



The Bahamas & Turks and Caicos Islands

11 March 2022

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The Bahamas

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 15 March 2020. During the period 5-11 March 2022, there were 23 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 0 COVID-19 related deaths.

Among the new cases:

- 17 (74%) were from New Providence;
- 9 (39%) males and 14 (61%) females;
- 2 cases (1 from Eleuthera and 1 from New Providence) were travel-related.

The total number of real time PCR tests conducted to 11 March 2022 was 223,636 tests.

Turks and Caicos Islands

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 23 March 2020. During the period 3-9 March 2022, there were 9 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 0 COVID-19 related deaths.

Among new cases, 9 (100%) cases were from Providenciales as of 9 March 2022.

Among the total confirmed cases:

- 2815 (47.9%) were males, 3045 (51.8%) were females, and 19 (0.3%) were unknown gender as of 9 March 2022;

THE BAHAMAS

33,194 Confirmed
103 Active
32,108 Recovered
14 Hospitalized
771 Deaths

TURKS & CAICOS (as of 9 Mar. 2022)

5,879 Confirmed
19 Active
5,809 Recovered
0 Hospitalized
36 Deaths

Total cases and deaths

The Bahamas (as 11 March 2022)

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
New Providence	26118	547
Grand Bahama	3380	121
Abaco	794	23
Eleuthera	833	18
Exuma	553	10
Bimini/Cat Cay	271	13
Berry Islands	152	4
Inagua	85	3
Andros	375	9
Long Island	144	4
Cat Island	134	3
Acklins	41	0
San Salvador	18	0
Crooked Island	35	0
Mayaguana	21	2
Ragged Island	0	0
Pending	240	14
TOTAL	33194	771

Turks and Caicos Islands (as of 9 March 2022)

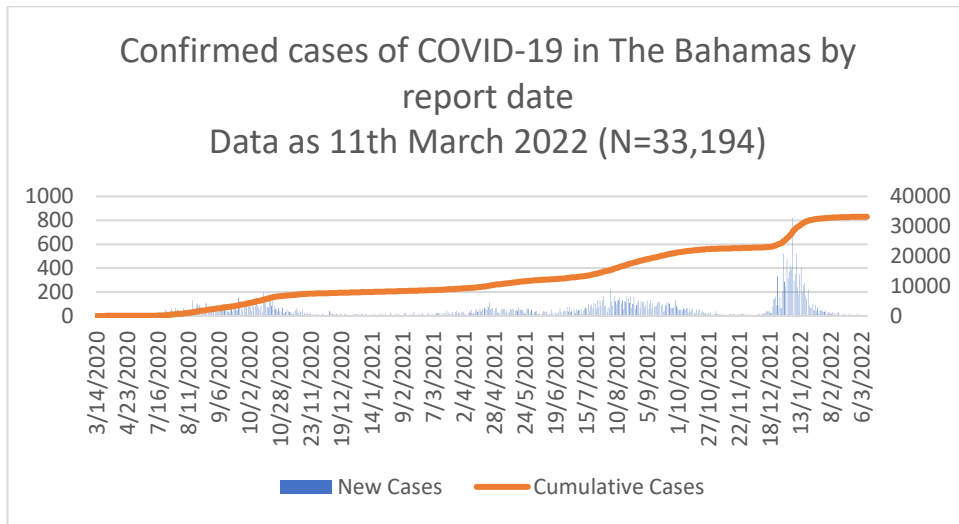
Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Providenciales	4815	24
North Caicos	129	0
Parrot Cay	20	0
Grand Turk	770	9
South Caicos	103	1
Middle Caicos	36	0
Ambergris Cay	3	0
Pine Cay	1	0
Salt Cay	2	0
Unknown	0	3
TOTAL	5879	36

SITUATION SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS

The Bahamas

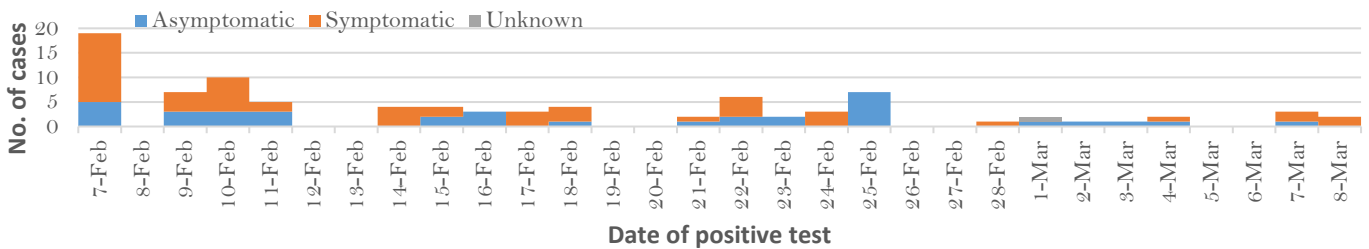
- The incidence of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in country remains low, with the cumulative cases at a plateau.
- For the second consecutive week, there has been no reported deaths.
- The Health Services (COVID-19) (Prevention and Management of Community Spread) Rules, 2021 and the Health Services (COVID-19) (General) Rules, 2021 remain in effect.



