

COVID-19 Situation Update



The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands

October 7, 2022

THE SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The Bahamas

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on March 15, 2020. During the period October 1 – 7, 2022, The Bahamas reported nine (9) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and no (0) newly confirmed COVID-19 related deaths. Among the newly confirmed cases:

- 5 (55.6%) occurred in New Providence, and
- 4 (44.4%) were men and 5 (55.6%) were women.

As of October 7, The Bahamas conducted a total of 254,672 real time PCR tests.

Turks and Caicos Islands

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on March 23, 2020. During the period September 29 – October 5, 2022, the Turks and Caicos Islands reported seventeen (17) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and no (0) newly confirmed COVID-19 related deaths. Among the total confirmed cases since the start of the pandemic:

- 5,199 (81%) occurred in Providenciales;
- 3,044 (47.4%) were men, 3,359 (52.4%) were women, and 19 (0.3%) were unknown.

As of October 5, TCI conducted a total of 21,367 real time PCR tests.

THE BAHAMAS As of October 7, 2022

Confirmed	37,318
Active	87
Recovered	36,173
Hospitalized	10
Deaths	833

TURKS AND CAICOS As of October 5, 2022

Confirmed	6,422
Active	13
Recovered	6,358
Hospitalized	220
Deaths	36

Total cases and deaths

The Bahamas (as of September 30, 2022)

Turks and Caicos Islands (as of September 28, 2022)

Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
New Providence	29,568	592
Grand Bahama	3,703	128
Abaco	867	26
Eleuthera	890	18
Exuma	593	11
Bimini & Cat Cay	288	13
Berry Islands	173	5
Inagua	95	4
Andros	417	10
Long Island	153	5
Cat Island	156	3
Acklins	45	0
San Salvador	21	0
Crooked Island	40	0
Mayaguana	21	2
Ragged Island	0	0
Locations Pending	288	16
TOTAL	37,318	833

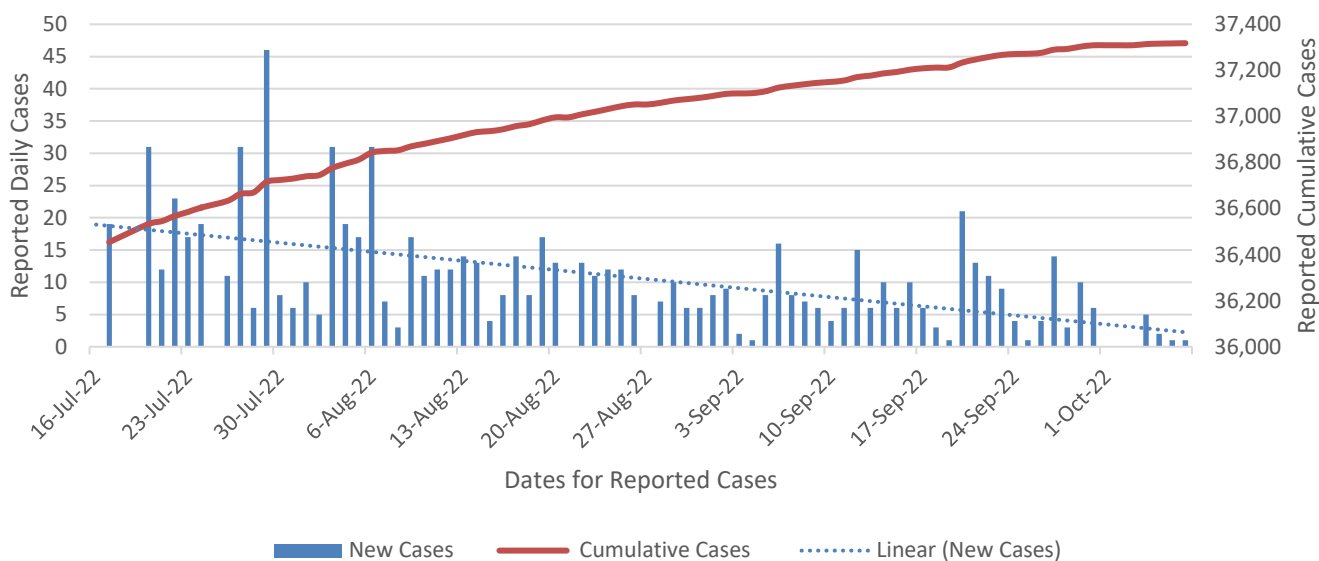
Island	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Providenciales	5,199	24
North Caicos	132	0
Parrot Cay	20	0
Grand Turk	916	11
South Caicos	110	1
Middle Caicos	36	0
Ambergris Cay	4	0
Pine Cay	1	0
Salt Cay	4	0
Unknown	0	0
TOTAL	6,422	36

SITUATION SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

The Bahamas

- The incidence of new COVID-19 cases in the country continues to decline, with a stable 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.

