

COVID-19

PAHO JAMAICA CO EOC - SITUATION REPORT #72

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS-COVID-2019 – 21 MAY 2020 (as at 6:00 p.m.)

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Jamaica:

- a. Confirmed cases: 534 (5 new)
 - i. 52 imported, 207 contacts of confirmed cases, 26 local cases-not epidemiologically linked, 234 related to a workplace cluster, 15 under investigation
 - ii. Sex: 215 M (40%) 319 F (60%)
 - iii. Age: Mean: 31 years / Median 26 years / Age range: 2 months – 87 years
- b. Deaths: 9 (on 18 March, 31 March, 1 April, 7 April, 14 April, 20 April, 22 April, 23 April and 3 May 2020)
- c. Recovered: 183
- d. Isolation: 368 (total)
 - i. Hospital: 22
 - ii. Transition facilities: 10
 - iii. National isolation facilities: 197
 - iv. Home: 139
- e. Samples tested: 9,178, of which 534 are positive, 8,572 negative and 72 pending
- f. Contacts: 3,729 (total), with 1,411 of these close contacts being followed
- g. Quarantine:
 - i. National Quarantine Facilities (NQF): 402
 - ii. Home quarantine: 1,528
 - iii. Community quarantine: Approximately 9,000 persons are quarantined in three (3) communities in the parish of St. Mary for 14 days, starting on 7 May 2020 – 3,440 persons have been interviewed and assessed for contact with the confirmed cases.
 - iv. Cruise ship: 1,036 repatriated Jamaicans (crew members) on board - arrived 19 May 2020 – Disembarkation and transport to a NQF started on 21 May 2020.

2. Bermuda:

- a. Confirmed cases: 125 (0 new)
 - i. 39 imported, 74 local transmission (known contact / source) 10 local transmission (unknown contact / source, 2 under investigation)
- b. Deaths: 9
- c. Recovered: 80
- d. Samples tested: 5,784, with 125 positive and 5,659 negative
- e. Quarantine (with public health supervision): 246
- f. A phased re-opening of Bermuda started as of 2 May 2020 – Phase 2: Expansion of Services will start on 21 May 2020.

3. Cayman Islands:

- a. Confirmed cases: 121 (10 new)
- b. Deaths: 1
- c. Recovered: 55
- d. Samples tested: 7,959, with 121 positive

- e. There has been limited re-opening of some businesses and services as of 4 May 2020.

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:

- MOHW:

1. The three (3) communities in the parish of St. Mary were released from quarantine on 21 May 2020.
2. Three of the nine National Quarantine Facilities (NQFs) remain active.
3. A new application for self-monitoring by persons in isolation and quarantine was implemented by the MOHW.
4. Additional isolation facilities have been identified to accommodate approximately 300 persons outside of hospital
5. Interim guidelines for the management of pregnant women completed and circulated.
6. Continue contact tracing, testing and quarantine of MOHW workers who are contacts of a confirmed case at the MOHW Head Office.
7. Continue special containment measures for workers and contacts at identified Call Centres.
8. Further the planning and guidelines for lock-downs of parishes and possibly the country
9. 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.
10. Expand community engagement and risk communication for persons in home quarantine and isolation.

- PAHO:

1. Coordination, planning and monitoring
 - a. PAHO CO has completed the procurement of digital thermometers, hand-held non-contact infrared scanners and 43 tablets for the MOHW EOC teams, as a part of the implementation of the USAID funded COVID-19 response work plan- 16 May 2020.
 - b. 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 10 May 2020 was on the updating of standards for quarantine and isolation facilities and the cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces in the context of COVID-19.
 - c. PAHO CO provided a brief to the IDPs, Diplomatic Community, UNCT on the COVID-19 current situation and coordination of response activities, focusing on the needs, gaps and priorities for the health sector – 15 May 2020.

