Texas, United States of America.

-All persons applying to enter on visitjamaica.com on or after 7 July 2020 from the designated high risk locations will be required to upload their COVID-19 PCR test certificate as part of the application process.

-Business travelers will have samples taken at the POEs and remain in quarantine at their hotels / place of residence until the result is received.

-Residents -nationals or non-nationals ordinarily resident in Jamaica - returning from these areas will be quarantined at home for 14 days. Testing will be done if persons are symptomatic or become symptomatic during the 14 day period.

- **MOHW:**

1. The updated MOHW Community Engagement plan was finalized during the week of 28 June 2020.
2. The MOHW COVID-19 Updated Discharge Protocol was disseminated to health care workers islandwide on 19 June 2020.
3. The surveillance guidelines are being updated to include general hospital and Point of Entry surveillance for COVID-19.
4. A new guideline was developed – Management of the COVID-19 exposed neonate-22 May 2020.
5. Two (2) of the twelve (12) National Quarantine Facilities (NQFs) remain active.
6. A new application for self-monitoring by persons in isolation and quarantine was implemented by the MOHW.
7. Additional isolation facilities have been identified to accommodate approximately 300 persons outside of hospital
8. Interim guidelines for the management of pregnant women completed and circulated.
9. Continue contact tracing, testing and quarantine of MOHW workers who are contacts of a confirmed case at the MOHW Head Office.
10. Escalate the identification of cases and contacts, contact tracing, establishment of national quarantine and isolation facilities and installation of equipment and materials for case management.
11. Expand community engagement and risk communication for persons in home quarantine and isolation.

- **PAHO:**

1. Coordination, planning and monitoring
 - a. PAHO CO remains embedded in the MOHW EOC and provides 24-hour technical support and guidance, including to the twice daily EOC briefing meetings. Focus for the week of 12 July 2020 was on guidance for the MOHW, Jamaica on:
 - a. Preparing for a surge in cases potentially linked to re-opening of borders
 - b. Appropriate use of masks for health care workers - 10 July 2020.
 - c. Preparedness for the hurricane season, and
 - d. Dengue outbreak management, with emphasis on surveillance, integrated vector management and case management.
 - b. PAHO CO maintained its membership on the National Health Emergency Planning Committee of the National Disaster Management Council with updates on preparedness of the MOHW and local and international partners, such as the Jamaica Red Cross – 16 July 2020
 - c. PAHO CO in collaboration with the IHR NFP briefed the multi-sectoral IHR Stakeholders Advisory Group, including the Ministries of Finance and Planning and Agriculture, Jamaica Defence Force and the Ports Authority on COVID-19 response and provided links to PAHO / WHO material on coordination and planning and technical guidelines – 17 July 2020
 - d. PAHO CO in collaboration with the MOHW completed and submitted the WHO COVID-19 Monitoring and Evaluation weekly report for 5 – 11 July 2020 - 15 July 2020.

