



The Bahamas & Turks and Caicos Islands

29 July 2021

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The Bahamas

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 15 March 2020. During the period 23 -29 July 2021, there were 720 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 5 COVID-19 related deaths.

Among the new cases:

- 511 (71%) were from New Providence;
- 303 (42.1%) were males, 415 (57.6%) were females and 2 (0.3%) unknown;
- 35 cases (22 from New Providence, 11 from Exuma, 1 from Grand Bahama and 1 from Eleuthera) were travel-related.

Among the total confirmed cases, 119,041 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 23-29 July 2021, there were 22 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Among new cases 19 (86.4%) were from Providenciales and 3 (13.6%) were from Grand Turk.

Among the total confirmed cases:

- 1190 (47.9%) were males, 1288 (52%) were females, and 1 (0.1%) was unknown gender as of 21 July 2021;
- 26,831 real time PCR tests and 176,800 Rapid Antigen Tests have been conducted.

GLOBAL

196,069,864 Cases
4,192,737 Deaths

REGION OF THE AMERICAS

76,788,166 Cases
2,003,542 Deaths

THE BAHAMAS

14,677 Confirmed
1,723 Active
12,570 Recovered
103 Hospitalized
286 Deaths

TURKS & CAICOS

2,481 Confirmed
25 Active
2,431 Recovered
0 Hospitalized
18 Deaths

Total cases and deaths, as of 29 July 2021

The Bahamas

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
New Providence	10931	212
Grand Bahama	2053	38
Abaco	420	8
Eleuthera	347	2
Exuma	222	2
Bimini/Cat Cay	222	7
Berry Islands	91	2
Inagua	25	0
Andros	179	2
Long Island	26	1
Cat Island	71	1
Acklins	7	0
San Salvador	14	0
Crooked Island	7	0
Mayaguana	3	0
Pending	59	11
TOTAL	14677	286

Turks and Caicos Islands

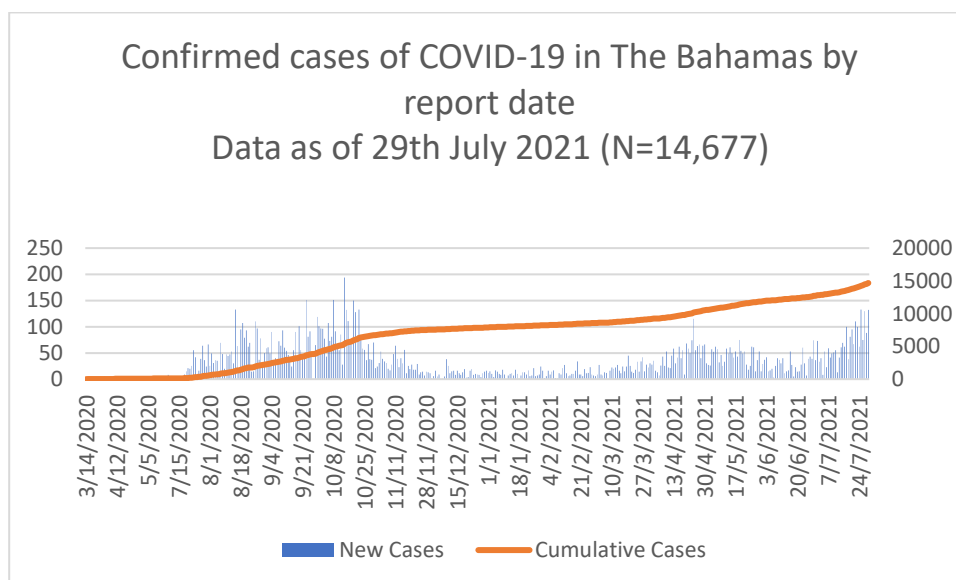
Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Providenciales	1999	13
North Caicos	96	0
Parrot Cay	13	0
Grand Turk	287	5
South Caicos	58	0
Middle Caicos	27	0
Ambergris Cay	1	0
TOTAL	2481	18

SITUATION SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS

The Bahamas

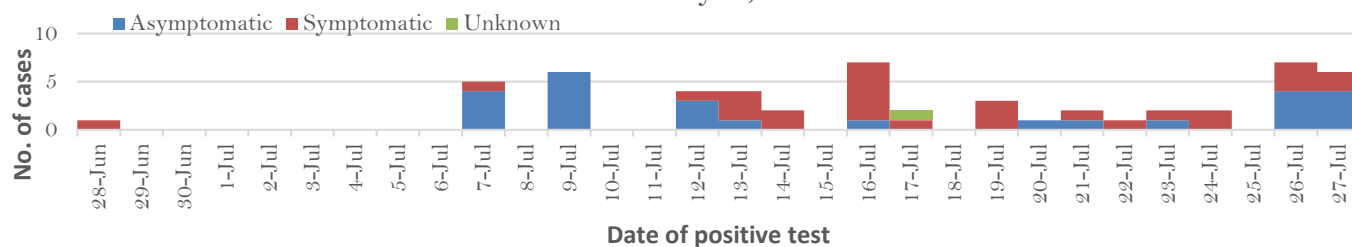
- The number of reported cases has shown an increasing trend.
- Emergency Orders have been extended until 13 August 2021.
- Effective 26th July 2021 the following applied:
 - Nightly curfews from 10:00 pm to 5:00 am for Grand Bahama, New Providence, North and South Eleuthera;
 - No indoor funeral or cremation services on Grand Bahama and New Providence. Only graveside and outdoor services permitted which are limited to one hour and 30 persons not including officiant and funeral workers.
 - Political campaigning throughout all islands is limited to five fully vaccinated persons;
 - Religious services on Grand Bahama and New Providence restricted to one hour and 33% occupancy;
 - Restaurants on Grand Bahama and New Providence restricted to 33% occupancy indoors if persons are fully vaccinated;
 - Social gatherings throughout all islands is limited to five fully vaccinated persons;
 - Weddings are restricted to 30 persons not including officiant and may occur indoors or outdoors. Wedding receptions may only take place outdoors and is restricted to 30 persons.



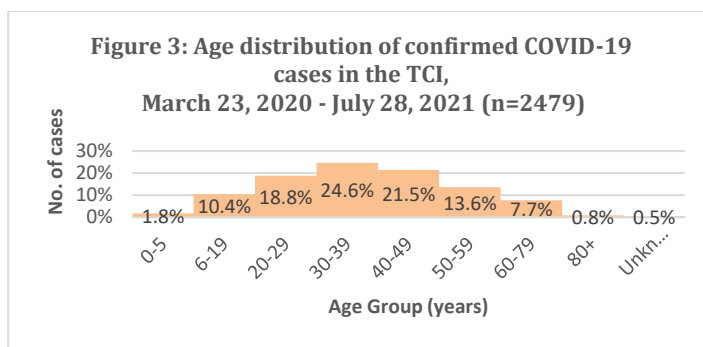
Turks and Caicos Islands

- 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.

Figure 1: Symptomatic and Asymptomatic TCI COVID-19 cases by date of positive test
June 28 - July 27, 2021



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 67



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 67

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 24 July 2021, 60,578 persons received their first dose and 43,943 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 medical supplies including coveralls, medical facemasks, N95 facemasks, Nitrile gloves, and Tuberculin syringes were received from the Chinese Government on 27 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.
- 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 including 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 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.