

COVID-19

PAHO JAMAICA CO EOC – COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT #498
21 APRIL 2022 (as at 6:00 p.m.)
JAMAICA, BERMUDA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SUMMARY

Country	Confirmed Cases (New within 24hrs)	Active Cases (% of Total Cases)	Hospitalized (% Active Cases)	Deaths (New within 24hrs)	Case Fatality Rate (%)	Total Tests (Cum. Positivity Rate)	Transmission
Jamaica ⁱ	129,441 (68)	340 (0.3%)	20 (5.9%)	2,941 (4)	2.3%	978,700 (13.2%)	Community Transmission
Bermuda ⁱⁱ	13,143 (52)	293 (2.2%)	9 (3.1%)	131 (0)	1.0%	866,313 (1.5%)	Community Transmission
Cayman Islands ⁱⁱⁱ	21,755 ^{iv} (89)	783 (3.6%)	9 (1.1%)	27 (0)	0.1%	Pending	Community Transmission

JAMAICA:

Table 1. Summary as at end of Epidemiological Week 15 (10 – 16 April 2022)

Confirmed Cases	New Cases	% Change in New Cases in last 7 days	Deaths	New Deaths	% Change in New Deaths in last 7 days	Weekly Positivity Rate	% Change in Weekly Positivity Rate
129,238	218	+23.2%	2,929	15	-16.6%	3.5%	+6.1%

TRENDS IN CASES & DEATHS: As of 21 April 2022, Jamaica had **129,441 confirmed cases** of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) with **68 new cases** confirmed in the past 24 hours. Active cases now account for 0.3% of confirmed cases, and approximately 0.01% of the population in isolation across the island.^v New cases have increased by 23.2% and deaths have decreased by 16.6% during EW 15. There are currently **2,941 COVID-19 related deaths**, with 4 deaths occurring within the last 24 hours. Since 1 March 2021, unvaccinated cases accounted for 97.7% of deaths (n=2,330). As of 21 April 2022, 978,700 samples were tested at the laboratory with a **daily positivity rate of 7.7%** and a cumulative positivity rate of 13.2%.

SEX & AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CASES & DEATHS: As of 20 April 2022, the highest burden of total confirmed cases remained within the 20-29 years and 30-39 years age groups. These groups accounted for 19.5% and 18.5% of total cases respectively, with a mean age of 40.5yrs. Females were primarily affected compared to males, with a male to female ratio (M:F) of 1:1.3; while the males accounted for more deaths, with a M:F ratio of 1:0.9.

ⁱ Cases and deaths as at 21 Apr 2022, reported 22 Apr 2022.

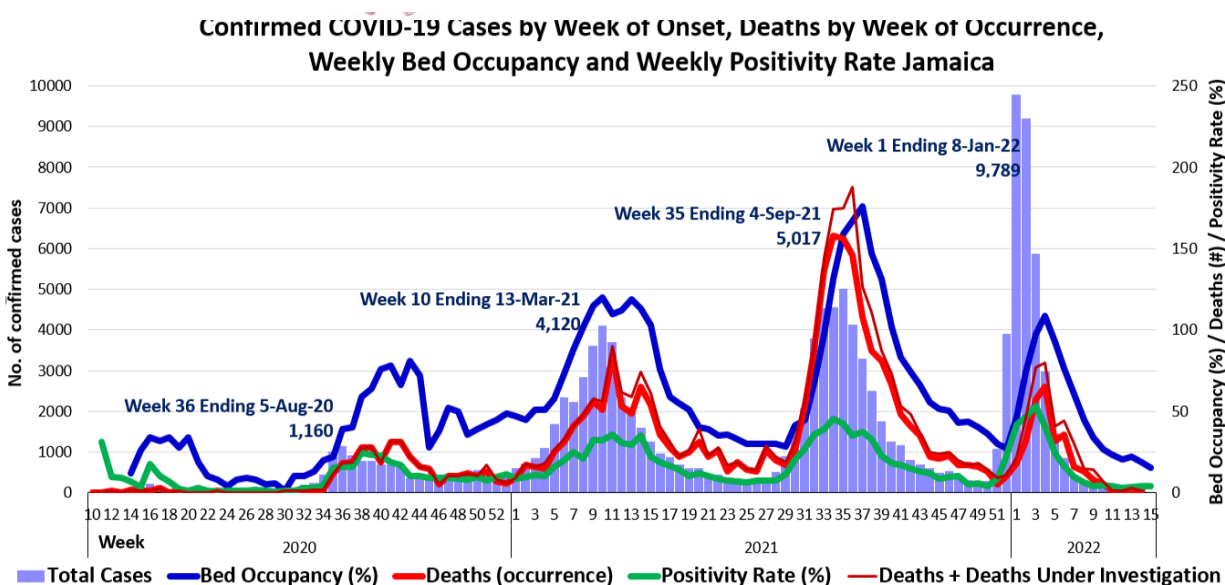
ⁱⁱ Cases and deaths as at 20 Apr 2022, reported 20 Apr 2022.