New & Cumulative Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in The Bahamas by Report Date, as of October 7, 2022 (n=37,318)

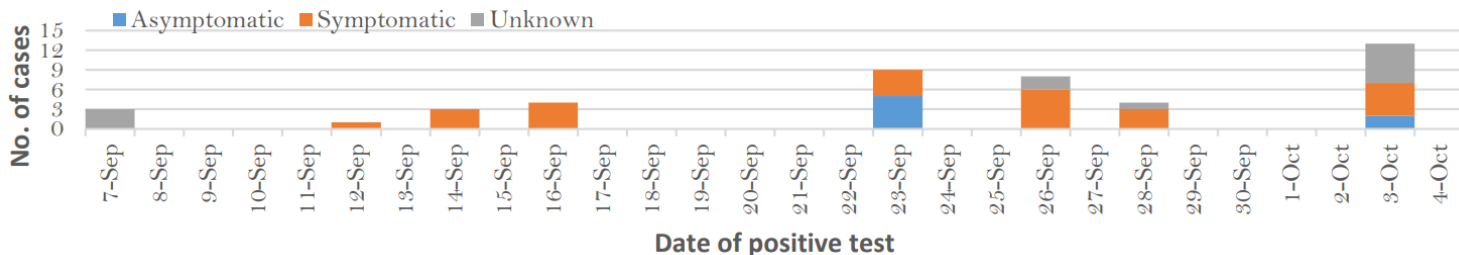


Source: Bahamas Ministry of Health & Wellness COVID-19 Report Updates

Turks and Caicos Islands

- The incidence of new COVID-19 cases in country remains low, with a stable increase in the cumulative cases.
- There were no reported deaths since February 15, 2022.

Figure 1: Symptomatic and Asymptomatic TCI COVID-19 cases by date of positive test September 7 to October 4, 2022 (n=45)



Source: Turks and Caicos Islands COVID-19 Situation Report #129

RESPONSE

- PAHO/WHO continues to provide both The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands with access to updated technical guidelines, technical assistance and situation 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 to fully implement the Electronic Immunization Registry (EIR), which will be used as a repository for COVID-19 vaccination data.

The Bahamas

- The Bahamas continues to distribute COVID-19 vaccine doses, including booster dose vaccinations and pediatric vaccinations for children ages 5-11.
- Moderate to severe COVID-19 cases continue to be treated at Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH), Doctors Hospital West, Sandilands Rehabilitation Center, the South Beach Acute Care and Referral Center and the Rand Memorial Hospital (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.
- The NRL is using a National Respiratory Surveillance Genomics Database for genetic analysis. They have identified several genomic deletions and variant mutations.
- The NRL has confirmed that the Alpha, Delta, Gamma and Omicron variants of concern, and the Iota, variant of interests in the 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.
- The University of The Bahamas continues to offer an on-line contact tracing course.
- The country still utilizes Go.Data to collect data on 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 28 Cuban specialized Nurses continues to support clinical care through a bilateral agreement between the two countries.
- The Ministry of Health & Wellness continues to provide telemedicine, telepsychology, mental health, and psychosocial support services.
- 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 has aligned its cruise arrival protocols with air arrival COVID-19 protocols.
- Effective June 19, 2022 vaccinated persons are no longer required to have a negative COVID-19 test or travel health visa to enter or travel among the islands of The Bahamas.
- As of September 20, 2022 the Ministry of Health & Wellness eliminated the requirement for unvaccinated persons arriving in The Bahamas to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test.
- Effective 1 October 2022, the national mask mandate was removed. Exceptionally, masks are still required in public and private healthcare facilities, indoor classrooms at educational settings and visitors/non-residential workers at long-term care facilities.

Turks and Caicos Islands

- The Turks and Caicos Islands continues to distribute COVID-19 vaccine doses, including booster dose vaccinations and pediatric vaccinations for children ages 5-11.
- Persons 16 years and over are eligible and continue to receive booster vaccines.
- The COVID-19 vaccination progress remains the same since the last reporting period: 30,540 residents are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and 21% of the population has received at least one booster dose. The country has achieved 87.3% coverage.
- 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. The country continues to utilize Go.Data for field data collection and contact tracing investigations.
- Residents can still access COVID-19 tests via community drive-through services throughout the islands.
- The National Public Health Laboratory continues to conduct COVID-19 PCR testing; they have performed 21,367 RT-PCR tests as of October 5, 2022.
- The Ministry of Health and Human Services continues to provide health promotion materials about the COVID-19 vaccine through both traditional and social media platforms.

GAPS/CHALLENGES

- 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. Vaccine hesitancy/resistance is also affecting childhood vaccination coverage, which is putting the countries at risk of reintroduction of some diseases that have been eliminated.