- e. PAHO CO finalized procurement of 10 laptops funded by Global Affairs Canada to enhance efficiency of coordination by the MOHW EOC with EOCs at all levels of the health system, with delivery on 17 July 2020.
 - f. PAHO CO furthered the finalization of the revised proposal for Jamaica within the US CDC Caribbean programme (US1M) by hosting a planning meeting with the CDC and MOHW teams – 7 July 2020
 - g. PAHO partnered with the Caribbean Confederation of Credit Unions to provide approximately 5,700 N-95 masks to the MOHW, which were handed over on 9 July 2020.
 - h. PAHO CO provided technical guidance to the Director of Health and HDC, Bermuda on the priorities for hurricane preparedness in the context of COVID-19 and the role of the HDC- 8 July 2020.
 - i. PAHO CO heightened its collaboration with MOHW to advance timely implementation of work plans for the COVID-19 response for USAID, US CDC, Global Affairs Canada, UK DFID, UN SG Multi-Partner Trust Fund, with on-going procurement.
 - j. PAHO CO maintained the technical lead for health for the COVID-19 response within the UNCT and the GOJ system.
2. Risk Communication and Community Engagement:
- PAHO CO:
- a. Finalized the procurement process for the pull-up banners for the Points of Entry developed in collaboration with MOHW and USAID on wearing of masks, quarantine, social distancing and IPC - 17 July 2020
 - b. Continued the developed the first draft of the PAHO CO newsletter with consultations with members of the technical team and initiated dialogue with the MOHW counterparts to access additional information.
 - c. Provided support to the MOHW external stakeholders working group on the MOHW health promotion NCD strategy and facilitated discussions on how health promotion in schools can be better targeted.
 - d. Undertook the first stage of filming of Breastfeeding during COVID video.
 - e. Supported the development of another video on breastfeeding and climate change with the National Infant and Young Child Feeding Committee.
 - f. Provided support to the ‘ask the experts’ social media live discussion to help raise the engagement of the event.
 - g. Continued the development of a script and production options for a home quarantine video for the MOHW.
 - h. Updated three websites with daily content and the digitisation of country situation reports.
 - i. Provided contributions to the development of PAHO HQ’s strategic communications plan.
3. Surveillance, Rapid Response Teams and Case Investigation
- a. PAHO continued its collaboration with the MOHW to finalize guidelines on waste management – 10 July 2020
 - b. PAHO HQ and CO team conducted the TB elimination initiative virtual visit from 6 – 9 July 2020 in meetings with MOHW, Regional Health Authorities, NPHL and CSOs. The activity is the first in the project on TB elimination in low incidence countries
4. Points of Entry

- a. PAHO CO provided Jamaica, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands with the PAHO document: Considerations for resuming non-essential international traffic in the Caribbean in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic on 9 July 2020
 - b. PAHO CO provided guidance to the MOHW on the Public Health Measures to be taken at the Points of Entry for national and international travelers – 9 July 2020.
 - c. PAHO CO collaborated with the MOHW, Jamaica and reviewed the design for the isolation facility at the Sangster International airport within the PAHO-USAID COVID-19 response work plan – 25 June 2020.
5. National Laboratory
- a. PAHO WDC and CO provided guidance to Jamaica, Bermuda and Cayman Islands on participation in the project for COVID-19 Genomic Surveillance Regional Network in the Americas – 16 July 2020
 - b. PAHO CO supported the National Public Health Laboratory, Jamaica to finalize its participation in the WHO EQAP for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 by RT-PCR (2020) - 17 July 2020
 - c. PAHO CO provided Jamaica, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands with the new PAHO Laboratory Guidelines for the Detection and Diagnosis of COVID-19 virus infection – 8 July 2020.
 - d. PAHO CO handed over positive controls and extraction kits and reagents to the MOHW – 30 June 2020
 - e. PAHO CO handed-over 20 sets of primers and probes x 3,000 reactions each (E-gene – La Charite protocol) to the MOHW – 26 June 2020
 - f. PAHO CO in collaboration with PHE laboratory team, WDC conducted training for eight (8) NPHL, MOHW staff on the first 2 modules of the training on PCR testing on 25 and 26 June 2020.
6. Infection prevention and control
- a. PAHO CO provided CMOs of Jamaica, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands with the WHO Guidance on Infection Prevention and Control during health care when COVID-19 is suspected – 29 June 2020 – on 3 July 2020.
 - b. PAHO CO is collaborating with the MOHW, Jamaica on infection prevention and control and will implement the updated schedule for a new round of sensitization and training for IPC in health care settings islandwide – 24 June 2020.
7. Case management
- a. PAHO CO provided CMOs of Jamaica, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands with the WHO Scientific Brief on Smoking and COVID-19 30 June 2020 – on 3 July 2020.
 - a. PAHO CO in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Youth (MOEY) completed the Train-the-Trainers course for 50 Health and Education officials in School Mental Health Literacy (SMHL) for school-based adolescents in the context of COVID-19, that was hosted on the Virtual Campus of Public Health.
 - i. Planning with the MOEY has begun for the implementation of the SMHL approach in schools in September 2020, as well as for the evaluation of the approach.
 - b. PAHO CO continues its collaboration with MOHW counterparts on the re-organization of health services to ensure required capacity for isolation beds, including for mechanical ventilation in High Dependency Units and ICUs.
 - c. PAHO CO supported the MOHW with review and submission of the MOHW Interim Guideline for Nutritional Management of COVID-19.
8. Maintaining essential health services
- a. PAHO CO furthered the planning for the implementation of the UN Human Services Trust Fund programme in collaboration with UNEP and MOHW to

