



## The Bahamas & Turks and Caicos Islands

15 July 2021

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

#### The Bahamas

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 15 March 2020. During the period 9 -15 July 2021, there were 339 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 19 COVID-19 related deaths (7 of these deaths happened in April and May 2021 respectively).

Among the new cases:

- 271 (80%) were from New Providence;
- 145 (43%) were males and 194 (57%) were females;
- 23 cases (21 from New Providence and 2 from Exuma) were travel-related.

Among the total confirmed cases, 113,323 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 9-15 July 2021, there were 16 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19.

These new cases were from Providenciales.

Among the total confirmed cases:

- 1173 (48%) were males, 1270 (51.9%) were females, and 1 (0.1%) was unknown gender as of 14 July 2021;
- 25,613 real time PCR tests and 152,709 Rapid Antigen Tests have been conducted.

#### GLOBAL

188,300,473 Cases  
4,063,054 Deaths

#### REGION OF THE AMERICAS

74,411,952 Cases  
1,953,492 Deaths

#### THE BAHAMAS

13,405 Confirmed  
980 Active  
12,066 Recovered  
67 Hospitalized  
273 Deaths

#### TURKS & CAICOS

2,446 Confirmed  
21 Active  
2,400 Recovered  
0 Hospitalized  
18 Deaths

### Total cases and deaths, as of 15 July 2021

#### The Bahamas

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
New Providence	9975	200
Grand Bahama	1931	38
Abaco	384	8
Eleuthera	268	2
Exuma	171	2
Bimini/Cat Cay	200	6
Berry Islands	90	2
Inagua	25	0
Andros	175	2
Long Island	25	1
Cat Island	71	1
Acklins	7	0
San Salvador	14	0
Crooked Island	7	0
Mayaguana	3	0
Pending	58	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13405</b>	<b>273</b>

#### Turks and Caicos Islands

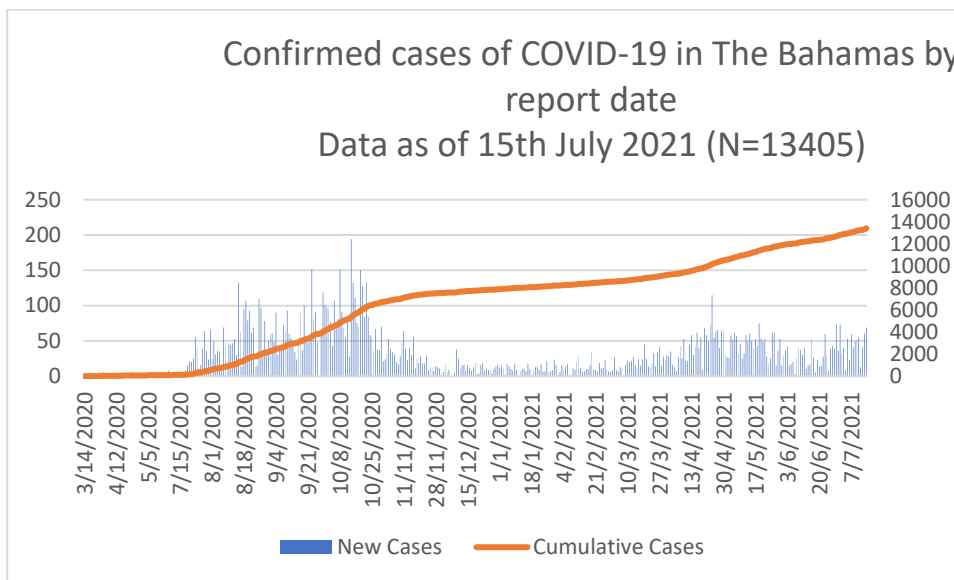
Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Providenciales	1967	13
North Caicos	96	0
Parrot Cay	13	0
Grand Turk	284	5
South Caicos	58	0
Middle Caicos	27	0
Ambergris Cay	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2446</b>	<b>18</b>

