



The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands

July 16 - August 5, 2022

THE SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The Bahamas

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on March 15, 2020. During the three-week period July 16 - August 5, 2022, The Bahamas reported 376 newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and no (0) newly confirmed COVID-19 related deaths.

Among the total confirmed cases:

- At least 241 (64%)* are from New Providence; and
 - Approximately 74 (41%)* are men and 107 (59%) are women
- *NOTE: Gender and location were not available for four days during this period.

As of August 5, The Bahamas conducted a total of 248,031 real time PCR tests.

Turks and Caicos Islands

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on March 23, 2020. During the three-week period July 14 - August 3, 2022, the Turks and Caicos Islands reported 82 newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and no (0) newly confirmed COVID-19 related deaths.

Among the total confirmed cases:

- 5,138 (81.1%) were from Providenciales, and
- 3,309 (52.3%) were women, 3,004 (47.4%) were men, and 19 (0.3%) were unknown.

As of August 3, TCI conducted a total of 21,160 real time PCR tests.

THE BAHAMAS (As of August 5, 2022)

Confirmed	36,812
Active	310
Recovered	35,464
Hospitalized	31
Deaths	822

TURKS AND CAICOS (As of August 3, 2022)

Confirmed	6,332
Active	18
Recovered	6,263
Hospitalized	218
Deaths	36

Total cases and deaths

The Bahamas (as of August 5, 2022)

Turks and Caicos Islands (as of August 3, 2022)

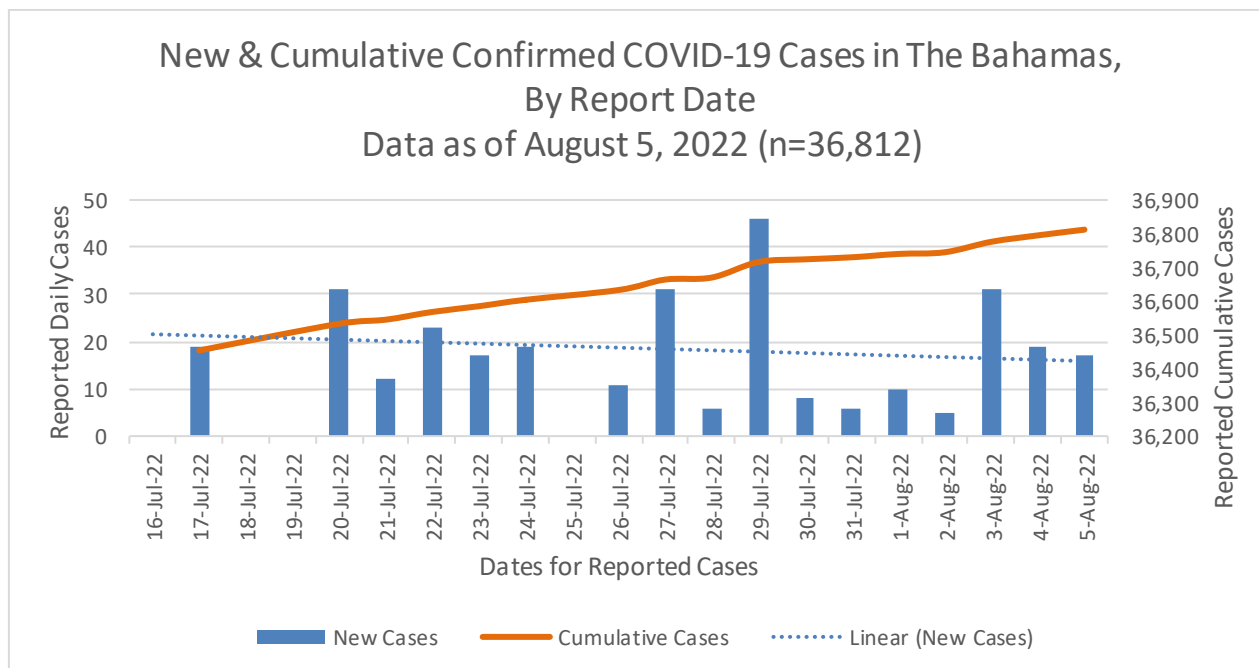
Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
New Providence	29,204	584
Grand Bahama	3,623	128
Abaco	849	25
Eleuthera	882	18
Exuma	591	10
Bimini & Cat Cay	288	13
Berry Islands	173	5
Inagua	93	4
Andros	406	9
Long Island	148	5
Cat Island	156	3
Acklins	41	0
San Salvador	21	0
Crooked Island	40	0
Mayaguana	21	2
Ragged Island	0	0
Locations Pending	276	16
TOTAL	36,812	822

