



Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curacao, Sint Marten, Bonaire, St. Eustasius, and Saba

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE #4

08 May 2020

I. HIGHLIGHTS

Trinidad and Tobago

Rollback

At the Media Briefing held by Prime Minister, Dr. the Honorable Keith Rowley, on 9 May 2020, he highlighted the COVID-19 Rollback effective Monday, 11 May 2020. COVID-19 restrictions will occur in a phased basis over the course of six phases beginning on Monday, 11 May 2020. The following are also key activities:

- Testing and public health vigilance is expected to continue throughout.
- Schools will remain closed until September 2020. Parents are required to take responsibility for their children as CSEC and CAPE examinations will take place in July 2020.
- National Lottery Control Board operations (Play Whe, Lotto etc.) will restart at a later phase.
- The elements of the "new normal" for Trinidad and Tobago were reiterated: People must continue to maintain physical distance, engage in regular hand hygiene, use cloth masks in public, ensure public spaces are sanitized, and stay at home if they are sick.

See the specific phases and actions under III. Response, Key Trinidad and Tobago/Ministry of Health Response to COVID-19, 9 May 2020, page 4.

Dutch Territories

Step down Strategies

Aruba started on 4 May 2020 and measures will be re-evaluated every 2 weeks. Government departments reopened on 4 May, with a maximum of 25% of personnel who are considered essential for the departments' function. Other establishments re-opened included clothing stores, jewelry stores, libraries, pet shops, etc. food trucks, museums and art centers and construction companies. The number of persons allowed at any one time at social gatherings are : Level 1: 4-17 May – maximum of 15 persons, Level 2: 18-31 May – maximum of 50 persons, Level 3: 1-4 June – maximum 125 persons, Level 4: 14 June and beyond will be determined. Existing social distancing and hygiene rules remain in effect. The curfew has been adjusted to 10pm-5am. Aruba's borders remain closed for incoming travel.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS (as of 8 May 2020)

Trinidad and Tobago

116 Confirmed Cases
8 Deaths
104 Discharges

Aruba

101 Confirmed Cases
3 Deaths
89 Discharges

Curacao

16 Confirmed Cases
1 Death
11 Discharges

Sint Maarten

76 Confirmed Cases
14 Deaths
46 Discharges

Bonaire

2 Confirmed Cases
0 Death
2 Discharge

St. Eustasius

2 Confirmed Cases
0 Death
2 Discharges

Saba

2 Confirmed Cases
0 Death
1 Discharge

Curacao started on 8 May 2020 and measures will be re-evaluated every 2 weeks. All stores re-opened but social distancing and hygiene measures must be maintained. The curfew remains in effect from 9pm-6am. Restaurants and snack bars can operate with curbside takeout and deliveries but no inhouse dining. All public events are still prohibited. The Curaçao International Airport is still closed for all inbound passengers from all countries but will relax measures for Curaçao residents approved by the Government of Curaçao, including medical specialist and other medical personnel approved by the Government and persons from Curacao who are studying abroad who are in dire circumstances. All inbound passengers are subject to a mandatory quarantine of fourteen (14) days upon arrival at a location identified by the Minister of Health of the Government of Curaçao.

Sint Maarten is still working on their guidelines and measures for step down. They may lift their state of emergency on 17 May but the night-time curfew will still be enforced. Authorities are looking at phasing in the re-entry of residents starting with around 40 Social and Health Insurance SZV patients and their companions who are presently abroad. Returning residents, however, must agree to be quarantined at a facility identified by the Government.

Saba will lift their stay at home measures on 10 May 2020. Schools will remain closed. Even though there are no active cases in Sint Eustatius the emergency order will remain in place until 15 May 2020. Bonaire started easing restrictions on 6 May 2020 but social distancing and hygiene measures remain in effect.

II. SITUATION SUMMARY

Table 1. COVID-19 Status in Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curacao, Sint Marten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, 8 May 2020

Country	# Confirmed Cases	# Deaths	# Tests Conducted	# Discharges	Trans-mission Type	Non-pharmacological Interventions			
						Travel Restrictions	Schools closed	Essential Services	State of Emergency
Trinidad and Tobago	116	8	2271	104	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Aruba	101	3	1742	89	Cluster of Cases	Yes	Yes	Have started lifting restrictions with the opening of non-essential services	Social distancing and hygiene requirements and care for employee and customers have been maintained. Borders remain closed. Curfew adjusted to 10 pm -5am.
Curacao	16	1	350	13	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Being lifted as of 8 May	Social distancing and hygiene requirements and care for employee and customers have been maintained. Borders remain closed. Curfew remains in effect from 9 pm-6 am
Sint Maarten	76	14	332	46	Cluster of Cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	Stay at home restrictions in Place until May 17 th
Bonaire	2	0	257	2	Sporadic Cases				
St. Eustatius	2	0	Not available	2	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	Stay at home restrictions in Place until May 15th
Saba	2	0	Over 85, recent figures not available	1	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes		Stay at home restrictions until May 10 th

