

PAHO JAMAICA CO EOC - SITUATION REPORT #100

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS-COVID-2019 – 18 JUNE 2020 (as at 6:00 p.m.)

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Jamaica:

- a. Confirmed cases: 638 (12 new)
 - i. 134 imported, 222 contacts of confirmed cases, 39 local cases-not epidemiologically linked, 243 under investigation - 236 related to a workplace cluster and 7 under investigation
 - ii. Sex: 269 M (42%) 369 F (58%)
 - iii. Age: Mean: 33 years / Median 29 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: 458
- d. Active cases: 170
- e. Isolation: 170 (Total, only active cases)
- f. Samples tested: 18,621, of which 638 are positive, 17,926 negative and 57 pending (3.4% positivity rate)
- g. Contacts: 3,934 (total), with 577 of these close contacts currently being followed
- h. Quarantine:
 - i. National Quarantine Facilities (NQF): 5
 - ii. Home quarantine: 1,414
 - iii. Community quarantine: 0

2. Bermuda:

- a. Confirmed cases: 144 (0 new)
 - i. 41 imported, 85 local transmission (known contact / source) 12 local transmission (unknown contact / source, 6 under investigation)
- b. Deaths: 9
- c. Recovered: 128
- d. Active cases: 7, with 0 hospitalized and 7 non-hospitalized
- e. Samples tested: 9,493 with 144 positive and 9,349 negative
- f. Quarantine (with public health supervision): 185
- g. A phased re-opening of Bermuda started as of 2 May 2020 – Phase 2: Expansion of Services started on 21 May 2020.

3. Cayman Islands:

- a. Confirmed cases: 193 (0 new)
- b. Deaths: 1
- c. Recovered: 141
- d. Active cases: 51, with 49 asymptomatic, 2 symptomatic
 - i. Hospital = 1
- e. Isolation: 362
- f. Samples tested: 19,336 with 193 positive
- g. There has been limited re-opening of some businesses and services as of 4 May 2020. Further relaxation of measures started on 7 June 2020, with easing of restrictions and opening of outdoor restaurants and bars according to protocols, maximum number of persons at public gatherings increased to six (including for exercise) and curfew hours from 10:00 p.m. – 4:30 a.m.

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 implemented the controlled entry phase for all travelers to Jamaica from 15 June 2020 until 30 June 2020, with sampling for the SARS-CoV-2 on arrival based on risk assessment, with RT-PCR testing. The majority (> 90%) of all travelers expected will be from high risk countries – USA, Canada and the UK and will be sampled. Quarantine and /or isolation will be carried out as necessary. Persons arriving from selected Caribbean countries will be screened and landed without sampling.

- MOHW:

1. The surveillance guidelines are being updated to include general hospital and Point of Entry surveillance for COVID-19.
2. A new guideline was developed – Management of the COVID-19 exposed neonate-22 May 2020
3. The three (3) communities in the parish of St. Mary were released from quarantine on 21 May 2020.
4. Four (4) of the eleven (11) National Quarantine Facilities (NQFs) remain active.
5. A new application for self-monitoring by persons in isolation and quarantine was implemented by the MOHW.
6. Additional isolation facilities have been identified to accommodate approximately 300 persons outside of hospital
7. Interim guidelines for the management of pregnant women completed and circulated.
8. Continue contact tracing, testing and quarantine of MOHW workers who are contacts of a confirmed case at the MOHW Head Office.
9. Further the planning and guidelines for lock-downs of parishes and possibly the country
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. The handing-over ceremony by PAHO CO (PWR) in collaboration with USAID (US Ambassador) to the MOHW Minister of Health) was held on 16 June 2020. In this first phase of the US700,000.00 project, emergency items were provided to enhance coordination activities of the MOHW EOC, such as laptops, tablets, VHF radios and a high capacity printer / copier.
 - b. PAHO CO in collaboration with the MOHW completed and submitted the WHO COVID-19 Monitoring and Evaluation monthly report for May 2020 and the weekly report – 10 June 2020.

- c. PAHO CO remains embedded in the MOHW EOC and provides 24-hour technical support and guidance, including to the twice daily EOC briefing meetings.
 - i. Focus for the week of 7 June 2020 was on the preparation of guidelines for the re-opening of the borders on 15 June 2020 to international travelers.
 - d. PAHO CO heightened its collaboration with MOHW to advance timely implementation of work plans for the COVID-19 response for USAID, DFID, Global Affairs Canada, UN SG Multi-Partner Trust Fund, with on-going procurement.
 - e. PAHO CO convened a planning meeting with the US Embassy, USAID and MOHW to finalize arrangements for handing-over ceremony by USAID – PAHO to the MOHW scheduled for 16 June 2020.
 - f. 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
- a. PAHO CO collaborated with the MOHW on World Blood Donor Day 2020 in the context of COVID-19 and supported the placement of a one-page ad in the major daily newspaper, production of a promotional package, including a video and social media content and an awards ceremony for blood donors – 14 June 2020.
 - b. PAHO CO collaborated with the MOHW and finalized the script for a video on Breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19 – 12 June 2020.
 - c. PAHO CO continued collaboration with partners to develop and mount the course on Mental Health Literacy in Schools, also in the context of COVID-19 on the Virtual Campus of Public Health – up to 13 June 2020.
3. Surveillance, Rapid Response Teams and Case Investigation
- a. PAHO CO shared the Go.Data implementation / deployment guide – 3 June 2020 with MOH, Jamaica, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands – 10 June 2020
4. Points of Entry
- a. PAHO CO collaborated with the MOHW, Jamaica to ensure appropriate establishment of screening at international airports, including sampling stations based on approved protocols for the opening of borders.
5. National Laboratory
- a. PAHO CO handed-over ThermoFischer laboratory test kits for 500 reactions to the Director, National Laboratory Services, MOHW, to support the enhanced testing protocol – 11 June 2020.
 - b. PAHO CO provided the MOHW with laboratory guidance and reference documents on testing with the E gene only for the La Charite protocols and on interpretation of E gene RT-PCR results – 9 June 2020.
6. Infection prevention and control
- a. PAHO CO collaborated with UNAIDS and CSOs and finalized materials for printing on cough etiquette and hand hygiene for vulnerable populations – 3 June 2020.
 - b. PAHO CO is collaborating with the MOHW 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.
7. Case management

- a. PAHO CO provided CMOs of Jamaica, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands with the new WHO Use of Chest Imaging in COVID-19 – Rapid Advice Guide – 13 June 2020
 - 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.
8. Maintaining essential health services
 - a. PAHO CO provided guidance to the MOHW on maintaining immunization programmes in the context of COVID-19 – June 2020
9. Research
 - a. PAHO CO has maintained membership on the Essential National Health Research Committee and provides support to formulate the research agenda for COVID-19, including for early investigations

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: No needs identified at this time.
3. Cayman Islands: No immediate needs were identified during dialogue with the CMO on 15 May 2020. However, strengthening of the disaster risk management programme and surveillance were noted as priorities to enhance the COVID-19 and any other responses for health emergencies.