



The Bahamas & Turks and Caicos Islands

9 September 2021

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The Bahamas

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 15 March 2020. During the period 2-9 September 2021, there were 641 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 41 COVID-19 related deaths.

Among the new cases:

- 515 (80%) were from New Providence;
- 308 (48%) were males and 333 (52%);
- 29 cases (23 from New Providence, 5 from Exuma, and 1 from Grand Bahama) were travel-related.

The total number of real time PCR tests conducted to 9 September 2021 was 137,915 tests.

Turks and Caicos Islands

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 23 March 2020. During the period 2-9 September 2021, there were 62 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Among new cases 56 (90.3%) were from Providenciales, 4 (6.5%) were from Grand Turk and 2 (3.2%) from North Caicos.

Among the total confirmed cases:

- 1296 (47.5%) were males, 1430 (52.4%) were females, and 1 (0.1%) was unknown gender as of 8 September 2021;

The total number of Real time PCR tests and Rapid Antigen Tests conducted to 9 September 2021 was 31,045 and 234,578 tests respectively.

GLOBAL

222,649,153 Cases
4,597,865 Deaths

REGION OF THE AMERICAS

85,969,448 Cases
2,136,263 Deaths

THE BAHAMAS

19,335 Confirmed
3,205 Active
15,557 Recovered
188 Hospitalized
453 Deaths

TURKS & CAICOS

2,736 Confirmed
88 Active
2,620 Recovered
2 Hospitalized
20 Deaths

Total cases and deaths, as of 9 September 2021

The Bahamas

Turks and Caicos Islands

| Island | Confirmed cases | Deaths |
|----------------|-----------------|------------|
| New Providence | 14619 | 318 |
| Grand Bahama | 2368 | 81 |
| Abaco | 618 | 12 |
| Eleuthera | 523 | 6 |
| Exuma | 337 | 6 |
| Bimini/Cat Cay | 235 | 9 |
| Berry Islands | 100 | 2 |
| Inagua | 25 | 0 |
| Andros | 236 | 4 |
| Long Island | 59 | 2 |
| Cat Island | 85 | 1 |
| Acklins | 9 | 0 |
| San Salvador | 16 | 0 |
| Crooked Island | 10 | 0 |
| Mayaguana | 4 | 1 |
| Ragged Island | 0 | 0 |
| Pending | 91 | 11 |
| TOTAL | 19335 | 453 |

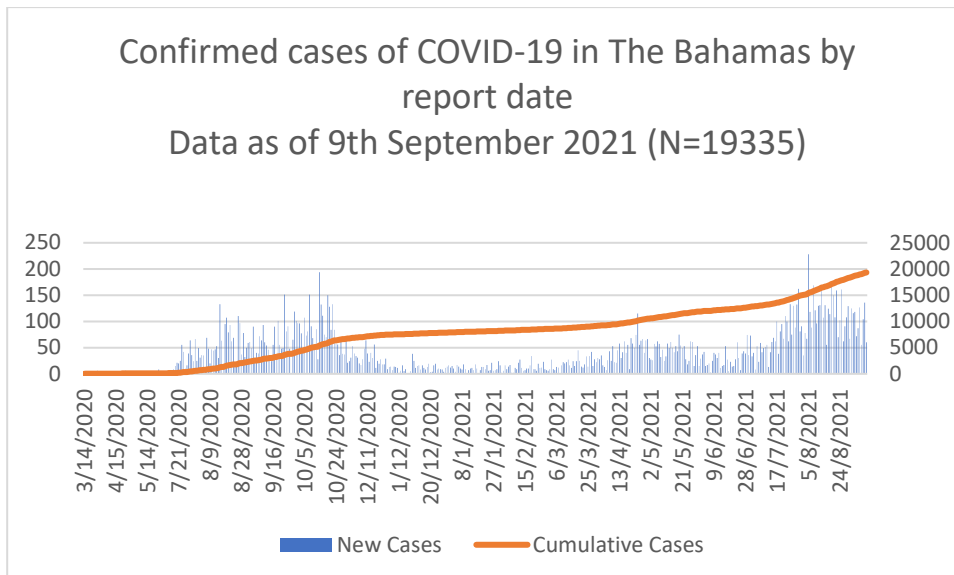
| Island | Confirmed cases | Deaths |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Providenciales | 2227 | 15 |
| North Caicos | 98 | 0 |
| Parrot Cay | 13 | 0 |
| Grand Turk | 312 | 5 |
| South Caicos | 58 | 0 |
| Middle Caicos | 27 | 0 |
| Ambergris Cay | 1 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 2736 | 20 |