III. RESPONSE

A. Key Trinidad and Tobago/Ministry of Health Response to COVID-19, 9 May 2020

Phase 1: 11-23 May 2020

- Reopening of all food establishments (including street vendors) to provide takeout and delivery services only daily until 8PM. No dine-in service allowed. Bars remain closed at this time.
- Restricted outdoor activities will be also be allowed in Phase 1, but no contact or team sports will be allowed. Gatherings of more than 5 persons remains prohibited. Social distancing rules and the wearing of cloth masks must be maintained at all times.
- Hardware, plumbing and electrical stores will be allowed to operate from 8am to 4pm, Groceries - 8am to 6pm and Pharmacies will close at 8pm.
- Whereas Phase 1 will usher in a return to some level of normal, the Stay At Home Order remains in place to all. Only leave your home if you are an essential service or if you need to access goods and services. If your job allows, continue to work from home. Avoid loitering and being out in public needlessly.
- Trinidad Cement Limited, Nu-Iron Unlimited and West Indian Tobacco Company have been granted approval to restart their operations. This decision was taken with the preservation of their export markets specifically in mind and their foreign exchange earning potential.

Phase 2: 24 May to 6 June 2020

- Reopening of the entire manufacturing sector and recommencing of public sector construction. This, however, is contingent on their being little or no change to our COVID-19 status.
- Public transport vehicles will continue to operate at 50% passenger capacity.

Phase 3: 7-20 June 2020

- The entire Public Service will be returning to work, but flexi-time and staggering of hours will be encouraged.
- Private sector construction will restart,
- Maxi taxis/taxis will be allowed to increase passenger capacity to 75%.
- If all goes to plan, and the case load remains unchanged, citizens can expect to see an acceleration of this rollout.
- The private sector is encouraged to plan ahead in the event that this should happen.

Phase 4

- Opening of malls and beaches.

Phase 5

- Opening of Cinemas and Houses of Worship.

Phase 6

- And lastly, the government will address the reopening of T&T's borders in Phase 6. At this time, this remains the area of highest threat.

B. Key PAHO/WHO Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curacao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba Response to COVID-19, 8 May 2020

- Supported the development of guidelines for Dialysis Facilities in the context of COVID-19
- Presented on television on COVID-19 vaccination-possibilities and planning
- Facilitated the establishment of a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Technical Working Group (TWG)
- Developed TOR for the MHPSS TWG
- Supported the drafting of a MHPSS Plan
- Held discussion with UNDP and UNICEF for the development of a television series to focus on children and families, their health and coping strategies during COVID-19
- Handed over to the Trinidad and Tobago Public Health Laboratory a QIAamp Viral RNA Mini Kit (250)
- Developed TORs for Health Sector: COVID-19 Economic Impact Assessment, Data Entry person to support PMO-Epidemiology

IV. NEEDS

- 10,000 COVID-19 Tests (Extraction and Amplification Kits)
- 10,000 Nasopharyngeal swabs
- PAHO/WHO will ship swabs, uncertain about the numbers at this moment, after receiving

V. GAPS/CHALLENGES

- Lack of continuous supply of RNA extraction kits which also remains a principal challenge at the regional level
- Insufficient nasopharyngeal swabs that are also difficult to obtain as there are overall production and shipping challenges
- The Dutch territories are challenged with when and how to open their borders and therefore would like to receive information related to the other Caribbean Islands since they are not always included in the Caribbean Heads of States discussions.
- COVID-19 has had a disastrous impact on the economies of Dutch territories especially as they are dependent on tourism. Curacao, Aruba and Sint Maarten have entered into tough negotiations with the Kingdom who may impose strict conditions on economic aid in the form of loans. Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius are municipalities of the Netherlands, should also be entitled to financial support.

VI. REFERENCES

- Ministry of Health, Trinidad and Tobago: <http://www.health.gov.tt/>
- Aruba: <https://www.arubacovid19.org/>
- Sint Maarten: <https://vromi-sxm.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opstdashboard/index.html#/285fa99a4fc442fcb4a71ea7297d1ec6>
- Saba: <http://www.sabagovernment.com/index.html>