



The Bahamas & Turks and Caicos Islands

21 July 2021

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The Bahamas

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 15 March 2020. During the period 16 -21 July 2021, there were 553 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 7 COVID-19 related deaths.

Among the new cases:

- 444 (80%) were from New Providence;
- 241 (44%) were males and 312 (56%) were females;
- 28 cases (all from New Providence) were travel-related.

Among the total confirmed cases, 115,959 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 16-21 July 2021, there were 13 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19.

These new cases were from Providenciales.

Among the total confirmed cases:

- 1179 (48%) were males, 1279 (51.9%) were females, and 1 (0.1%) was unknown gender as of 21 July 2021;
- 26,041 real time PCR tests and 163,174 Rapid Antigen Tests have been conducted.

GLOBAL

192,118,751 Cases
4,131,626 Deaths

REGION OF THE AMERICAS

75,566,682 Cases
1,983,037 Deaths

THE BAHAMAS

13,957 Confirmed
1,351 Active
12,238 Recovered
92 Hospitalized
280 Deaths

TURKS & CAICOS

2,459 Confirmed
30 Active
2,402 Recovered
0 Hospitalized
18 Deaths

Total cases and deaths, as of 22 July 2021

The Bahamas

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
New Providence	10419	207
Grand Bahama	1983	38
Abaco	392	8
Eleuthera	293	2
Exuma	187	2
Bimini/Cat Cay	208	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
TOTAL	13957	280

Turks and Caicos Islands

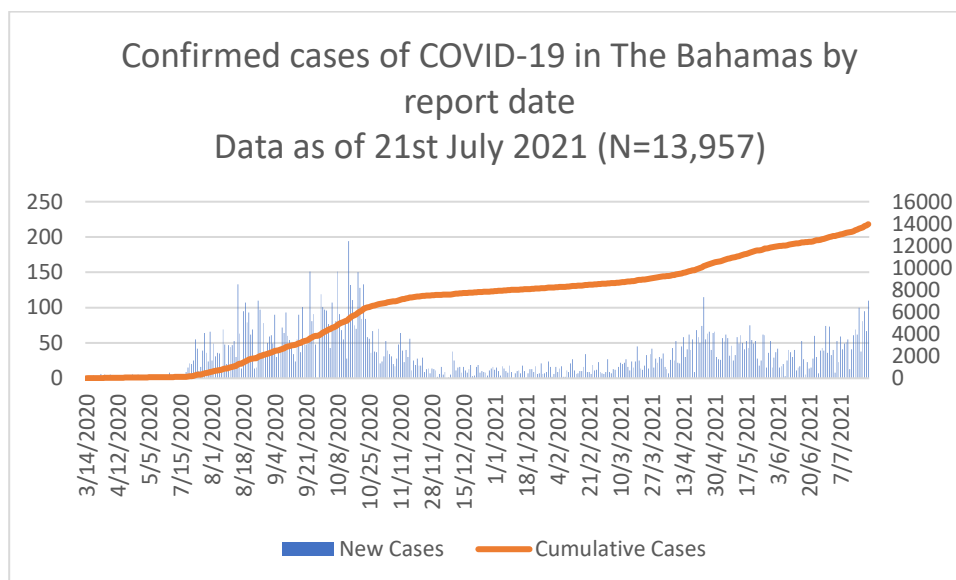
Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Providenciales	1980	13
North Caicos	96	0
Parrot Cay	13	0
Grand Turk	284	5
South Caicos	58	0
Middle Caicos	27	0
Ambergris Cay	1	0
TOTAL	2459	18

SITUATION SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS

The Bahamas

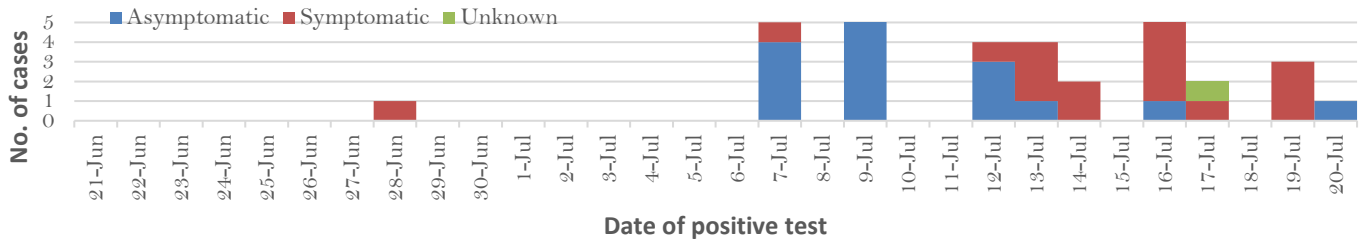
- The number of reported cases has shown an increasing trend.
- Emergency Orders have been extended until 13 August 2021.
- Nightly curfews continued for Cat Island, Central Andros, Grand Bahamas, North Andros, North Bimini, New Providence, and South Bimini.



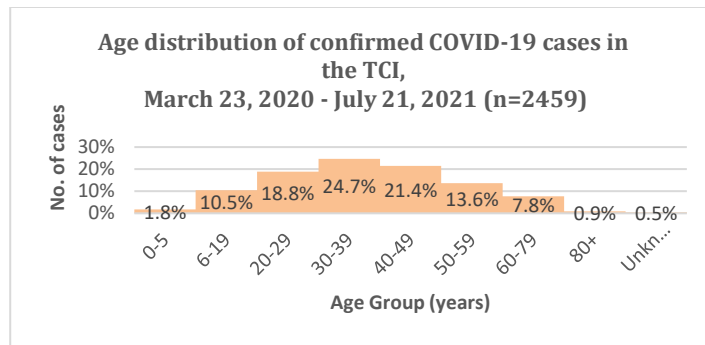
Turks and Caicos Islands

- 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.
- The following were approved by Cabinet on 21 July 2021:
 - Arriving passengers to present RT-PCR, Nucleic Acid Amplification, RNA or molecular tests and Antigen tests;
 - Tests may be taken within three days from travel date instead of five days;
 - Persons travelling from Haiti are restricted from entry into the country until 31 October 2021;
 - TCI Regiment members to be added to the list of essential workers and can carry on work outside of curfew hours;
 - Phase Three 'Return to Domestic Competition' for sports effective 23 July 2021;
 - Phase Four 'Return to Cross Border Competition' for sports effective 23 July 2021;

**Symptomatic and Asymptomatic TCI COVID-19 cases by date of positive test
June 21 - July 20, 2021**



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 66



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 66

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 18 July 2021, 60,360 persons received their first dose and 41,106 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.
- A donation of 3,496 COVID-19 vaccines were received from Montserrat and Anguilla on 21 July 2021.
- There has been an increase in hospitalizations for COVID-19 cases at the Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH). Restrictions are in place to limit the amount of traffic into and out of PMH with only emergency cases being allowed for service.
- The Rand Laboratory or Morgue is over its capacity housing more than 225 bodies.
- Moderate to severe COVID-19 cases continue to be treated at PMH, Doctors Hospital West and the Rand Memorial Hospital and less severe cases at the South Beach Health Center.
- 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 were received for COVID-19 samples collected in March to April 2021 and sent to the Fiocruz Laboratory in Brazil. Both the Alpha and Iota, variant of concern and variant of interest respectively, were detected among samples.
- 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.
- COVID-19 vaccination distribution commenced for children ages 12-15 years of age.
- 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.