



COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

DIVISION OF HEALTH, WELLNESS AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT, TOBAGO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
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MEDIA RELEASE

Update #6 – Continued Action on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Tobago

23rd March, 2020:

As many persons may be aware, travel restrictions have been issued, disallowing entry of all international flights to Trinidad and Tobago effective 23rd March, 2020, 12:01am. A total of sixty two (62) Trinidad and Tobago nationals have returned to Tobago from several regional and international countries. In the interest of ensuring that we control the spread of the virus, they are under quarantine and being observed at the Division's secured quarantine facilities for fourteen (14) days.

On 22nd March, 2020, two (2) of them were taken to the Scarborough General Hospital by Health officials for further investigation, after daily medical checks revealed that they were feeling unwell. In keeping with our protocols, samples from the two individuals were sent to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) laboratory to be tested for COVID-19. Members of the public will be updated as soon as the results have been obtained.

Consequently, as at 23rd March, 2020, 1:00pm, a total of sixty (60) persons are at the Division's quarantine facilities. All remaining persons at the quarantine facilities are currently in good health and have not exhibited any flu like symptoms. It is important to note that Tobago does not have any confirmed, positive cases of COVID-19 at this time.

The following is the service extended to the returning nationals under quarantine at the Division's facility:

- They receive medical check-ups, twice daily (*morning and evening*) by health officials, using the appropriate personal protective equipment.
- They are provided with three meals (*breakfast, lunch and dinner*).
- Arrangements are in place for families and friends to deliver care packages to them.
- Each person has a self-contained room to ensure isolation from one another. Amenities include bed, fridge, stove, microwave, bathroom facilities, WIFI and cable television.

The Division encourages the public to implement simple, preventative measures to reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19. These include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your flexed elbow, or with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Stay at home when you are sick.
- Practice social distancing (*keep a minimum of 3 feet away from persons*).
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces (*door handles, cell phones etc.*)

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For more information:

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