



COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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MEDIA RELEASE

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Date: March 09, 2020

The Division of Health, Wellness and Family Development wishes to advise the general public of the establishment of the Inter-sectorial Taskforce to address the containment and mitigation of COVID-19.

The Taskforce includes the following:

- County Medical Officer of Health (Ag)
- Director, Tobago Emergency Management Agency
- Medical Chief of Staff (Ag)
- General Manager (Ag) – Primary Care
- Nursing Managers – Primary and Secondary Care

The Taskforce has been mandated to review the preparedness and mitigation plans of the health sector, guide the response to the novel acute respiratory infection (COVID-19) and make recommendations for appropriate public health measures prior to and during the course of the disease.

There are three possible responses to COVID-19: **Alert, Containment, and Mitigation**. We are currently in the **Alert phase**, where the disease is overseas, and our response is to detect and minimize the importation of the disease.

In addition, the Task Force has responsibility to ensure the following:

- Adequate supply of the relevant Personal Protective Equipment for staff
- Active training and retraining of staff in Infection, Prevention and Control procedures
- Establishment of procedures and adherence to protocols for care and management of suspected, probable and confirmed cases as directed by the World Health Organization
- Internal and public education awareness campaigns re: COVID-19
- Identification and outfitting of additional isolation spaces

Outfitting and staffing of one or more Health Centres to manage cases during the **Containment phase** of the COVID-19 response

Collaboration with local, regional and international teams to ensure timely and effective responses to the fluid nature of the current situation

The Division of Health, Wellness and Family Development wishes to inform the public that there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 on the island.

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For more information:

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