provide sustainable water solutions in at least 3 Health Centres in Clarendon and Kingston and St. Andrew – 7 and 10 July 2020

- b. PAHO CO supported the MOHW with the preparation of a submission to the Global Fund for assistance within the Jamaica Country Coordinating Mechanism for HIV and AIDS response to enhance the laboratory capacity with additional human resources, surveillance system and PPEs for the CSOs. – 3 July 2020
 - c. PAHO provided technical support in the redesign of the impact assessment of the Health System Strengthening Project of the MOHW Jamaica, funded by the IDB. The redesign of the project and reprogramming of the 50 million USD for the Policy Component will be key because there are significant delays in the implementation of the initial plan and there is the need to reprioritize activities and funds for the health system functions that needs strengthening for the COVID-10 response and maintaining essential health services.
 - d. PAHO provided technical support to the National Committee on Information Systems for Health as key governance mechanism of the MOHW, including the Ministry of Technology, eGov, PIOJ, Statin, UWI and other key stakeholders.
 - e. PAHO provided technical support to the MoHW in the development of the National Strategy on Information System for Health, as part of the MOHW Health System Strengthening Project, funded by the IDB.
 - f. PAHO CO continued its support for Jamaica which is leading the development of the CARICOM Regional standard for nutrition labelling and a meeting was held.
 - g. PAHO CO provided guidance to the MOHW on determining the essential health services to be maintained in the context of COVID-19 – 26 June 2020
 - h. PAHO CO collaborated with the MOHW to conduct Smart Health Care Facility Project site visits with potential contractors for small, Smart Interventions at 9 health care facilities – 10 – 11 June 2020 and 18 – 19 June 2020.
9. Research
- a. PAHO CO provided support to the MOHW Essential National Health Research Committee (ENHRC) in:
 - i. Development of the Research Project on the impact of COVID-19 in the access to essential health services in Jamaica.
 - ii. Development of the Research Project on the impact of COVID-19 in communication and community engagement.
 - b. PAHO CO facilitated discussions on the main findings of the PAHO Rapid Assessment on Access to Health Services in the Covid-19 pandemic with the MOHW Health System Research Group – 3 July 2020.
 - c. PAHO CO in collaboration with the ENHRC contributed to the submission of the communications research project to the UWI ethics committee – 3 July 2020.
 - d. PAHO CO provided information on the discontinuation of the hydroxychloroquine arm of the WHO Solidarity Trial and the positive results with the use of dexamethasone in the critically ill patient. – 19 June 2020.
 - e. PAHO CO continued its collaboration with the MOHW on the Research Group for COVID-19 and the Working Group on Health Systems, focusing on the modelling exercise using COVIDSim and EpiEstim, the global seroepidemiological study and the WHO Solidarity Clinical trial – 19 June 2020.

NEEDS

1. Jamaica
 - a. PPEs, laboratory supplies, UTM and swabs, equipment and supplies for isolation and quarantine facilities, wards and rooms

- b. Additional guidance on laboratory testing and interpretation of results
 - c. Digital thermometers
- 2. Bermuda: Strengthening of the Health Disaster Management Programme.
- 3. Cayman Islands: Strengthening of the Health Disaster Management Programme and surveillance were noted as priorities to enhance the COVID-19 and any other responses for health emergencies.