ⁱⁱⁱ Cases and deaths as at 20 Apr 2022, reported 21 Apr 2022.

^{iv} Represents a total of cumulative cases as at end of EW13 (2 Apr 2022) and new cases as at 6 Apr 2022.

^v Based on total population estimate of 2.9 million for Jamaica.

Figure 1. Cases, Bed Occupancy, Deaths and Testing/Positivity Rates by Epidemiological Week.



GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: Data from 20 April 2022 highlighted that Kingston & St. Andrew (26.7%, n=34,381) and St. Catherine (18.2%, n=23,441) had the highest cumulative number of cases. The highest proportions of active cases were found in the parishes of St. Catherine and St. James, accounting for 22.9% and 18.0% of cases respectively.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The MOHW provided the following information on the presence of the Omicron BA. 2 variant in Jamaica on 21 April 2022:

The MOHW has been advised that the latest gene sequencing results from the National Influenza Centre, Jamaica have indicated the presence of the Omicron BA.2 variant in Jamaica. Eighty-nine samples were sequenced with sample dates from 1 January to 4 March 2022. Of these, 98.9% were Omicron variants and 1.1% Delta variant. Of the Omicron samples, two (2) of 88 or 2.3% were BA.2 variant and 97.7% were BA.1 variant.

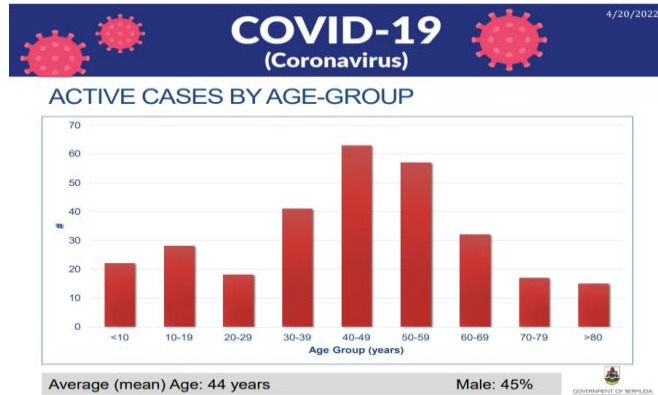
<https://www.moh.gov.jm/omicron-ba-2-variant-now-in-jamaica/>

BERMUDA:

TRENDS IN CASES & DEATHS: As of 20 Apr 2022, Bermuda confirmed **13,143 cases** of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) with **52 new cases** within the last 24 hr period. There were 293 active cases (2.2% of total cases and approximately 0.5% of the population)^{vi}, 9 hospitalized cases (3.1% of active cases), and no cases admitted to ICU. New cases decreased by **16.0%** during EW 15. The majority of active cases were 30 – 59 years old.

^{vi} Based on an estimated population for Bermuda of 63,000 people.

