



The Bahamas & Turks and Caicos Islands

20 May 2022

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The Bahamas

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 15 March 2020. During the period 14-20 May 2022, there were 341 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 9 COVID-19 related deaths reported (all deaths occurred in 2021).

Among the new cases:

- 286 (84%) were from New Providence;
- 139 (41%) males and 202 (95%) females;
- 99 cases (83 from New Providence, 8 from Exuma, 4 Andros, 2 from Grand Bahama, 1 from Eleuthera, and 1 from Berry Islands) were travel-related.

The total number of real time PCR tests conducted to 20 May 2022 was 235,192 tests.

Turks and Caicos Islands

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 23 March 2020. During the period 12-19 May 2022, there were 46 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 0 COVID-19 related deaths.

Among new cases, 27 (59%) cases were from Providenciales as of 19 May 2022.

Among the total confirmed cases:

- 2909 (47.9%) were males, 3184 (51.8%) were females, and 19 (0.3%) were unknown gender as of 19 May 2022;

THE BAHAMAS (as of 20 May 2022)

34,212 Confirmed
618 Active
32,579 Recovered
10 Hospitalized
810 Deaths

TURKS & CAICOS (as of 19 May 2022)

6,112 Confirmed
22 Active
6,039 Recovered
0 Hospitalized
36 Deaths

Total cases and deaths

The Bahamas (as 20 May 2022)

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
New Providence	26990	576
Grand Bahama	3436	128
Abaco	816	24
Eleuthera	849	18
Exuma	571	10
Bimini/Cat Cay	272	13
Berry Islands	167	4
Inagua	85	4
Andros	380	9
Long Island	145	5
Cat Island	134	3
Acklins	41	0
San Salvador	18	0
Crooked Island	35	0
Mayaguana	21	2
Ragged Island	0	0
Pending	252	14
TOTAL	34212	810

Turks and Caicos Islands (as of 19 May 2022)

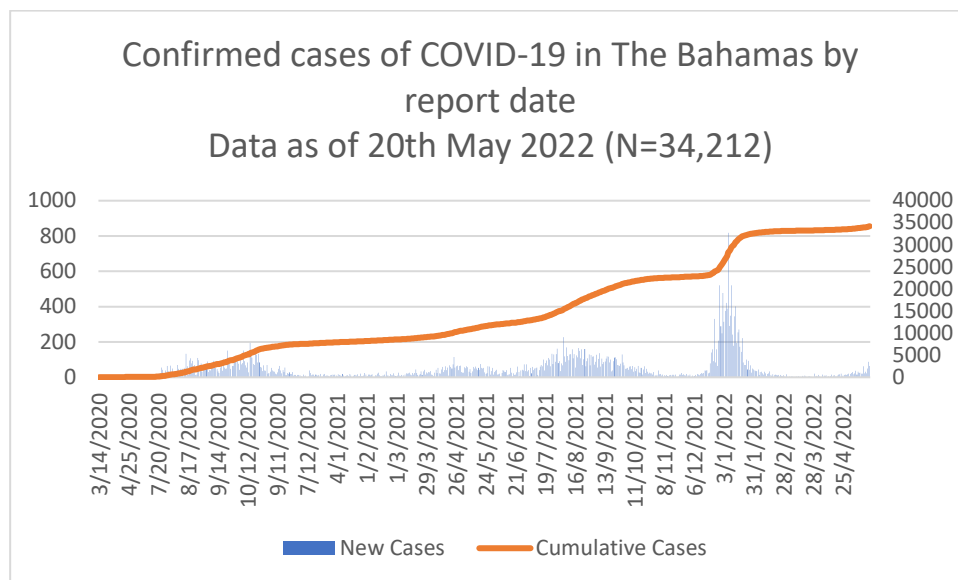
Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Providenciales	5003	24
North Caicos	130	0
Parrot Cay	20	0
Grand Turk	813	9
South Caicos	104	1
Middle Caicos	36	0
Ambergris Cay	3	0
Pine Cay	1	0
Salt Cay	2	0
Unknown	0	3
TOTAL	6112	36

