

# COVID-19

## PAHO JAMAICA CO EOC – COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT #220 16 OCTOBER 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	8,195 (63)	4,265 (52.0%)	3,653 (43.2%)	168 (6) [1.9%]	87,976 (9.3%)
**Bermuda	185 (0)	4 (2.1%)	172 (93.0%)	9 (0) [4.9%]	74,353 (0.2%)
Cayman Islands	233 (8)	20 (8.6%)	212 (90.9%)	1 (0) [0.5%]	43,506 (0.5%)

\*75 confirmed cases (returned overseas prior to recovery) \*\* As of 15 October 2020

### 1. Jamaica

- a. Confirmed cases: 8,195 (63 new)
  - i. 490 imported and 7705 locally acquired cases of which there are 591 local transmission – not epidemiologically linked, 918 contacts of confirmed cases, 236 related to a workplace cluster and 5,960 under investigation
  - ii. Sex: 3683 M (44.9%) / 4494 F (54.8%). 18 (0.3%) cases had no sex designation listed.
  - iii. Age: Mean: 39 years / Median 36 years / Age range: 1 day – 104 years
- b. Deaths: 168 (6 new) (1.9%) (March x 2, April x 6, May x 1, June x 1, July x 2, August x 20, September x 93 and October 2020 (as of 13 October) x 43)
  - i. 23 deaths are under investigation and there have been 11 coincidental deaths in persons who are SARS-CoV-2 positive.
- c. Recovered: 3,653 (44.9%)
- d. Returned overseas prior to recovery: 75 (1.0%)
- e. Active cases: 4,265 (52.0%) (9 critically ill, with 2 mechanically ventilated, 13 severely ill, 38 moderately ill)
  - i. Hospital: 173
  - ii. Transition facility: 3
  - iii. Home isolation: 4069
  - iv. National isolation facility: 20
- f. Isolation: 4,385
  - i. Hospital: 282 (173 confirmed cases and 109 suspected cases)
- g. Samples tested: 87,976 tested of which 8,195 are positive, 79,716 negative and 65 pending (9.3% positivity rate)
- h. Contacts: 14,873 (total), with 6,497 currently being followed
- i. Quarantine:
  - i. National Quarantine Facilities (NQF): 2
  - ii. Home quarantine: 23,692
  - iii. Community quarantine: 0 communities

### 2. Bermuda: As of 15 October 2020

- a. Confirmed cases: 185 (0 new)

- i. 74 imported, 90 local transmission (known contact / source, 21 local transmission (known contact / source) and 0 under investigation
- b. Deaths: 9 (4.9%)
- c. Recovered: 172 (93.0%)
- d. Active cases: 4 (2.1%) (0 hospitalized)
- e. Samples tested: 74,353 with 185 positive and 74,168 (0.2% 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: 233 (8 new)
- b. Deaths: 1 (0.5%)
- c. Recovered: 212 (90.9%)
- d. Active cases: 20 (8.6%), with 1 hospitalized
- e. Samples tested: 43,506 with 233 positive (0.5% positivity rate)
- f. On 1 October 2020, Cayman Islands began to re-open its borders in phases. A new arrivals procedure with electronic monitoring devices was introduced and those who selected that option and met the criteria, were able to quarantine in residences rather than Government managed facilities.

All arrivals will be tested at the airport for COVID-19 and will be taken from the airport by approved transportation to begin their quarantine, at their residence or agreed facility. The test results will be anticipated to take 24 – 72 hours.

The number of travellers coming into the Cayman Islands will be controlled. 800 non-resident travellers will be allowed in during the month of October 2020.

Commercial flights outside of Cayman Airways and British Airways and private charters will not be allowed in.

Ports will remain closed to cruise ships for the rest of 2020.

From 1 October 2020 up to 30 November 2020, the limits on public gatherings have been increased to 500 persons, with appropriate measures in place.

