



COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE #15

25 July 2020

I. HIGHLIGHTS

Trinidad and Tobago

At the Virtual Media Conference, held on Monday 20 July 2020, the Chief Medical Officer encouraged parents, teachers, principals, and students to adhere to the Ministry of Education’s COVID-19 Guidelines for Schools as the Secondary Entrance Assessment Classes for Standard 5 students resumed on Monday 20 July 2020. He shared that bars will now be allowed to open until 10pm. He urged the Campaign Managers for all political parties to ensure their walkabouts, cottage meetings and political gatherings remain within the 25-persons limit. They must also ensure they are wearing masks.

Two key points from the Chief Medical Officer at the Ministry of Health’s Virtual Media Conference, held on Wednesday 22 July 2020, included that one of the recent Covid-19 Cases was identified at a health centre with no link to recent air travel. An epidemiological investigation is underway. Secondly, he stated that there is no regulation pertaining to sporting activities, but due to the recent local case, all activities involving children are advised to hold off until September 2020, when school reopens.

At the Virtual Media Conference, held on Saturday 25 July 2020, the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Roshan Parasram, provided the following information on the new COVID-19 Cases that were confirmed outside of the Repatriated Nationals:

- On Case #139, all Primary Contacts (household and business place) are negative thus far. The three Primary Contacts of this Case remain in quarantined in Tobago and have tested negative.
- On Case #141, he said all Primary Contacts have tested negative thus far, but community surveillance continues.
- Five persons directly related to Case #142 have now tested positive for COVID-19. They include three children in the same household.

Dutch Territories

The number of cases in **Aruba** has risen to 118 and all of these have been reported as imported cases.

The total number of cases in **Curaçao** have increased to 29 as of July 24, 2020. Curaçao is considering closing its borders to Sint Maarten which seems to be experiencing an increase in new cases. Travelers from a high-risk country (including the United States) can request an exemption by writing to

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

(as of 25 July 2020)

Trinidad and Tobago

147 Confirmed Cases
8 Deaths
128 Discharges

Aruba

118 Confirmed Cases
3 Deaths
100 Discharges

Curaçao

29 Confirmed Cases
1 Death
24 Discharges

Sint Maarten

92 Confirmed Cases
15 Deaths
63 Discharges

Bonaire

5 Confirmed Cases
0 Death
2 Discharges

St. Eustatius

2 Confirmed Cases
0 Death
2 Discharges

Saba

3 Confirmed Cases
0 Death
3 Discharges

reisverificatie.cur@gobiernu.cw to request permission in addition to providing a negative COVID-19 PCR test result and agreeing to a 14-day mandatory quarantine in a quarantine facility at the traveler's expense. Travelers may also wait 14 days in a low-risk third country (Aruba, for example) and then travel to Curaçao without quarantine restrictions.

For more information on those countries identified as low, medium or high can be found on <https://gobiernu.cw/corona-travel-to-Curaçao/>. The Minister of Health, Environment and Nature, Suzanne Camelia-Romer, tendered her resignation to the Governor, Lucille George-Wout, on Friday 24 July 2020. This has created additional political tensions in Curaçao.

Over the week ending 24 July 2020, **Sint Maarten** experienced a dramatic increase in the number of new cases, namely: 2 cases on 20 July 2020 and 13 cases reported between 21-23 July 2020. These numbers are expected to increase as the Collection Prevention Services (CPS) are actively investigating all cases through source and contact tracing. CPS has identified a few clusters of COVID-19 infections. These new cases seemed to be linked to each other through a group of persons with COVID-19 who live in the same area, work at the same job or have attended the same event. One (1) individual is in an isolation facility, and one (1) remains hospitalized at the St. Maarten Medical Centre while the remaining cases are under strict and monitored home isolation. The Minister of Health is also finalizing a law that will make it mandatory for persons to wear masks in public places or face stiff penalties. The law will also include social distancing guidelines.

Bonaire, Saba, Sint Eustatius— Bonaire's figures remain at 5, Saba at 3 and Sint Eustatius at 2. All three islands have not opened their borders to the United States. Bonaire issued a new emergency ordinance that decrees that anyone who was in a high risk country within the previous two weeks is barred from entering Bonaire.

