



The Bahamas & Turks and Caicos Islands

8 July 2022

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The Bahamas

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 15 March 2020. During the period 2-8 July 2022, there were 216 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 2 COVID-19 related deaths reported.

Among the new cases:

- 177 (81.9%) were from New Providence;
- 104 (48%) males and 112 (52%) females; and
- 0 cases were travel related.

The total number of real time PCR tests conducted to 8 July 2022 was 244,036 tests.

Turks and Caicos Islands

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on 23 March 2020. During the period 30 June 2022 – 6 July 2022, there were 24 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 0 COVID-19 related deaths.

Among the total confirmed cases:

- 5,090 (81.4%) cases were from Providenciales as of 6 July 2022.
- 2968 (47.5%) were males, 3263 (52.2%) were females, and 19 (0.3%) were of unknown gender as of 6 July 2022.

THE BAHAMAS (as of 8 July 2022)

36,245 Confirmed
530 Active
34,682 Recovered
53 Hospitalized
822 Deaths

TURKS & CAICOS (as of 6 June 2022)

6,250 Confirmed
57 Active
6,142 Recovered
2 Hospitalized
36 Deaths

Total cases and deaths

The Bahamas (as 8 July 2022)

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
New Providence	28740	584
Grand Bahama	3567	128
Abaco	834	25
Eleuthera	875	18
Exuma	589	10
Bimini/Cat Cay	286	13
Berry Islands	173	5
Inagua	91	4
Andros	398	9
Long Island	148	5
Cat Island	155	3
Acklins	41	0
San Salvador	20	0
Crooked Island	40	0
Mayaguana	21	2
Ragged Island	0	0
Pending	267	16
TOTAL	36245	822

Turks and Caicos Islands (as of 6 July 2022)

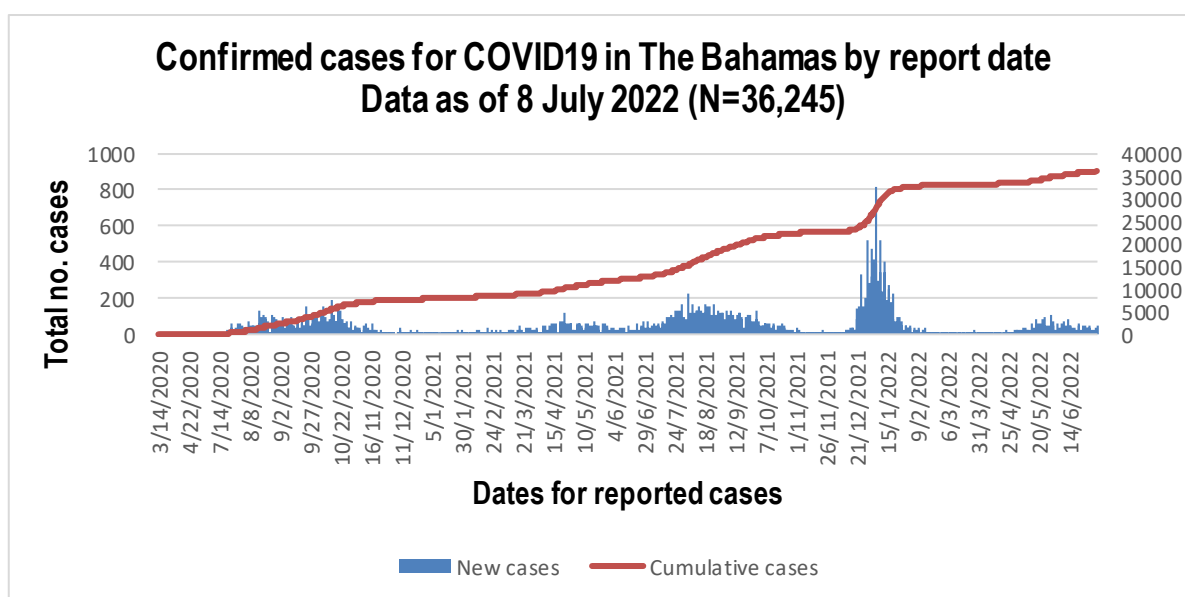
Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Providenciales	5090	24
North Caicos	131	0
Parrot Cay	20	0
Grand Turk	857	11
South Caicos	108	1
Middle Caicos	36	0
Ambergris Cay	4	0
Pine Cay	1	0
Salt Cay	3	0
Unknown	0	0
TOTAL	6250	36