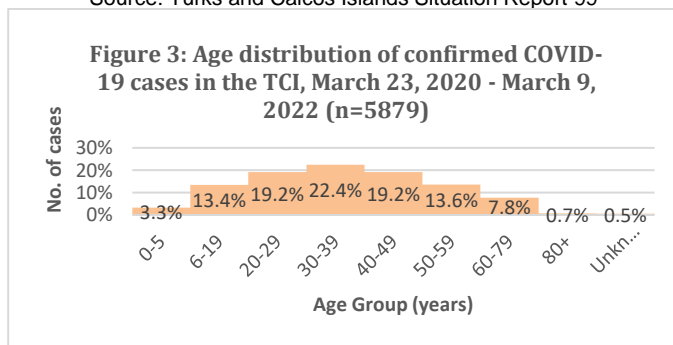
Turks and Caicos Islands

- The incidence of new COVID-19 cases in country remains low, with the cumulative cases at a plateau.
- For the third consecutive week, there has been no reported deaths.

Symptomatic and Asymptomatic TCI COVID-19 cases by date of positive test February 7 to March 8, 2022 (n=91)



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 99



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 99

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 including extended and booster dose vaccinations continued throughout The Bahamas.
- Restrictions continue on the amount of traffic into and out of the Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) and the Rand Memorial Hospital (RMH) in Grand Bahama.
- PMH visitors are only permitted on the General Wards for persons 65 and older, Intensive and Neonatal Care, and Paediatric Units.
- On 7 March 2022, regular clinic services resumed at the Community Clinics and Outpatient Specialty Clinics and visitors permitted on the Diah, Obstetrics, and Paediatrics Wards, Intensive Care and Step-Down Units at RMH in Grand Bahama.
- Moderate to severe COVID-19 cases continue to be treated at PMH, Doctors Hospital West and the RMH.
- On 11 March 2022, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lowered its travel advisory to The Bahamas from a Level 4-Do not travel to a Level 3-Reconsider travel.
- 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.
- 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. The Omicron, variant of concern, was recently detected in one sample sent for genomic sequencing.
- An on-line contact tracing course continues to be offered through the University of The Bahamas.
- Go.Data continues to be utilized for data collection of confirmed COVID-19 cases and contact tracing.
- Health visas are no longer needed for Bahamian citizens and permanent residences returning to The Bahamas.
- Incoming travellers and persons travelling from Grand Bahama or New Providence must present a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours. For fully vaccinated persons, this may be a RT-PCR test or Rapid Antigen COVID-19 test and for non-vaccinated persons this must be a RT-PCR test.
- For visitors out to sea on the second day of their stay in-country, they must take a Rapid Antigen COVID-19 test at the first Port of Call and submit results to the travel health visa website.
- The Public Hospital's Authority continues to distribute personal protective equipment across all public hospitals and clinics.
- A Cuban health contingent of 42 Cuban specialized Nurses continues to support clinical care through a bilateral agreement between the two countries.
- Ministry of Health and Wellness continues to provide telemedicine, telepsychology, mental health, and psychosocial support services.
- Ministry of Health and Wellness, in collaboration with PAHO/WHO and other partners, continues to implement a communication campaign to increase immunization coverage for influenza and other vaccines.
- Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Office of the Prime Minister and PAHO/WHO are collaborating on the implementation of a revised communication strategy for increasing COVID-19 vaccination coverage, informed by the results of a recent social mobilization project and vaccination survey.

Turks and Caicos Islands

- COVID-19 vaccine distribution continued throughout the islands, including for children ages 12-15 years of age.
- On 7 March 2022, 300 doses of the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 were received in-country for distribution to children 5-11 years of age commencing 15 March 2022.
- More than 83% of the population is fully vaccinated with 88% of persons receiving at least their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination.
- Persons 16 years and over are eligible and continue to receive booster vaccines.
- The Alpha, Gamma, Delta B.1.617.2 and Omicron 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.
- A Cuban health contingent of 20 persons continues to support operations in the TCI Hospitals through a bilateral agreement between the two countries.

GAPS/CHALLENGES

- Public compliance with public health protocols and vaccination hesitancy and resistance continue to present challenges in both The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands. Vaccine hesitancy/resistance is of particular concern among vulnerable populations, health care workers and other emergency and frontline workers.
- 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.
- While a nursing shortage continues in The Bahamas, 42 Cuban nurses were hired to address this issue as well as staff burnout.