



## The Bahamas & Turks and Caicos Islands

29 April 2022

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

#### The Bahamas

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 15 March 2020. During the period 23-29 April 2022, there were 95 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 9 COVID-19 related deaths (While these deaths were classified during the reporting period, they occurred outside of the reporting period-7 from 2020, 1 from 2021, and 1 from early April 2022).

Among the new cases:

- 81 (85%) were from New Providence;
- 44 (46%) males and 51 (54%) females;
- 30 cases (24 from New Providence, 2 from Grand Bahama, 2 from Exuma, and 2 from Abaco) were travel-related.

The total number of real time PCR tests conducted to 29 April 2022 was 231,553 tests.

#### Turks and Caicos Islands

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 23 March 2020. During the period 21-27 April 2022, there were 38 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 0 COVID-19 related deaths.

Among new cases, 37 (97%) cases were from Providenciales as of 27 April 2022.

Among the total confirmed cases:

- 2860 (47.8%) were males, 3104 (51.9%) were females, and 19 (0.3%) were unknown gender as of 27 April 2022;

#### THE BAHAMAS (as of 29 Apr. 2022)

33,558 Confirmed  
191 Active  
32,355 Recovered  
8 Hospitalized  
798 Deaths

#### TURKS & CAICOS (as of 27 Apr. 2022)

5,983 Confirmed  
70 Active  
5,862 Recovered  
0 Hospitalized  
36 Deaths

#### Total cases and deaths

##### The Bahamas (as 29 April 2022)

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
New Providence	26424	568
Grand Bahama	3408	126
Abaco	801	24
Eleuthera	840	18
Exuma	562	10
Bimini/Cat Cay	272	13
Berry Islands	153	4
Inagua	85	3
Andros	375	9
Long Island	145	4
Cat Island	134	3
Acklins	41	0
San Salvador	18	0
Crooked Island	35	0
Mayaguana	21	2
Ragged Island	0	0
Pending	244	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33558</b>	<b>798</b>

##### Turks and Caicos Islands (as of 27 April 2022)

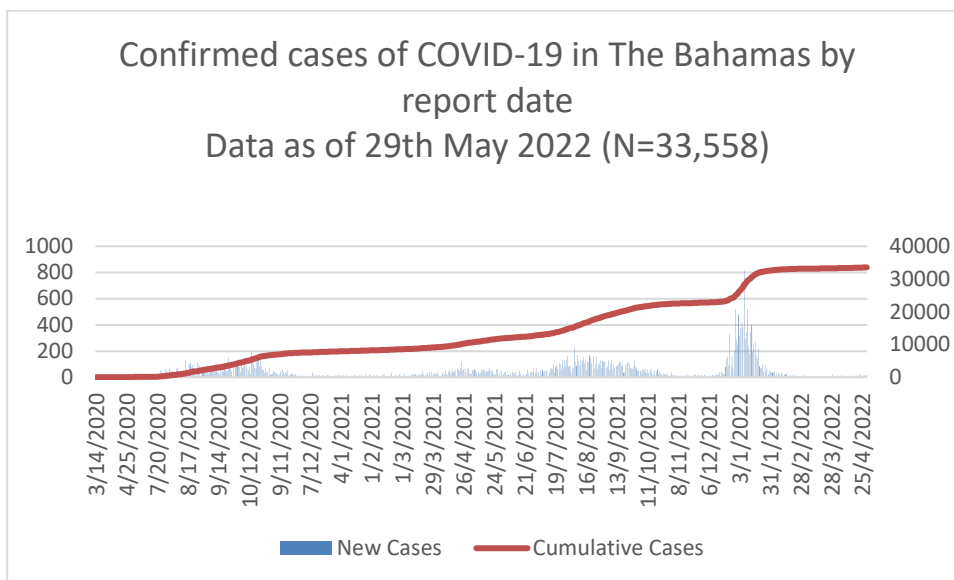
Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Providenciales	4912	24
North Caicos	129	0
Parrot Cay	20	0
Grand Turk	776	9
South Caicos	104	1
Middle Caicos	36	0
Ambergris Cay	3	0
Pine Cay	1	0
Salt Cay	2	0
Unknown	0	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5983</b>	<b>36</b>

## SITUATION SUMMARY

### HIGHLIGHTS

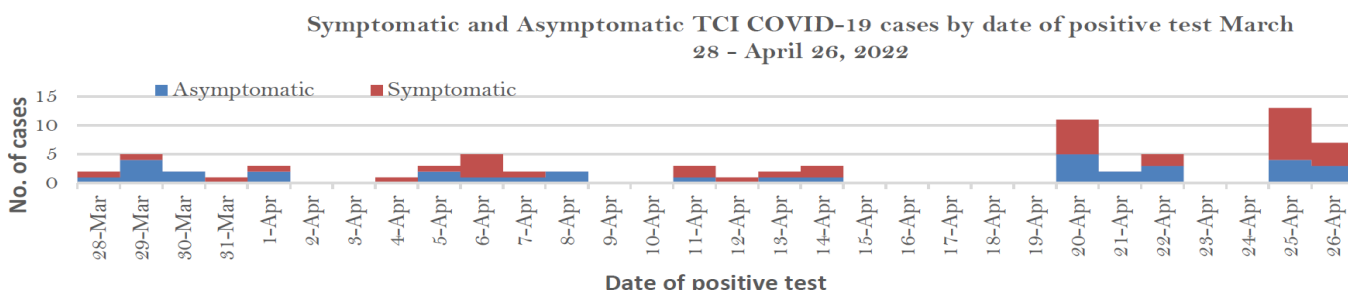
#### The Bahamas

- 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.

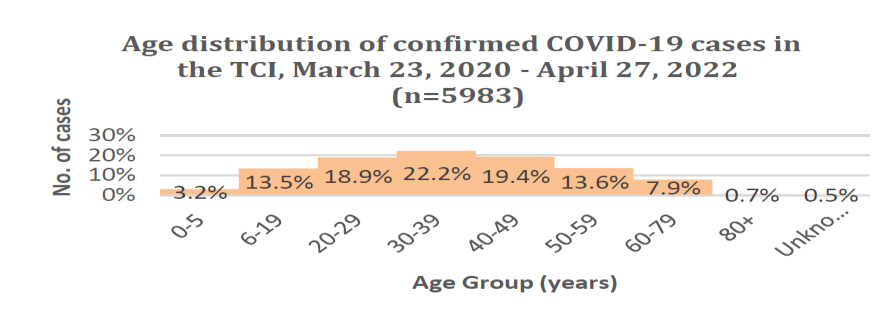


#### Turks and Caicos Islands

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



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 106



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## 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 23 April 2022, 155,036 persons received their first dose of either the Astra Zeneca or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, and 165,156 persons were fully vaccinated including those who received the one dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.
- 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. Visiting hours on the General Wards are now from 6 pm to 8 pm on weekdays and 2 pm to 4 pm on weekends.
- 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.
- 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.

- On 25 April 2022, the Ministry of Health commenced distribution of the fourth dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to certain priority groups including high-risk immunosuppressed persons and those 60 years and older.
- On 29 April 2022, the BA.2 Variant, a subvariant of Omicron, was confirmed to be in-country through the Caribbean Public Health Agency.
- The Alpha, Gamma, Delta B.1.617.2 and Omicron Variants of Concern have been confirmed 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.