



## The Bahamas & Turks and Caicos Islands

1 July 2021

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

#### The Bahamas

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 15 March 2020. During the period 25 June-1 July 2021, there were 311 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 1 COVID-19 related death.

Among the new cases:

- 249 (80%) were from New Providence;
- 147 (47%) were males and 164 (53%) were females;
- 7 cases (5 from New Providence, 1 from Grand Bahama, and 1 from Eleuthera) were travel-related.

Among the total confirmed cases, 107,883 real time PCR tests have been conducted to date.

#### Turks and Caicos Islands

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 23 March 2020. During the period 25 June-1 July 2021, there was 1 newly confirmed case of COVID-19.

The new case was from Providenciales.

Among the total confirmed cases:

- 1165 (48%) were males, 1259 (51.9%) were females, and 1 (0.1%) was unknown gender as of 30 June 2021;
- 24,371 real time PCR tests and 130,952 Rapid Antigen Tests have been conducted.

#### GLOBAL

182,078,349 Cases  
3,950,530 Deaths

#### REGION OF THE AMERICAS

72,480,288 Cases  
1,905,627 Deaths

#### THE BAHAMAS

12,809 Confirmed  
847 Active  
11,629 Recovered  
50 Hospitalized  
246 Deaths

#### TURKS & CAICOS

2,425 Confirmed  
1 Active  
2,398 Recovered  
0 Hospitalized  
18 Deaths

### Total cases and deaths, as of 1 July 2021

#### The Bahamas

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
New Providence	9487	182
Grand Bahama	1884	31
Abaco	380	8
Eleuthera	249	1
Exuma	160	2
Bimini/Cat Cay	178	5
Berry Islands	90	2
Inagua	25	0
Andros	173	2
Long Island	25	1
Cat Island	71	1
Acklins	7	0
San Salvador	14	0
Crooked Island	7	0
Mayaguana	3	0
Pending	55	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12809</b>	<b>246</b>

#### Turks and Caicos Islands

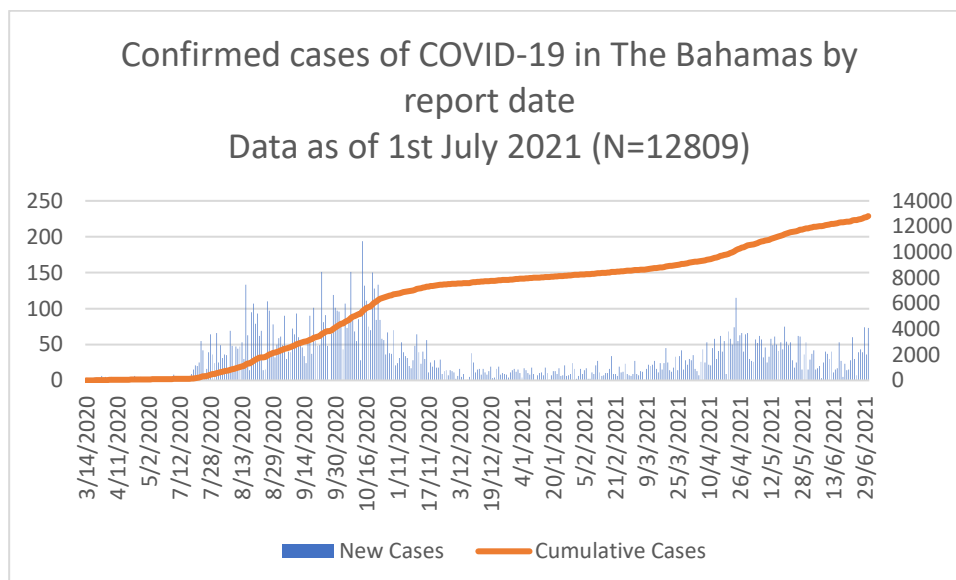
Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Providenciales	1946	13
North Caicos	96	0
Parrot Cay	13	0
Grand Turk	284	5
South Caicos	58	0
Middle Caicos	27	0
Ambergris Cay	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2425</b>	<b>18</b>