3rd Tranche of COVID-19 support from Holland— Under the COVID-19 stimulus package promised by the Kingdom of the Netherlands the Islands of Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten are expected to implement a 12.5% cut to civil servants' salaries, 25% cut on remuneration of political office holders, and increase the pensionable age to 65. Also, they are expected to implement public sector reforms and to submit to the supervision of an Independent Administrative Body (ZBO) or "Caribbean Reform Entity", to be established by the Dutch Government under the supervision of the Dutch Minister of Interior, for a period of 7 years. The islands have objected to the formation of this entity. Aruba later complied with the Dutch conditionalities but the other countries Curaçao and Sint Maarten are still negotiating. However, St. Maarten's Council of Ministers has approved the implementation of pay cuts, as a way of avoiding widespread business closures and mass layoffs, and in compliance with the Dutch conditions.

II. SITUATION SUMMARY

Table 1. COVID-19 Status in Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Marten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, 25 July 2020

Country	# Confirmed Cases	# Deaths	# Tests Conducted	# Discharges	Transmission Type	Non-pharmacological Interventions			
						Travel Restrictions	Schools closed	Essential Services	Other
Trinidad and Tobago	147	8	6530	128	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	No	Physical distance, the use of cloth masks in public spaces, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, no touching of face, restriction of gathering (25 persons) and restricted hours for bars.
Aruba	118	3	Not available this week	100	Cluster of Cases/	Yes	Yes	Lifted	Physical distance, the use of cloth masks in public spaces, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, no touching of face. Borders opened between Aruba, Bonaire Curaçao, Europe, the United States and Canada
Curaçao	29	1	Not available this week	23	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Lifted	Physical distance, the use of cloth masks in public spaces, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, no touching of face . Borders open to Holland, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten
Sint Maarten	92	15	New total not available this week	63	Cluster of Cases	Yes	Yes	Lifted	Physical distance, the use of cloth masks in public spaces, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, no touching of face Borders open to Aruba and Curaçao, Canada and Europe.
Bonaire	5	0	New total not available this week	2	Sporadic Cases				Social distancing and hygiene requirements have been maintained. Borders open to Aruba, Curaçao and some European countries .
St. Eustatius	2	0	Not available	2	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Lifted	Social distancing and hygiene requirements have been maintained Borders open to BES islands.
Saba	3	0	New total not available this week	3	Sporadic Cases	Yes	Yes	Lifted	Borders open to BES islands, and Sint Maarten.

III. RESPONSE

A. Key Trinidad and Tobago/Response to COVID-19, 25 July 2020

At the Virtual Media Conference, held on Saturday 25 July 2020, as a result of the increase in COVID-19 cases during this week, the following measures will come into effect:

- Visits are no longer allowed at the Homes for the Aged.
- One visitor per patient rule will be enforced at all hospitals at the Regional Health Authorities. Visits are one hour at all public health facilities.
- Business owners must enforce the “No Mask, No Service” Policy. Businessmen will also be charged for breaching regulations.
- Government is not looking to lock down or revert on more Public Health measures at this time.
- National Security Minister Stuart Young said drivers and boatmen are putting the Trinidad & Tobago population at risk for COVID-19 by facilitating the illegal entry of persons. Some perpetrators are already in quarantine and will be charged for trafficking persons into the country. He also warned landlords that they will be charged if they are found to be harbouring illegal immigrants. Landlords must ensure their tenants are here legally and must report illegal immigrants to the authorities.
- Citizens are urged to dial 555 to provide police with information on illegal immigrants. Drivers and boatmen will be charged with trafficking if they are found to be transporting illegal immigrants.

B. Key PAHO/WHO Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba Response to COVID-19, 25 July 2020

- Canadian Air Force, CC-177 Royal Canadian Airforce Globemaster, transported 96 pallets of PPE to Trinidad and Tobago. PAHO/WHO Representative, the Canadian High Commissioner and representatives of the Ministry of Health, Trinidad and Tobago received the shipment that is being coordinated by the World Food Program.

IV. NEEDS

- COVID-19 Tests (Extraction and Amplification Kits as well as Enzymes)
- Nasopharyngeal swabs

V. GAPS/CHALLENGES

- Lack of continuous supply of RNA extraction kits which also remains a principal challenge at the regional level
- Nasopharyngeal swabs are difficult to obtain as there are overall production and shipping challenges
- Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten continue to negotiate with the Kingdom Council of Ministers about the restrictions being placed on the countries in order to access the 3rd tranche of COVID-19 funding from Holland.

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/opsdashboard/index.html#/285fa99a4fc442fcb4a71ea7297d1ec6>
- Saba: <http://www.sabagovernment.com/index.html>



PAHO Collaborates with the World Food Programme and the Canadian Government to Facilitate Delivery of Personal Protective Equipment in support of Trinidad and Tobago's COVID-19 Response

<https://www.paho.org/en/news/27-7-2020-paho-collaborates-world-food-programme-and-canadian-government-facilitate-delivery>