Figure 2. Active Cases by Age Group – up to 20 April 2022



GOVERNMENT RESPONSE:

Effective 1 April 2022, mask requirements in Bermuda will change and will only need to be worn in specific settings, with businesses having the discretion to set mask requirements for entry to their premises and for access to services that are appropriate for their respective establishments. All persons entering Government buildings, however, will be required to wear a mask covering the nose and mouth. This policy will be reviewed on 18 April 2022.

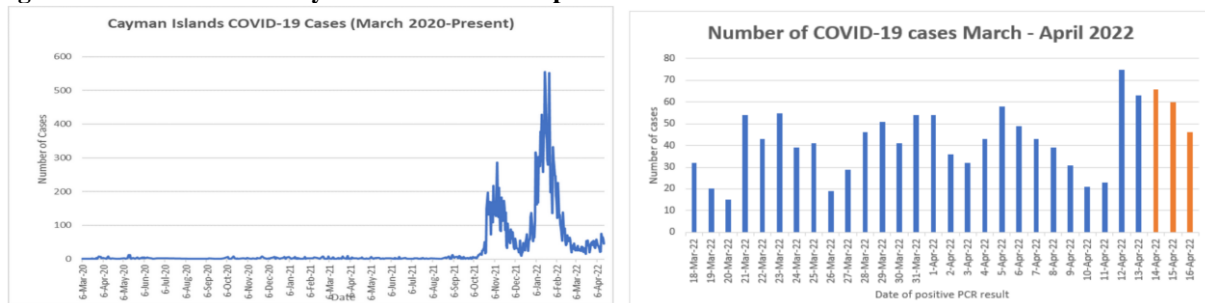
CAYMAN ISLANDS:

TRENDS IN CASES & DEATHS: As of 19 April 2022, Cayman had **21,755 confirmed cases** of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) with **89 new cases reported on 20 April 2022**. A total of **27 COVID-19 related deaths were recorded since March 2020, with no deaths occurring within the last 24-48hrs**. There are currently 9 hospitalized cases, with one case receiving treatment in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). The increase in positive case results has continued in Epi Week 15 with 373 positives compared to 284 in Epi Week 14 (a 31% increase).

Table 2. Summary as at end of Epidemiological Week 15.

Confirmed Cases	New Cases in last 7 days	% Change in New Cases in last 7 days	Deaths	New Deaths in last 7 days	% Change in Deaths in last 7 days	Positivity Rate of PCR tests	% Change in Positivity Rate in PCR tests in the last 7 days
21,755	373	+31.0%	27	0	0%	24.5%	21.8%

Figures 3 & 4. Trend in daily cases Mar 2020 – Apr 2022.



GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Phase 5 of Border Re-opening remains in effect, with Pre-Arrival testing as below:

All in-coming travellers aged 5 years and over must provide a negative result from a PCR or certified antigen-detecting rapid diagnostic test (LFT) taken no earlier than the day before departure..

Control and Management of COVID-19 (No.2) Regulations, 2022 and Control of COVID-19 (Travel) (No. 3) Regulations, 2022 are in effect as of 21 March 2022.

<http://gazettes.gov.ky/portal/pls/portal/docs/1/13150578.PDF>

PAHO CO UPDATE:

PILLAR 1 – COORDINATION, PLANNING, FINANCING, AND MONITORING

- a. PAHO CO continued the implementation of COVID-19 response activities within 8 COVID-19 Awards / Grants and Contributions.
 - i. USG Contributions: PAHO CO finalized with MOHW the priority list of cold chain equipment for procurement and secured additional funding in dialogue with WDC counterparts. - 21 April 2022
 - ii. USAID GH-ARP: PAHO CO finalized list of items to be procured and agreed on specifications of 70 vaccine refrigerators in collaboration with CDC, USAID and MOHW on 21 April 2022, and initiated the procurement process. MOHW will provide specifications for 11 generators by 31 May 2022, following findings of electrical assessments.
 - iii. US CDC COAG: PAHO CO received advisory from CDC counterparts with letter from PS, MOHW stating that ICU equipment and supplies were selected as a priority for funds re-directed from procurement of two ambulances – 20 April 2022.
 - iv. Canada Vaccination project: The work plan was revised All project activities were completed, prior to expiry of funds – 21 April 2022.
 - v. CYM - EU RESEMBID / Expertise France project – The project is awaiting approval from the donors and PAHO Legal Team.
- b. PAHO / WHO handed-over medical equipment and supplies and 30,000 Rapid Antigen Tests valued at forty million Jamaica dollars to MOHW to strengthen the COVID-19 response on 20 April 2022.



