



Situation Overview

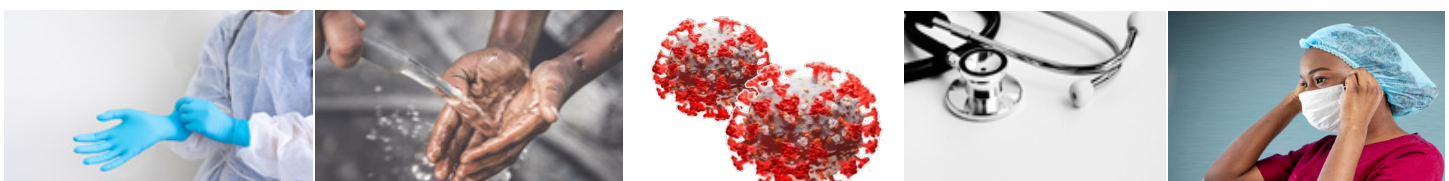
- The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines on the advice of Scientists from the Seismic Research Centre, University of the West Indies, has taken the decision to lower the Volcanic Alert Level from orange to yellow. Activities at the La Soufriere have declined for the last three (3) months and are consistent with a period of unrest following eruptive magmatic activity (explosive eruption) which can be seen by the emission of hot, degassing, near surface magma at the summit of the volcano. A yellow alert means that the volcano is still restless: seismic or fumarolic activity or both are above the historical level at the volcano but have reduced significantly since the last eruption on 22nd April, 2021.
- The lowering of the Volcano Alert Level to Yellow means that all residents who previously evacuated can now return to their homes, this includes residents of the communities of Point and Fancy. All persons in emergency shelters should return to their homes by Monday 20th September, 2021, once it is habitable.

HIGHLIGHTS

# of villages evacuated	0
# of active public shelters (As of 3rd December 2021)	6
# of persons in public shelters	80
# evacuated health facilities (clinics)	1
# Active COVID-19 cases (as of November 28, 2021) ¹	640
7-day moving average # incident COVID-19 cases	16
Total vaccines administered (as of November 28, 2021) - ¹	38,030
Total first dose vaccines administered	54,452
Total first/second dose vaccine administered	31,057/ 22,634

Health Situation

- Only the Sandy Bay Clinic is still closed. Other health clinics and hospitals have re-opened for services.
- COVID-19 case reporting: % change incident cases (wk): 26%



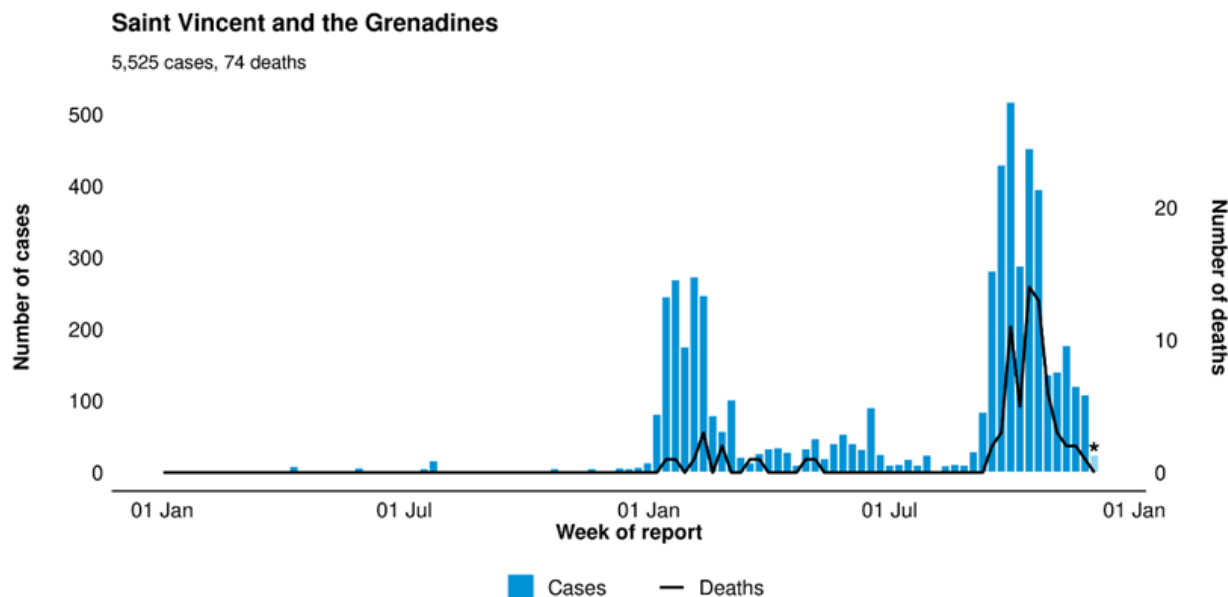


Figure 1: COVID-19 Epidemiological Curve as of 30 November 2021

Source: WHO: <https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/covid/>

PAHO Response Actions (currently in progress)