SITUATION SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS

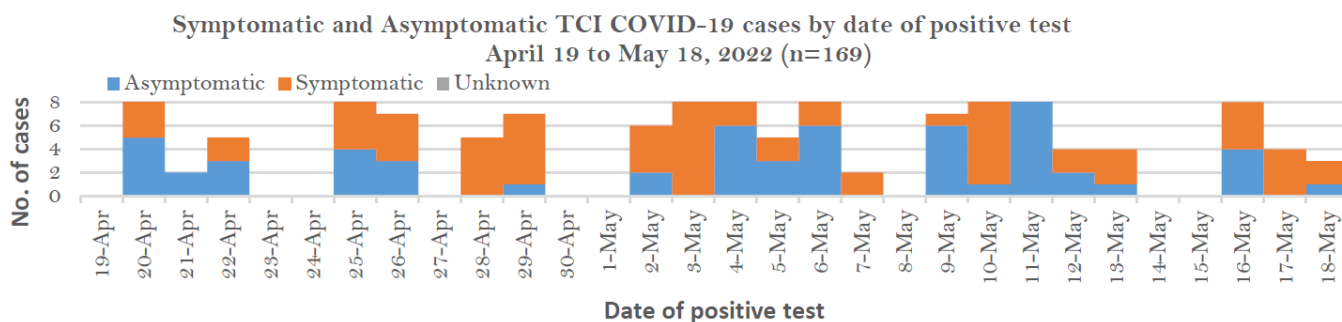
The Bahamas

- The incidence of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in country remains low, with the cumulative cases at a slight increase.
- 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.

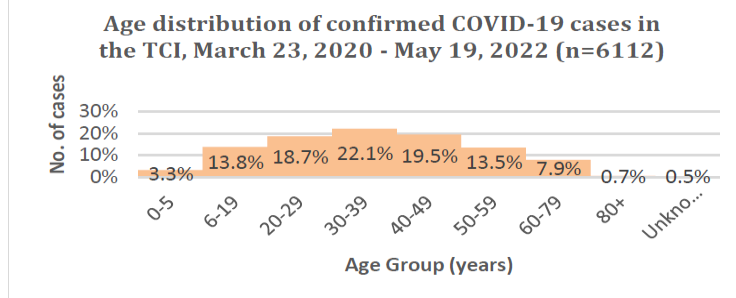


Turks and Caicos Islands

- While the incidence of new COVID-19 cases in country remains low, there is a slight increase in the cumulative cases.
- For the thirteenth consecutive week, there have been no reported deaths.



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 109



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 109

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.
- As of 14 May 2022, 166,195 persons were fully vaccinated including those who received the one dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.
- On 12 May 2022, the Ministry of Health and Wellness issued a press release advising of COVID-19 cases in several New Providence schools, specifically as of 10 May 2022, 38 RT-PCR confirmed cases occurred during a four-week period.
- 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. Emergency services are only being accommodated in the Emergency Departments.
- On 18 May 2022, the Public Hospitals Authority (PHA) announced a restriction on the number of visitors per patient to two persons only for a maximum of fifteen minutes.
- On 19 May 2022, PHA announced PMH was operating at its full capacity due to non-COVID-19 patients and there would be a reduction in services at the PMH Family Medicine Clinic at Agape House due to nursing staff deployment to PMH and
- Moderate to severe COVID-19 cases continue to be treated at PMH, Doctors Hospital West and the RMH.
- 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, Gamma and Omicron variants of concern, and the Iota, variant of interest, have been confirmed in country. Omicron is the main circulating variant.
- Ministry of Health and Wellness has agreed to implement in-country genomic sequencing for SARS-CoV-2 through collaboration with the PAHO/WHO and the COVID-19 Genomic Surveillance Regional Network.
- 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.
- The Public Hospitals 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 5-11 years of age.
- Persons 16 years and over are eligible and continue to receive booster vaccines.
- 85% of the population is fully vaccinated and 19% of the population has received a booster dose.
- The Alpha, Gamma, Delta B.1.617.2 and Omicron and Omicron BA.2 Variants of Concern have been confirmed in-country. Omicron is the main circulating variant.
- 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.