



The Bahamas & Turks and Caicos Islands

5 November 2021

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The Bahamas

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 15 March 2020. During the period 30 October-5 November 2021, there were 117 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 18 COVID-19 related deaths.

Among the new cases:

- 91 (78%) were from New Providence;
- 60 (51%) were males and 57 (49%) were females;
- 5 cases (all from New Providence) were travel-related.

The total number of real time PCR tests conducted to 5 November 2021 was 159,356 tests.

Turks and Caicos Islands

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 23 March 2020. During the period 30 October-5 November 2021, there were 31 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 0 COVID-19 related deaths.

Among new cases 29 (94%) were from Providenciales.

Among the total confirmed cases:

- 1448 (48.2%) were males and 1553 (51.8%) were females as of 2 November 2021;

The total number of Real time PCR tests and Rapid Antigen Tests conducted to 5 November 2021 was 39,192 and 276,321 tests respectively.

GLOBAL

248,591,173 Cases
5,030,110 Deaths

REGION OF THE AMERICAS

94,202,549 Cases
2,304,923 Deaths

THE BAHAMAS

22,513 Confirmed
284 Active
21,366 Recovered
61 Hospitalized
661 Deaths

TURKS & CAICOS

3,011 Confirmed
46 Active
2,932 Recovered
23 Deaths

Total cases and deaths, as of 5 November 2021

The Bahamas

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
New Providence	17155	472
Grand Bahama	2553	100
Abaco	654	17
Eleuthera	698	12
Exuma	354	9
Bimini/Cat Cay	238	11
Berry Islands	111	4
Inagua	61	3
Andros	278	9
Long Island	109	4
Cat Island	99	3
Acklins	28	0
San Salvador	16	0
Crooked Island	33	0
Mayaguana	21	2
Ragged Island	0	0
Pending	105	15
TOTAL	22513	661

Turks and Caicos Islands

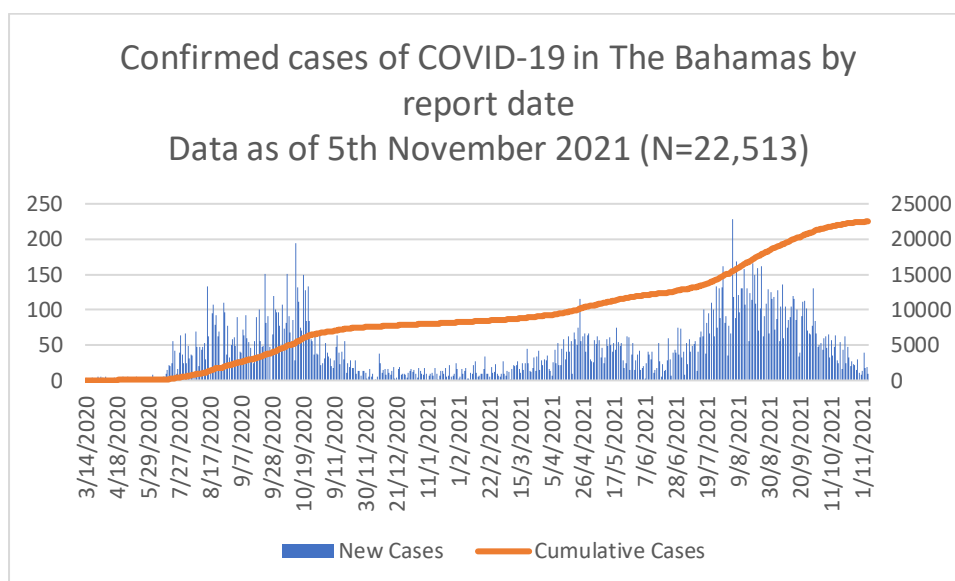
Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Providenciales	2477	18
North Caicos	99	0
Parrot Cay	13	0
Grand Turk	334	5
South Caicos	60	0
Middle Caicos	27	0
Ambergris Cay	1	0
TOTAL	3011	23