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Providenciales	5,138	24
North Caicos	132	0
Parrot Cay	20	0
Grand Turk	888	11
South Caicos	110	1
Middle Caicos	36	0
Ambergris Cay	4	0
Pine Cay	1	0
Salt Cay	3	0
Unknown	0	0
TOTAL	6,332	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.

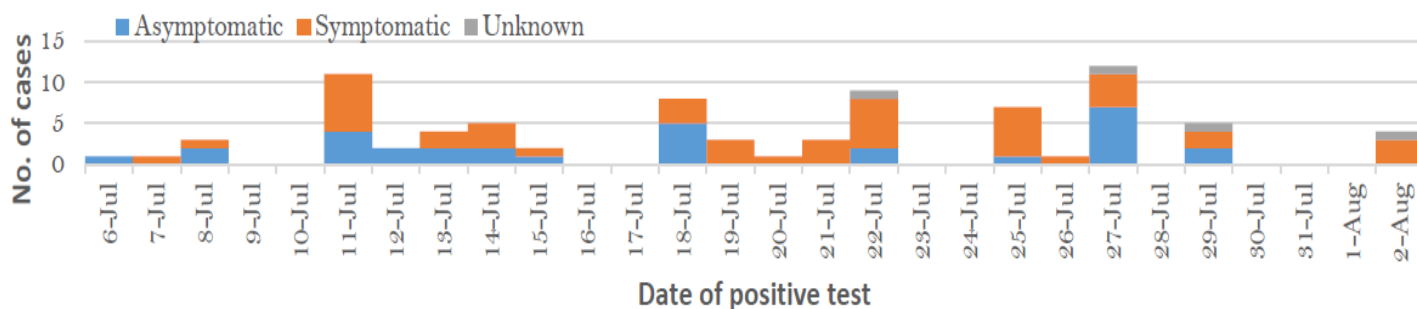


Source: Bahamas Ministry of Health & Wellness Reports (Note: Reports for July 16, 18, 19 and 25 were not available)

Turks and Caicos Islands

- While the incidence of new COVID-19 cases in country remains low, there has been a slight increase in the cumulative cases.
- For the twenty second consecutive week, there were no reported deaths since 15 February 2022.

Figure 1: Symptomatic and Asymptomatic TCI COVID-19 cases by date of positive test
July 6 - August 2, 2022 (n=82)



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands Situation Report 120

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 support the country in efforts to increase COVID-19 vaccination coverage through an ongoing communication campaign.
- 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 booster dose vaccinations, continues throughout The Bahamas.
- As of August 6, 170,432 people were fully vaccinated; this includes those who received the single dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.
- 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 continues to be the main circulating variant.
- PAHO/WHO and the COVID-19 Genomic Surveillance Regional Network continue to support the Ministry of Health & 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.
- 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 & Wellness continues to provide telemedicine, telepsychology, mental health, and psychosocial support services.
- Ministry of Health & 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 June 19, 2022 vaccinated persons are no longer required to have a 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.
- The Ministry of Health & Wellness, through a collaboration with PAHO/WHO, continues to conduct training for the Electronic Immunization Registry; COVID-19 vaccinations will soon be included in the database. They will continue to conduct training exercises in the Family Islands through November 2022.
- The Bahamas received 24,000 doses of Pediatric COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX Facility, supported by PAHO/WHO. These vaccines arrived in country on July 23, 2022, and rollout to the public began on July, 2022.

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.
- 86.5% of the population is fully vaccinated and 21% 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 continues to be 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; they have performed 21,130 RT-PCR tests as of August 3, 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 that supported operations during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Turks and Caicos Islands Hospitals through a bilateral agreement completed their contracts and left the country on July 19, 2022.

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.