## SITUATION SUMMARY

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### The Bahamas

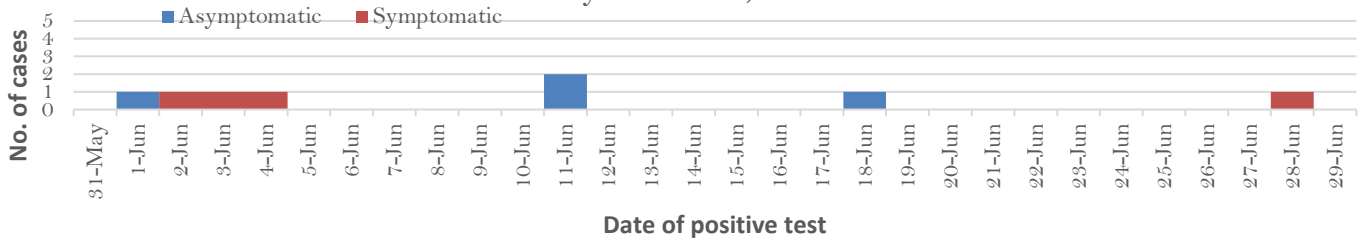
- The number of reported cases continues to show a decreasing trend since the start of the third wave.
- Emergency Orders have been extended for three months until 19 August 2021.
- Nightly curfews continued for Cat Island, Central Andros, North Andros, New Providence, and Grand Bahama.
- Effective 1 July 2021 the following applied for North and South Bimini:
  - A nightly curfew from 7:00 pm to 5:00 am;
  - No social gatherings or wedding receptions;
  - Bars not permitted to operate;
  - Funerals are limited to 10 persons excluding officiant and funeral workers and to be graveside only;
  - Weddings are limited to 10 persons including the officiant and can be indoor or outdoor;
  - Church services may operate between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm only;
  - Only five persons may congregate in a group on a beach or park;
  - Hotel and cruise ships guests are restricted to hotel, cruise ship, and marina area if part of hotel premises during curfew period.



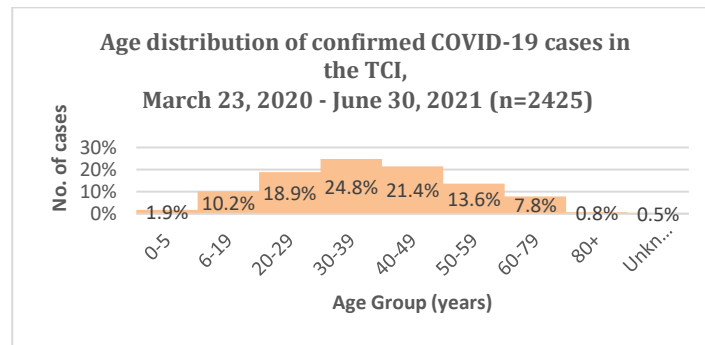
#### Turks and Caicos Islands

- The daily number of new confirmed cases of COVID-19 remains low.
- The pandemic public health regulations and protocols related to physical distancing, wearing of masks and other related measures including screening for travel have been extended to 31 August 2021 at 5:00 am.
- Cabinet approved the following on 28 June 2021:
  - Nightly curfew on all islands from 1:00 am to 5:00 am;
  - Daily business closures from 12:00 midnight to 5:00 am;
  - Increase capacity of funerals, pleasure crafts, religious events, restaurants, and weddings to 70% occupancy/normal capacity and bars, discos, and night clubs to 50% indoors and 70% outdoors;
  - Outdoor social gatherings including public beaches limited to 100 persons with an approved permit/license. Sporting events need permission from the Sports Commission.
  - Cuban Medical Brigade services extended to 31 July 2021.
  - Mandatory vaccination of Government stamp, new work permits, PRC applicants, and spousal permits by 31 August 2021.

Symptomatic and Asymptomatic TCI COVID-19 cases by date of positive test  
May 31 - June 30, 2021



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 63



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 63

## RESPONSE

PAHO/WHO continues to provide both The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands with access to updated technical guidelines, technical assistance and situational updates related to the COVID-19 response.