Surveillance

Update on EWARS in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:

- In addition to the initial EWARS course, PAHO trained one staff at the central level (MoH) to import weekly syndromic data which they collect from the health clinics into EWARS and we have about 5 weeks work of data (EW40 – EW 44). The next step is to teach them how to create dashboards and automated bulletins using the data which has been entered into the system.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MPHSS)

- PAHO is currently partnering with the Ministry of Health to produce a jingle for use in a social media campaign aimed at building individual and community resilience
- A four series weekly webinar, organized by PAHO and other collaborating agencies, Universal Health Coverage Partnership (UHC-P), Ministry of Health St Vincent and the Grenadines, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and Caribbean Alliance of National Psychological Associates (CANPA) and facilitated by Dr Katija Khana and Dr Peter Weller from CANPA. They aimed to expose participants to practical skills in coping with stress specifically utilizing and embracing the principle of “unhooking” and “grounding” exercises to help “engage” in life as espoused in the evidence-based WHO publication “Doing what matter in times of stress”.
- The webinars were delivered on a weekly basis commencing November 4 and ending on November 25. These sessions were conducted during the lunch hour from 1:00-2:00pm. Although hosted by St Vincent and the Grenadines, a total sum of 568 persons from 22 countries registered for the webinars. These countries included other OECS countries, other Caribbean countries such as Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica and other countries from as far as Argentina and the UK. Health care workers were the most represented occupation, representing 43.7% of the registrants, followed by social workers (14.8%). A total of 65 participants registered from St Vincent and the Grenadines. Attendance at the webinars varied across sessions with numbers ranging between 100 – 135 participants. Among those registered were 52 educators, 46 counsellors, 22 psychologists and 31 members of the clergy.

- The Mental Health Unit in the Ministry of Health continues to collaborate with PAHO to integrate mental health into Primary Health Care. 100 manuals to support the capacity building in mhGAP- Humanitarian Intervention Guide (HIG) have been made available and capacity building is being provided in Problem Management Plus (PM+) which provides individual psychological help for adults impaired by distress in communities exposed to adversity.

Non-communicable Diseases (NCD)

- The refresher trainings for the utilization of the NCD kits were held on September 22 and 29. Nutrition: A series of audio messages are currently being aired on the local radio "What yo Cooking" aimed at educating the general population on eating habits post-volcanic eruption. PAHO is currently partnering with the Ministry of Health to produce a jingle for use in a social media campaign.
- Public Service Announcements are currently being aired on selected local radio stations aimed at strengthening resilience.
- The NCD Emergency kits were formally presented to the Ministry of Health by Mrs Nicole Slack-Liburd, Country Programme Specialist on November 15 in recognition of World Diabetes Day. In attendance were the Permanent Secretary of Health, Mr. Cuthbert Knights and the Chief Pharmacist, Mr. Levi Walker who acknowledged the role that these kits will play in the mitigating against the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the NCD programme with emphasis on meeting the medication needs of persons displaced.
- Four hemodialysis machines were donated by PAHO to the Ministry of Health and will be officially handed over in December. A patient guide to support patients on hemodialysis, including what to do in emergencies, is currently being prepared.

Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH)

- PAHO has completed the contract process and WASH interventions as identified by MOH in consultation with PAHO WASH expert in 20 health facilities located throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines as part of the grant awards from ECHO, USAID and PAHO has begun. The WASH interventions are about to be finalized at the following 20 clinics:

Fancy Clinic	Diamond Village Health Centre
Owia Clinic	South Rivers Health Centre
Sandy Bay Clinic	Stubbs Poly Clinic
Overland Clinic	Doreen John (Greggs) Health Centre
Troumaca Clinic	Evesham Health Centre
Rose Hall Clinic	Biabou Health Centre
Coulls Hill Clinic	Argyle COVID IC
Spring Village Health Centre	Calliaqua Health Centre
Byera Health Centre	Mental Health Rehabilitation Facility
Colonaire Health Centre	Buccament Polyclinic



Installation of water base at Colonaire Health Centre



Installation of water tanks at the Mental Health Rehabilitation Centre



Ongoing works at Calliaqua Health Centre. Under the water tanks the MoH funded a dental area.



Mr. Levi Walker, Chief Pharmacist, Ms. Nicole Slack-Liburd, PAHO Country Programme Specialist.

On Thursday 18th November the US Ambassador for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Linda Tagliatela and the USAID regional representative Mr. Clinton White visited the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment and the PAHO team in SVG, where they received an update on the implementation of the USAID funding.



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