On 8 August, the government of the Cayman Islands announced that it will extend its border closure another 30 days to 1 October 2020 (phased re-opening) based on the upsurge in COVID-19 cases in other countries.

## 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**

- From 8 September 2020 to 7 October 2020:

- There will be an all-island curfew from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. daily.
- Gatherings should not exceed 15 persons and social distance of a minimum of 6 feet must be maintained.
- Churches are prohibited from hosting funerals, conventions and other special events.
- Burials may continue, however, only 15 persons are allowed at the graveside, including the clergy and funeral home personnel.
- Worship services may continue to be held within the existing guidelines, requiring temperature checks, sanitization and the mandatory wearing of masks.

- From 27 August 2020 to 7 October 2020, there will be a suspension of entertainment events requiring permits.

- As of 20 August 2020, all residents of Brazil, Mexico, Panama and USA, 12 years of age or older, who are planning to travel to Jamaica are required to obtain and upload a negative COVID-19 PCR test. This is regardless of nationality / passport or travel purpose. The sample must be taken within 10 days of the intended date of arrival in Jamaica. This also includes business travelers who will still be sampled at the airport.

- 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 was 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 which were 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](http://visitjamaica.com) on or after 7 July 2020 from the designated high risk areas 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 assessed as high risk personally or are symptomatic or become symptomatic during the 14 day period.

#### **- MOHW:**

1. The updated MOHW COVID-19 Epidemiological Surveillance Protocol -15 September 2020 – Version 19 was posted on the MOHW website.

[http://www.moh.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/COVID-19\\_SurveillanceProtocol\\_updated-Sept-15-2020\\_V19.pdf](http://www.moh.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/COVID-19_SurveillanceProtocol_updated-Sept-15-2020_V19.pdf)

2. The updated MOHW Discharge Protocol for persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 Version 3.2 – September 4 2020 was finalized on 4 September 2020.

- 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 11 October 2020 was on guidance for the MOHW, Jamaica on:
  - a. Strategies for suppressing transmission during community transmission, and
  - b. Laboratory testing strategy, including rapid antigen detection testing.
- b. PAHO CO COVID-19 Coordinator participated in the UN COVID-19 First Line of Defence and Medevac Refresher training - 14 October 2020
- c. PAHO CO hosted a handing-over ceremony for items procured by Canada, including PPEs for health care workers and medical equipment and supplies for 5 isolation areas in hospitals, including 457,372 surgical masks, 27,445 KN95 respirator masks and 5 each resuscitation trolleys, automated external defibrillators, patient monitors, suction machines, nebulizers and video laryngoscopes. In attendance were the Canadian High Commissioner, Minister of Health and Wellness, Chief Medical Officer and the PWR, Jamaica, Bermuda and Cayman Islands – 6 October 2020



- d. PAHO CO hosted a handing-over ceremony for items procured by USAID for the Health EOC and risk communications, including 15 ICU beds, 13 satellite phones, 5 scanners, 40 banners for Points of entry and 2,000 IPC posters. In attendance were the Minister of Health and Wellness, country Representative, USAID, Chief Medical Officer and the PWR, Jamaica, Bermuda and Cayman Islands – 6 October 2020.



- e. PAHO CO handed over PPEs to the Minister of Health and Wellness which were procured utilizing funds from the UN SG Multi-partner Trust Fund – 142,258

surgical masks, 24,500 face shields, 14,200 isolation gowns and 5,000 goggles.  
– 6 October 2020.

