



## The Bahamas & Turks and Caicos Islands

12 August 2021

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

#### The Bahamas

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 15 March 2020. During the period 6-12 August 2021, there were 853 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 17 COVID-19 related deaths.

Among the new cases:

- 653 (77%) were from New Providence;
- 379 (44%) were males and 474 (56%) were females;
- 90 cases (79 from New Providence, 4 from Grand Bahama, 3 from Eleuthera, 2 from Exuma, and 2 from Grand Bahama) were travel related.

The total number of real time PCR tests conducted to 12 August 2021 was 126,047 tests.

#### Turks and Caicos Islands

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 23 March 2020. During the period 6-12 August 2021, there were 49 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and one COVID-19 related death.

Among new cases 47 (96%) were from Providenciales and 2 (4%) were from Grand Turk.

Among the total confirmed cases:

- 1226 (48.16%) were males, 1319 (51.8%) were females, and 1 (0.04%) was unknown gender as of 11 August 2021;

The total number of Real time PCR tests and Rapid Antigen Tests conducted to 12 August 2021 was 27,289 and 187,971 tests respectively.

#### GLOBAL

204,744,913 Cases  
4,325,759 Deaths

#### REGION OF THE AMERICAS

79,481,039 Cases  
2,043,003 Deaths

#### THE BAHAMAS

16,272 Confirmed  
2,697 Active  
13,141 Recovered  
134 Hospitalized  
312 Deaths

#### TURKS & CAICOS

2,558 Confirmed  
70 Active  
2,462 Recovered  
0 Hospitalized  
19 Deaths

### Total cases and deaths, as of 12 August 2021

#### The Bahamas

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
New Providence	12182	231
Grand Bahama	2181	38
Abaco	474	9
Eleuthera	425	6
Exuma	271	4
Bimini/Cat Cay	226	7
Berry Islands	96	2
Inagua	25	0
Andros	194	2
Long Island	31	1
Cat Island	72	1
Acklins	7	0
San Salvador	15	0
Crooked Island	7	0
Mayaguana	3	0
Pending	63	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16272</b>	<b>312</b>

#### Turks and Caicos Islands

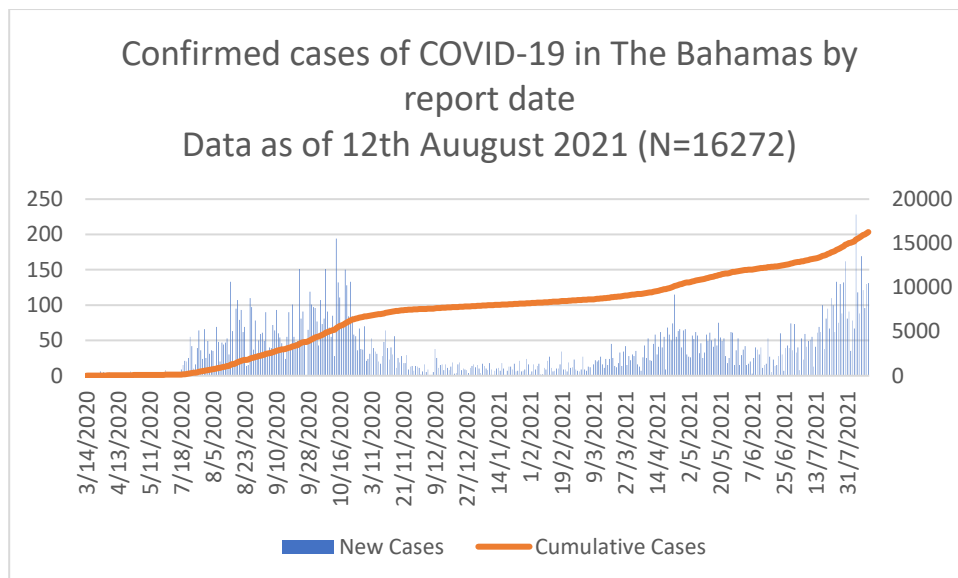
Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Providenciales	2071	14
North Caicos	96	0
Parrot Cay	13	0
Grand Turk	292	5
South Caicos	58	0
Middle Caicos	27	0
Ambergris Cay	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2558</b>	<b>19</b>