SITUATION SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS

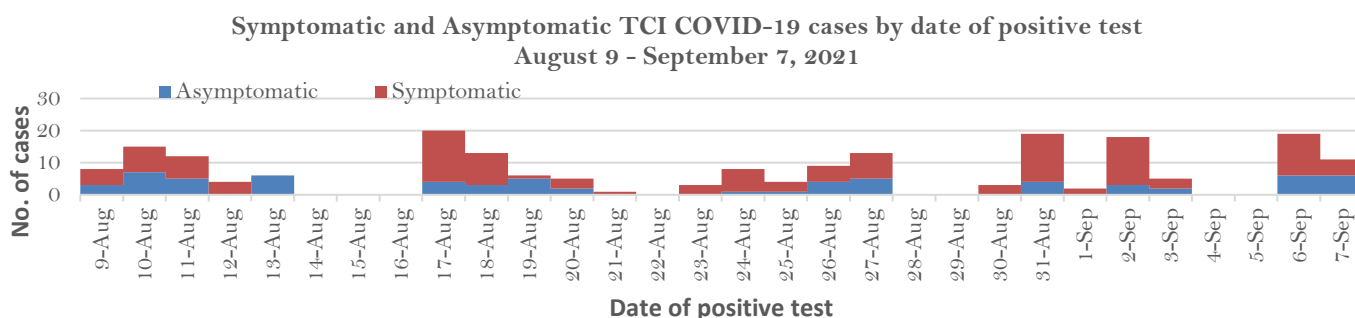
The Bahamas

- The number of reported cases has shown an increasing trend.
- Emergency Orders have been extended until 13th November 2021.

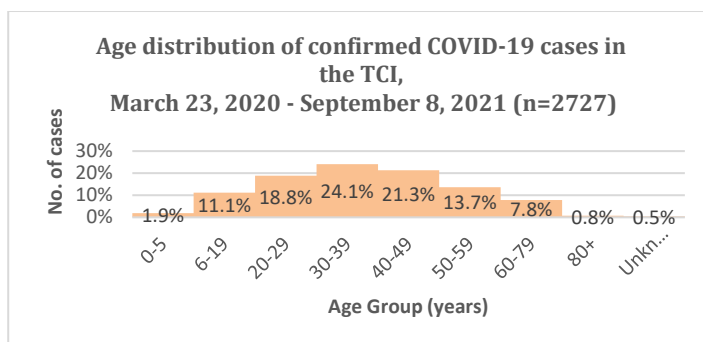


Turks and Caicos Islands

- 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.
- Effective 14 September 2021, all events must track customers/patrons.



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 73



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 73

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 continued throughout Grand Bahama and New Providence. AstraZeneca is only being given for second doses whilst Pfizer and Janssen are being given for persons requiring first doses. Resumption of vaccine distribution commenced on 6 September 2021 in Andros, Exuma, Inagua, Long Island, and Rum Cay.
- Extend operating hours until 7pm for three vaccination sites in New Providence, namely the Kendal Isaacs Gymnasium, Loyal Hall, and St. Joseph's Parish Hall, commenced on 6 September 2021 and will end on 10 September 2021.
- As of 3 September 2021, 5,154 children between the age of 12 to 17 years received their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine.
- As of 4 September 2021, 105,753 persons received their first dose, and 59,002 persons received their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Restrictions continue on the amount of traffic into and out of Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) with only emergency cases being allowed for service. Hospitalizations continue to increase.
- The Public Hospitals Authority has requested that all persons presenting to PMH for emergency care who have taken a COVID-19 test within 72 hours to present the same to the Emergency Room to accelerate triage and treatment.
- 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 Rand Memorial Hospital (RMH) and less severe cases at the South Beach Health Center.
- COVID-19 laboratory PCR testing continues at the National Reference Laboratory (NRL), PMH, RMH and private sector laboratories.
- 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.
- The Alpha and Iota, variant of concern and variant of interest respectively, were detected among samples previously sent to the Fiocruz Laboratory in Brazil for genomic sequencing. On 8 September 2021, the Ministry of Health received results from samples taken between 6 May and 8 August 2021 and sent in August 2021 to Fiocruz. Delta, Alpha, and Gamma, variants of concern, were confirmed among the samples, with the Delta variant being the principal variant among samples.
- Results are pending for ten COVID-19 samples sent in March 2021 to the Caribbean Public Health Agency.
- 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- days post entry for persons 12 and older only.
- Fully-vaccinated 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.
- 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, in collaboration with PAHO/WHO and other partners, 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.

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

- Vaccine deployment plans in The Bahamas continue to be adapted to accelerate vaccination as more vaccines are currently in-country.
- Public compliance with public health protocols and vaccination hesitancy continue to present challenges in both The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands. Vaccine hesitancy is of particular concern among health care workers.
- There continues to be a risk of introduction of additional 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.
- In The Bahamas, the next general election was announced to take place on 16 September 2021 with heightened concerns of effects of campaigning and physical/social distancing protocols and the third wave including increased hospitalizations and deaths.