- f. PAHO CO facilitated MOHW, Jamaica and MOH, Bermuda and Cayman Islands to further commitments for downpayments to COVAX facility through funding from EU through grant funds to CARPHA – 8 October 2020 and on-going
  - g. PAHO CO finalized arrangements with PAHO, WDC and Purchase Order was issued for the procurement of 80,000 rapid antigen detection tests in partnership with FCDO, UK, and the UN system – on-going and on 8 October 2020.
  - h. PAHO CO reviewed the work plan for Jamaica funded by EU DEVCO from 2020-2022, for immediate implementation – 1 October 2020.
  - i. PAHO CO briefed International Development Partners and donors on COVID-19 situation globally, regionally and locally and on the priority strategies of PAHO/WHO and identified gaps and needs for the health sector in Jamaica. – 23 September 2020.
  - j. 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
  - k. 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.
  - l. 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. Developed PAHO CO inputs to the UN 75 supplement for a daily newspaper – 12 October 2020.
  - b. Finalized arrangements for completion of the PAHO video on home quarantine and isolation, based on the current increase in cases in Jamaica – 13 October 2020
  - c. Continued the development of the PAHO CO newsletter with consultations with members of the technical team and initiated dialogue with the MOHW counterparts to access additional information.
  - d. Updated websites for Jamaica, Bermuda and Cayman with daily content and the digitisation of country situation reports.
- 3. Surveillance, Rapid Response Teams and Case Investigation**
- a. PAHO CO briefed the MOHW on Go.Data during a question and answer session – 20 July 2020.
  - b. PAHO continued its collaboration with the MOHW to finalize guidelines on waste management – 10 July 2020
- 4. Points of Entry**
- a. PAHO CO provided guidance to the MOHW on the upgrading of the isolation area at the Sangster International Airport, Montego Bay, St. James at a meeting

convened with MOHW counterparts at national, regional and parish levels. Support will be provided within the PAHO / USAID Work Plan - 30 July 2020

- b. 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
- c. 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.

## 5. National Laboratory

- a. PAHO CO facilitated a meeting with PHE Virologist and the MOHW and Regional Health Authorities on the connectivity of the SD Biosensor antigen rapid detection test F200 readers with the laboratory information system – 14 October 2020.
- b. PAHO CO facilitated training by PAHO, WDC team in Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Testing of 105 laboratory and other health personnel from the National Public Health Laboratory, National Influenza Centre, hospitals, Primary Care facilities and the private sector – 6 October 2020.
- c. PAHO CO partnered with FCDO, UK and UN SG MPTF and ordered 80,000 Rapid Antigen Tests for use of the NPHL and hospitals - referral and peripheral and major health centres – 23 September 2020
- d. PAHO CO handed over 30 MicroAmp reaction plates and MicroAmp Optical adhesive film to the NPHL- 26 September 2020.
- e. PAHO CO convened a virtual meeting in collaboration with PAHO PHE team to brief CMO, senior MOHW technical team and NPHL on the rapid antigen test kits – 15 September 2020.
- f. PAHO CO continued the procurement process for extraction kits for the automated extractor and calibration kits to ensure that new PCR machines are available to the National Public Health Laboratory – 18 September 2020.

## 6. Infection prevention and control

- a. PAHO CO procured and received PPEs through the WHO Global Supply Chain for distribution to the health sector – 18 September 2020
- b. PAHO CO hosted in collaboration with PAHO HQ team a special session on Infection Prevention and Control and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for health care workers of Ministries of Health islandwide, Jamaica, Bermuda and Cayman Islands and academia (154 participants) – 10 September 2020

## 7. Case management

- a. PAHO delivered a total of 15 ICU beds to 8 hospitals islandwide within the PAHO/USAID COVID-19 programme – 21 August 2020
- b. 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.

- c. PAHO CO continued 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.
  - d.
- 8. Maintaining essential health services: PAHO CO:**
- a. PAHO CO facilitated the Kick-off Meeting for the retrofitting of the Port Antonio Health Centre within the PAHO/FCDO Smart Health Care Facilities in the Caribbean project – 16 October 2020
  - b. PAHO CO facilitated the participation of over 100 members of the health team, Jamaica in the PAHO / WHO Webinar on Dengue: Clinical Diagnosis and Management – 24 September 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 continued its collaboration with the MOHW on the Research Group for COVID-19 and the Working Group on Health Systems.

## 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.