### The Bahamas

- An increase in COVID-19 cases were reported on the island of Bimini. An assessment team was sent to evaluate the COVID-19 situation and distribute vaccinations on the island on 1 July 2021.
- COVID-19 vaccine distribution administration continued throughout the islands.
- As of 26 June 2021, 58,122 persons received their first dose and 32,945 persons received their second dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.
- COVID-19 Vaccination sites were reduced to two locations in New Providence, namely Loyola Hall and Church of God of Prophecy.
- The National Reference Laboratory (NRL) was closed due to COVID-19 cases being confirmed among staff members.
- Moderate to severe COVID-19 cases continue to be treated at Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH), Doctors Hospital West and the Rand Memorial Hospital. PMH continues to only service emergency cases and operate outpatient clinic services via telehealth and virtual means.
- The Bahamas began being a home port for cruise ships in the second week of June with Royal Caribbean International's Adventure of the Seas. A second cruise line, Crystal Cruises is expected to commence sailing this weekend. It is anticipated that 9,000-13,000 cruise passengers will arrive by air into New Providence each weekend to depart for these cruises.
- The national authorities continue to require non-fully vaccinated travelers to have a negative real time PCR test, the completion of a daily on-line survey for fourteen days after arrival and depending upon the responses, rapid antigen testing five- and ten-days post entry.
- Results are pending for ten COVID-19 samples sent to the Caribbean Public Health Agency for genomic sequencing in March 2021.
- A National Respiratory Surveillance Genomics Database is in use by the NRL for genetic analysis. Several genomic deletions and variant mutations have been identified by the NRL.
- COVID-19 laboratory PCR testing continues at the NRL, PMH, Rand Memorial Hospital and private sector laboratories.
- An on-line contact tracing course continues to be offered through the University of The Bahamas.

- A SharePoint platform continues to be utilized for multiple user entry of contact tracing data, case investigation and laboratory test results.
- The Public Hospital's Authority continues to distribute personal protective equipment across all public hospitals and clinics.
- Ministry of Health continues to provide telemedicine, telepsychology, mental health, and psychosocial support services.
- Ministry of Health continues to implement a communication campaign to increase immunization coverage for influenza and other vaccines.
- Work continues in adapting and implementing the National COVID-19 Vaccine Plan to the changing situation with respect to access to vaccines, with support from PAHO/WHO.
- The communication campaign for COVID-19 vaccine continues.

## Turks and Caicos Islands

- COVID-19 vaccine distribution continued throughout the islands. As of 28 June 2021, 61% of adults in the Turks and Caicos Islands were fully vaccinated.
- Persons continue to register for the COVID-19 vaccine via the online portal which is available in three languages: English, French-Creole, and Spanish.
- Go.Data continues to be utilized for field data collection and contact tracing investigations.
- Community drive-through services continue to provide access to COVID-19 tests throughout the islands.
- The National Public Health Laboratory continues to conduct COVID-19 PCR testing.
- The communication education campaign continues with communication materials on the COVID-19 vaccine shared via traditional means and social media. COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy public service announcements were released this past week.
- A Cuban health contingent of 20 persons continues to operate in medical facilities through a bilateral agreement between the two countries.

## GAPS/CHALLENGES

- Vaccine rollout in The Bahamas is being adversely affected due to limited access to, and delayed delivery of vaccines. Vaccine deployment plans constantly have to be adapted.
- Public compliance with public health protocols and vaccination hesitancy continue to present challenges in both The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands.
- There continues to be a risk of introduction of new variants to both The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands due to the emergence and spread of COVID-19 variants in several countries from which tourists originate.
- While The Bahamas has capacity to identify the presence of COVID-19 variants, neither The Bahamas nor Turks and Caicos Islands have in-country sequencing capacity. This presents a challenge for the timely identification of new variants.
- Both countries are challenged by the limited global supply of Cepheid Test Kits and other supplies required for COVID-19 testing. Turks and Caicos Islands is particularly challenged as it is only possible for them to source Cepheid Test Kits through the United Kingdom Government.
- The Bahamas risks using current stocks of syringes for their National Immunization Programme for COVID-19 vaccine distribution due to limited global supply.
- A nursing shortage has been identified in The Bahamas and there are concerns about the delivery of healthcare services.
- In the Turks and Caicos Islands, stigma and discrimination of COVID-19 confirmed and suspected cases remain a concern.
- Both countries are challenged with reduced vaccine uptake due to vaccine hesitancy.