



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Health

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Ground Floor Park Plaza, St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain

M E D I A R E L E A S E

March 24, 2020

Trinidad and Tobago COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Update # 45

Port-of-Spain, March 24, 2020: As part of the national drive to safeguard the health of the Trinidad and Tobago population in the face of the global COVID-19 outbreak, the Ministry of Health continues to provide up-to-date information on the country's status in this regard.

As of the morning of **Tuesday, 24th March, 2020** the Ministry reports the following:

- **Number of samples submitted to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) for testing for COVID-19 = 332**
- **Number of samples which have tested positive = 53**

The Ministry provides the following update:

- Two (2) additional persons have tested positive for COVID-19. One (1) of these persons has a history of recent travel. This person was isolated immediately upon disembarking the aircraft at the ANR Robinson International Airport and is being treated in isolation in Scarborough, Tobago. Contact tracing was initiated. Additional information is available in the media release issued from the Division of Health, Wellness and Family Development, Tobago House of Assembly (THA) on 23rd March, 2020

The second new case is a primary contact of an existing recent imported case.

- Forty-one (41) of these positive cases came from the group of nationals who recently returned from a cruise, (40 from the group of 68 nationals who returned together and one additional person, who was also on the cruise, but returned to Trinidad and Tobago separately, prior to the other 68.)

The Ministry of Health urges the public to wash your hands regularly with soap and water or thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub if soap and water are not available. Washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand rub kills viruses that may be on your hands. Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and can make you sick.



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The public is also urged to take the following personal hygiene measures to protect themselves and their loved ones from COVID-19:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
 - Dispose of tissue immediately after using
 - Cough and sneeze into the crook of your elbow if you do not have a tissue
- Avoid touching your face
- Sanitize hard surfaces (e.g. table tops, handrails, doorknobs and trolleys) as often as possible.
- Avoid close contact with people who have flu-like symptoms
- Practice social distancing
 - Maintain at least 2 metres (6 feet) distance between yourself and others, especially anyone who is coughing or showing signs of illness
- Stay home if you are ill

It is also advised that all public transportation vehicles should operate with windows open and, where possible, limit their occupancy.

The Ministry will continue to provide accurate information to the public in a timely fashion. The public is therefore urged to disregard and avoid sharing all unconfirmed, misleading and/or false information about COVID-19 (formerly Novel Coronavirus).



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