SITUATION SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS

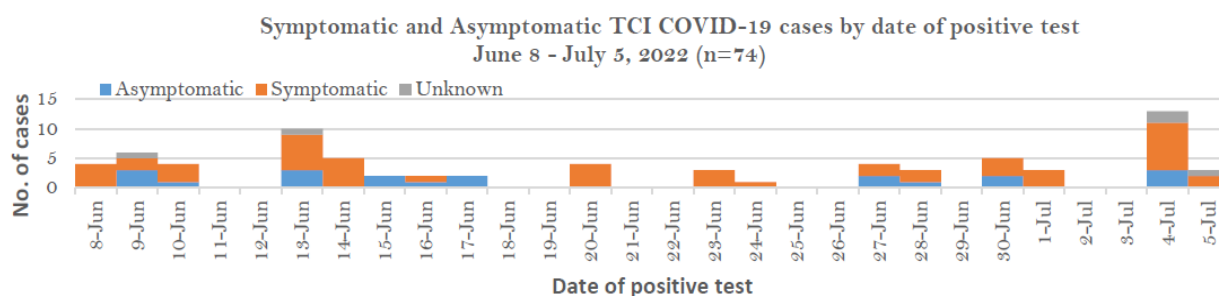
The Bahamas

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

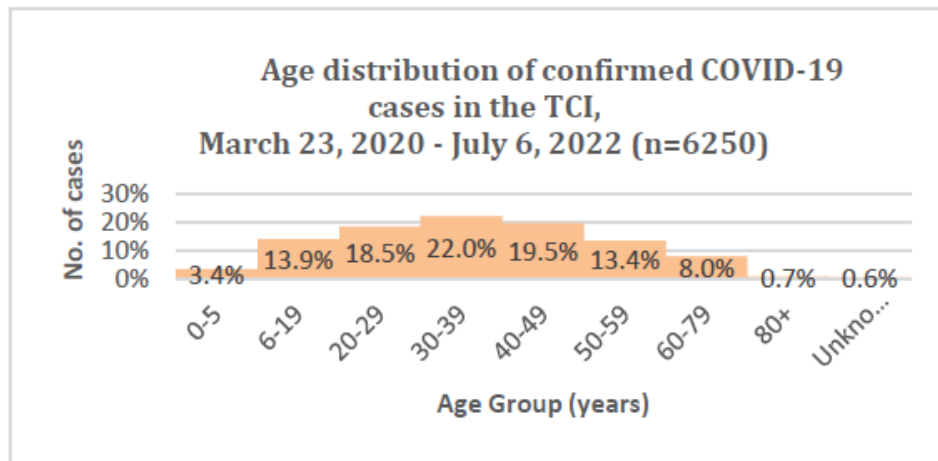


Turks and Caicos Islands

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



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 116



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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.
- PAHO/WHO continues to promote awareness for the COVID19 pandemic through ongoing public service announcements.
- PAHO/WHO continues to provide technical support for full implementation of the Electronic Immunization Registry (EIR) which will be used as a repository for COVID19 vaccination data.

The Bahamas

- COVID-19 vaccine distribution including extended and booster dose vaccinations continues throughout The Bahamas.
- As of 2 July 2022, 168,631 persons were fully vaccinated including those who received the one dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.
- The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advised that as of 12 June 2022, a negative COVID-19 test will no longer be required for entry into the United States of America.
- 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.
- 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.
- PAHO/WHO and the COVID-19 Genomic Surveillance Regional Network continue to liaise with the Ministry of Health and Wellness to implement in-country genomic sequencing for SARS-CoV-2.
- 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.
- Ministry of Health and Wellness through collaboration with PAHO/WHO conducted training in Grand

Bahama 27 June 2022, for the Electronic Immunization Registry which will include COVID-19 vaccinations.

- 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 continue collaboration on a communication strategy for increasing COVID-19 vaccination coverage, informed by the results of a recent social mobilization project and vaccination survey.
- Effective 19 June 2022 vaccinated persons are no longer required to have negative COVID-19 test to enter The Bahamas.
- Effective 19 June 2022, a travel health visa is no longer required for visitor entry into The Bahamas.
- As of 8 July 2022, the CDC made available a social media toolkit that is geared toward COVID-19 vaccines for children and teens.

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 with 21,011 tests performed as of 5 July 2022.
- 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. Work is underway to increase laboratory testing capacity for genomic sequencing for SARS-CoV2 in The Bahamas.
- 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 are 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.

- Turks and Caicos Islands continue to be challenged with a large undocumented population of irregular migrants (together with frequent influx).