Photo by Answorth Morris
From left: Ian Stein, PAHO/WHO representative to Jamaica; Health and Wellness Minister Dr Christopher Tufton; and Dr Marion Bullock DuCasse, PAHO Jamaica's health emergencies advisor, look at some of the medical equipment handed over to Jamaica during a ceremony at the PAHO/WHO country office at The University of the West Indies, Mona, yesterday.

<https://jis.gov.jm/paho-donates-40m-in-equipment-to-national-covid-19-response/>

<https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20220421/tufton-urges-continued-covid-19-vigilance>

<https://www.paho.org/en/news/20-4-2022-covid-19-response-has-been-resource-intensive-paho-partnership-essential-strengthen>

- c. PAHO CO remains embedded in the MOHW, JAM EOC and provides 24-hr technical support and guidance, including at the weekly EOC briefing meeting.
- d. PAHO CO maintained the technical lead for Health for the COVID-19 response within the UNCT and the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) system.

PILLAR 4 – POINTS OF ENTRY, INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT, AND MASS GATHERINGS

- a. PAHO CO continued to provide reminders to the IHR NFP, JAM on follow-up of information received from PAHO IHR on travellers after departure from Jamaica and the provision of reports – 20 April 2022.

PILLAR 7 – CASE MANAGEMENT, CLINICAL OPERATIONS AND THERAPEUTICS

- a. PAHO CO continues to provide guidance to MOHW counterparts to secure supplies of Tocilizumab and Molnupiravir – 19 April 2022.

PILLAR 9: MAINTAINING ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES AND SYSTEMS

- a. Smart Health Care Facilities Project.
 - a. Dates are awaited from the MOHW for replacement of the vinyl flooring at the Port Antonio Health Centre. – 20 April 2022
- b. Re-scheduling continues for the technical cooperation activities requested for core health emergency preparedness and response programmes, including for the COVID-19 IHR Intra-Action Review in May – June 2022.– 20 April 2022.

PILLAR 10 - VACCINATION

- a. PAHO CO collaborated with MOHW, JAM to plan for support of the Cold Chain and other activities related to COVID-19 vaccines. – 21 April 2022.
- b. On-going technical guidance was provided for the MOHW, Jamaica on vaccine supply, storage and delivery.

GAPS / CHALLENGES

1. Vaccine coverage remains low in Jamaica with a lack of evidence of the causation for various population groups, whether vaccine hesitancy, access and/or other reasons.
2. The COVID-19 pandemic has delayed review, strengthening and implementation of the health emergency / disaster risk management programmes, including plans for Health EOC capacity building to include the Medical Information and Coordination Cell (CICOM) for the Emergency Medical Team, for Jamaica, Bermuda and Cayman.
3. Intra Action Reviews have not been conducted in JAM, BMU and CYM and will be arranged for the first semester in 2022 to ensure that recommendation for strengthening pandemic preparedness and response can be provided based on lessons identified for the COVID-19 response.

NEEDS

1. JAMAICA

- a. Health EOC strengthening.
- b. Assessment of causation for low COVID-19 vaccination coverage to guide implementation of appropriate strategies
- c. Laboratory and medical equipment and supplies.
- d. Strengthening of pandemic preparedness planning.

2. BERMUDA

a. Strengthening of the Health Disaster Management Programme and Health EOC establishment and management

3. CAYMAN ISLANDS

- a. Strengthening of the Health Disaster Management Programme and surveillance were noted as priorities to enhance the COVID-19 and any other responses for health emergencies.
- b. Strengthening of Health EOC establishment and management.