- d. PAHO CO maintained the technical lead for health for the COVID-19 response within the UNCT and the GOJ system and updated the UNCT Consolidated Response Matrix of Ministry, Departments and Agencies, Jamaica requests and the PAHO CO SPRP 9-pillar plan and budget.
 - e. Amendment of the UN SG COVID-19 Response and Recovery MPTF proposal for Window 1 was completed and submitted to the RCO, based on feedback from the UN on the overall proposal – 7 May and 24 April 2020.
2. Risk Communication and Community Engagement
- a. PAHO CO organized a two-way communication session live on Facebook titled- Ask the Experts – How to protect yourself from Infection, to coincide with International Nurses Day and World Hand Hygiene Day and included the Nurse of the Year. The session was also broadcast on the PAHO Caribbean Facebook page – 12 May 2020.
 - b. PAHO CO collaborated with MOHW and partners, to plan for World No Tobacco Day on 31 May 2020, under the theme for Jamaica, ‘COVID-19 is no joke, it gets worse with smoke’. A joint statement was also prepared with MOHW and partners for release on the day- up to 16 May 2020.
 - c. PAHO CO conducted final review of infographics on pregnant women and lactating mothers being developed in collaboration with UNICEF – up to 16 May 2020.
 - d. PAHO CO continued collaboration with partners to develop and mount the course on Mental Health Literacy in Schools on the Virtual Campus of Public Health, including the officials of the campus – up to 16 May 2020.
 - e. A Health Care Heroes video was produced by the PAHO CO and shared with the MOHW to support the International Nurses Day programme on 12 May 2020.
 - f. The PAHO JAM CO provided the PAHO video on coping with stress and mental well-being during isolation and quarantine to the MOHW for use in their public education programme.
3. Surveillance, Rapid Response Teams and Case Investigation
- a. PAHO CO collaborated with the MOHW in the training of field teams in the use of Go.Data and provided 25 tablets which expanded the reach for contact tracing within communities during the week.
4. Points of Entry
- a. PAHO CO collaborated with the IHR NFP, Jamaica to facilitate the selection of the Designated airport and Contingent Designated airport for retrofitting of a quarantine / isolation facility, with one airport to be funded by USAID through their agreement with PAHO and MOHW.
5. National Laboratory
- a. PAHO CO handed-over test kits and extraction kits to Dr. Michelle Hamilton, Director, National Laboratory Services (NLS), MOHW for use by the National Influenza Centre during last week.
 - b. PAHO CO provided technical guidance to the MOHW on 6 May 2020 on the invitation by PAHO for Jamaica to participate in the establishment of COVID-19 genomic surveillance, with the provision of shipping and other documents for the total of 10 samples from the NIC and NPHL.

- c. PAHO CO hosted a meeting on 8 May 2020 with the CMO, Jamaica, Director, NIC, Director, NLS, MOHW and the virologists, PHE, WDC to review the testing protocols for SARS-CoV-2 at the NIC. Updated guidance was requested from PAHO, WDC on the use of the E-gene assay only for confirmation of the virus.
- 6. Infection prevention and control
 - a. PAHO CO has started a new round of sensitization and training for IPC in collaboration with the MOHW in health care settings islandwide.
- 7. Case management
 - a. PAHO CO provided WHO Scientific brief on Multi-system inflammatory syndrome in children and adolescents in the context of COVID-19 to the MOHW to facilitate updating of their case management guidelines – 16 May 2020.
 - b. PAHO CO facilitated the completion and submission of the MOHW EMT National Response Matrix – 14 May 2020,
 - c. PAHO material on EMTs was shared with MOHW counterparts, including on Selection of Alternative Medical Care Sites on 5 May 2020.
 - d. 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 continued its advocacy through providing guidance to the Technical Working Group of the HSS project of the MOHW, Jamaica including re-programming of funds to strengthen first level of care and information systems-15 May 2020.
 - b. Meeting with the regulatory agency on crisis management during pandemic, with the participation of the MOHW Jamaica in the regional discussion of coordination mechanisms for national regulatory authorities. Also, sharing of PAHO guidelines on Crisis Management during an Epidemic with MOHW Jamaica – as of 14 May 2020.
 - c. Discussions on PAHO guidelines on Blood Supply, as well as considerations on Convalescence Plasma. The National Institute on Blood has submitted a proposal for offering Convalescent Plasma in Jamaica to the CMO – as of 15 May 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
- 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. 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.