SITUATION SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS

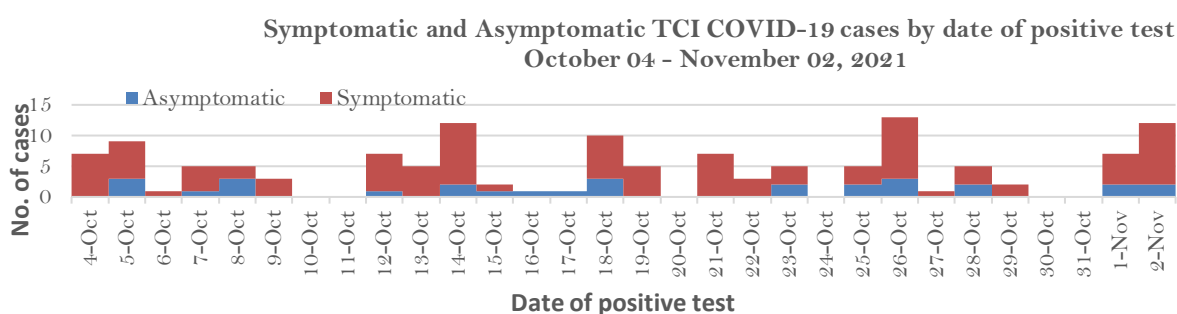
The Bahamas

- There is a decrease in the incidence of new COVID-19 cases, COVID-19 related deaths, and hospitalizations.
- Emergency Orders will remain in place until 13 November 2021.
- The Health Services (COVID-19) (Prevention and Management of Community Spread) Rules, 2021 and the Health Services (COVID-19) (General) Rules, 2021 were tabled in the House of Assembly on 1 November 2021 and will replace the Emergency Orders when they expire.

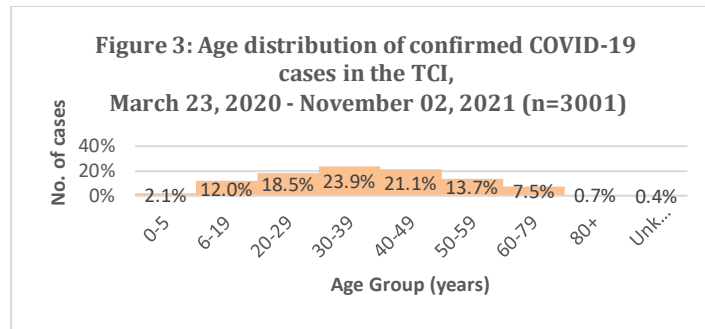


Turks and Caicos Islands

- The number of reported cases is steady.



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 81



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 81

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 New Providence and Grand Bahama.
- As of 31 October 2021, 135,629 persons received their first dose of either the Astra Zeneca or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, and 133,081 persons were fully vaccinated including those who received the one dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.
- On 3 November 2021, the United States Government donated 134,550 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Ministry of Health.
- The COVID-19 Mobile Unit continues to operate and provide vaccinations to individuals who are homebound, hearing impaired, mentally challenged, physically challenged, and visually impaired as well as their caretakers.
- Restrictions continue on the amount of traffic into and out of PMH with only emergency cases being allowed for service. Hospitalizations continue to increase.
- The Public Hospitals Authority continues to request 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.
- 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, Delta, and Gamma, variants of concern, and the Iota, variant of interest, were detected among samples previously sent to the Fiocruz Laboratory in Brazil for genomic sequencing.
- 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.
- 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.
- As of 1 November 2021, 29, 210 first doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered. Approximately 77.5% of the population is fully vaccinated.
- Persons aged over 50 years and the most vulnerable population continue to receive booster vaccines.
- 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.
- PAHO/WHO continues to assist with coordination for genomic sequencing of samples to the FioCruz Laboratory in Brazil.

GAPS/CHALLENGES

- 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 Bahamas, 5-10% of health care workers in the public sector are in quarantine.
- Recent increase in cases in the Southern Bahamas was a cause of concern given the limited medical infrastructure on those islands.