## SITUATION SUMMARY

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### The Bahamas

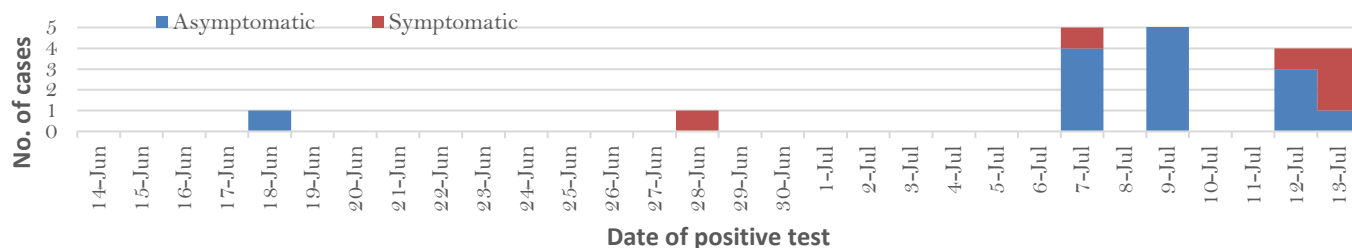
- The number of reported cases has shown an increasing trend.
- Emergency Orders have been extended for three months until 19 August 2021.
- Nightly curfews continued for Cat Island, Central Andros, Grand Bahamas, North Andros, North Bimini, New Providence, and South Bimini.



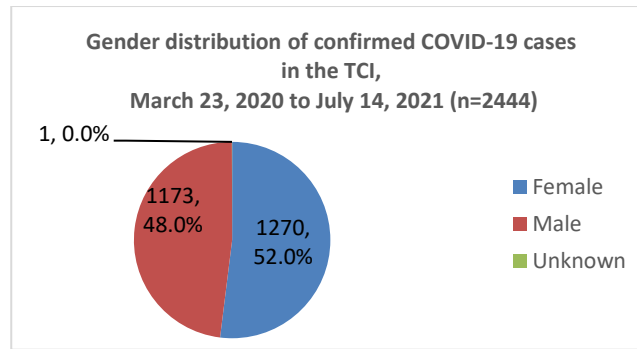
#### Turks and Caicos Islands

- There has been a slight increase in the daily number of new confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- The pandemic public health regulations and protocols continue and will remain in effect until 30 September 2021 at 5:00 am.
- Nightly curfew continued on all islands except Salt Cay from 1:00 am to 5:00 am as well as daily business closures from 12:00 midnight to 5:00 am.
- The cruise port will remain closed until 30 September 2021.

Symptomatic and Asymptomatic TCI COVID-19 cases by date of positive test  
June 14 - July 13, 2021



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 65



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 65

## 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

- COVID-19 vaccine distribution for the second dose only continued in Grand Bahama and New Providence.
- As of 10 July 2021, 60,303 persons received their first dose and 37,689 persons received their second dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.
- Only one COVID-19 vaccination site is operational on New Providence, that is Loyola Hall, COVID-19 vaccine distribution re-commenced on 14 July 2021 after a brief closure of the site in observance of the Independence holiday.
- An online portal was established for persons who received their COVID-19 vaccination out-of country to register.
- Moderate to severe COVID-19 cases continue to be treated at Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH), Doctors Hospital West and the Rand Memorial Hospital.
- PMH announced their maximum capacity of hospital admissions had been reached and as a result clinic staff were assigned to assist with hospital operations. The Emergency Department is only open for emergency cases whilst the Agape Clinic can be used for walk-in cases.
- 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. Crystal Cruises commenced sailing on 3 July 2021 with travel to several Family Islands including Cat Island, Exuma, Long Island, and San Salvador.
- 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.
- On 15 July 2021, PAHO/WHO delivered a donation of 4,000 RADI Transport Media Swabs to the Princess Margaret Hospital

## Turks and Caicos Islands

- COVID-19 vaccine distribution continued throughout the islands.
- As of 4 July 2021, 21,738 persons or 62% of the adult populations were fully vaccinated.
- The fourth batch of Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines consisting of 7,020 doses was received in-country on 7 July 2021 from the United Kingdom.
- 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 though 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 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.