## SITUATION SUMMARY

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### The Bahamas

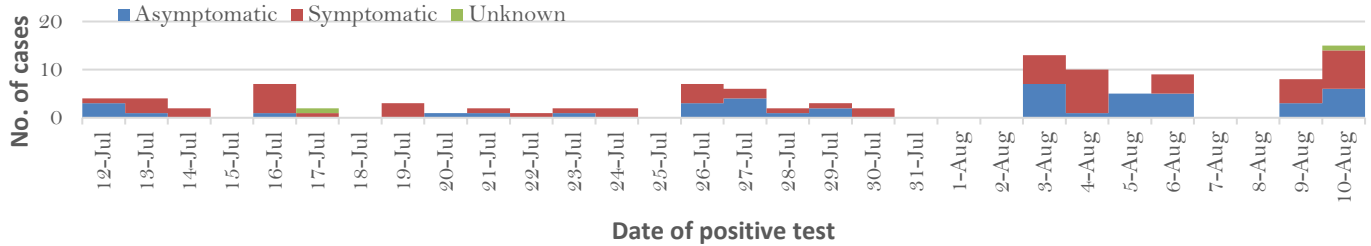
- The number of reported cases has shown an increasing trend.
- Emergency Orders have been extended until 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021.
- Effective 11 August 2021, nightly curfew on Abaco and Exuma mainlands will be from 10:00 pm to 5:00 am and from 9:00 pm to 5:00 am on Grand Bahama, New Providence, and Paradise Island.
- The House of Assembly tabled the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Management Bill, 2021 (draft) on 10 August 2021 for consultation.



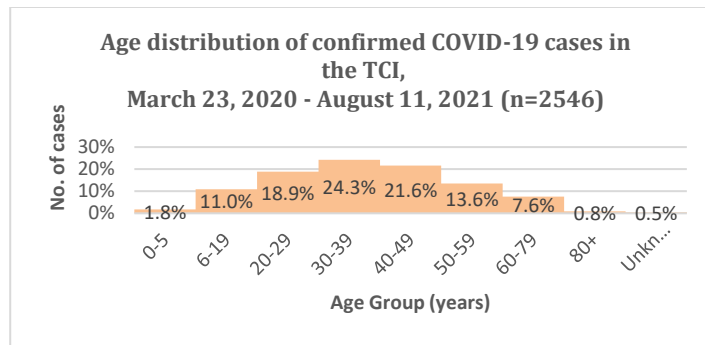
#### Turks and Caicos Islands

- There has been an 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.
- Cabinet approved on 11 August 2021 the following:
  - Effective 1 September 2021:
    - Visitors older than 16 years must be fully vaccinated.
    - Visitors who test positive for COVID-19 must self-isolate for ten days in-country at their own expense and on the seventh day re-test for COVID-19 with a negative result obtained prior to release from isolation.
    - Non-fully vaccinated returning residents must submit a negative COVID-19 test upon arrival, self-quarantine with household for seven days, and test for COVID-19 on the fifth day with a negative result obtained prior to release from quarantine.
  - Effective 6 September 2021:
    - Schools will reopen for face to face instruction.

Symptomatic and Asymptomatic TCI COVID-19 cases by date of positive test  
July 12 - August 10, 2021



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 69



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 69

## 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 first dose resumed and continued for the second dose in both Grand Bahama and New Providence.
- As of 7 August 2021, 62,863 persons received their first dose, and 47,580 persons received their second dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.
- Additional COVID-19 vaccination sites became operational on New Providence, from 9 August to 11 August 2021 at Church of God of Prophecy located East Street, Bahamar in the Melia lobby, and St. Anselm's Church located Bernard Road.
- On 12 August 2021, 128,700 doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine were received in country as a donation from the United States Government.
- Restrictions continue on the amount of traffic into and out of Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) with only emergency cases being allowed for service. Coupled with an increase in hospitalizations for COVID-19 cases at PMH, several staff members of PMH and the Rand Memorial Hospital (RMH) called in sick.
- The PMH Morgue continues to operate over its capacity.
- Moderate to severe COVID-19 cases continue to be treated at PMH, Doctors Hospital West and the RMH 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.
- 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 in March 2021 to the Caribbean Public Health Agency and 100 samples collected between May and July 2021 and sent in July 2021 to the Fiocruz Laboratory in Brazil for genomic sequencing.
- 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, RMH and private sector laboratories.
- Fully-vaccinated travellers, unvaccinated travellers, and children between ages 2 and 11 years continue to require a COVID-19 negative test (either PCR or rapid antigen) done within five days of travel into country or for travel between Abaco, Bimini, Exuma, Grand Bahama, Harbour Island, New Providence and North and South Eleuthera.
- 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.
- A presentation on Go.Data chains of transmission was conducted with Surveillance staff of the Ministry of Health by the PAHO/WHO Project Consultant on 9 August 2021.
- 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 including for children ages 12-15 years of age.
- The Alpha, Gamma and Delta B.1.617.2 Variants of Concern was confirmed to be in-country.
- 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**

- Following the receipt of 128,700 doses of the COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine donated by the USA, vaccine deployment plans in The Bahamas are being adapted to accelerate vaccination.
- 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 additional 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 vaccine uptake due to vaccine hesitancy, especially among health care workers.