



Virtual Meeting of National Focal Points (NFPs) of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

—
"Enhancing coherence - A focus on the COVID-19 response"

Sustainable Development Goals Unit, Office of the Prime Minister, The Bahamas

Wednesday, 29 July 2020



Communication on COVID-19 By Dr. the Hon. Duane E. L. Sands, M.P. former Minister of Health

"The Bahamas must also strike a balance to protect the health, economy, social and human rights of each Bahamian. As each new and evolving situation raises its ugly head, the Ministry of Health stands resolute to tackle each issue one at a time."



Dr. the Hon. Duane E. L.
Sands, M.P. former
Minister of Health
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
18TH March, 2020



Public Health Response

Early COVID-19 Response Timeline

JANUARY 2020

20th – MOH announced it was monitoring a coronavirus outbreak in China.

FEBRUARY 2020

4th – MOH enacted its Novel Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Plan (NCPRP).

MARCH 2020

1st – Prime Minister announced COVID-19 National coordinating committee

15th – 1st COVID-19 case recorded, which fully activated the Health Emergency Operation Centre (EOC)



MITIGATING ACTIONS



Dr. Pearl McMillan.
Chief Medical Officer
Ministry of Health

- Re-tooled health services to redirect staff to enhance the COVID-19 response;
- Modified existing protocols;
- Manned a 24 -hour hotline to ensure the public has an avenue to ask COVID-19 related questions and convey concerns its burning concerns

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MITIGATING ACTIONS cont'd



Ministry of Health Team

- Re-doubled efforts to ensure adequate of needed supplies, especially, and Personal Protective Equipment supplies; and test kits;
- Embedded advanced policy recommendations to bolster the social, labour, educational and economic response within a National COVID -19 Co-ordinating mechanism;
- Enhanced testing capacity with an additional 750 test kits in county, seeking to order an additional 1000 – 5000;



Emergency Orders



Emergency Powers (COVID 19 Pandemic)

(No.3) Order, 2020

NOW ONLINE AT OPM.GOV.BS

27 July 2020



Temporary suspension of utility disconnections



Adrian Gibson, Chairman Water and
Sewerage Corporation

WSC Executive Chairman said
"given the impact of the virus
on the world and the
importance of potable water in
combating the disease, it is
important that residents have
access to fresh water."



EXPANSION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

\$48 million allocated

Joint initiative with the Ministry of Finance
and the National Insurance Board (NIB)

There are 28,800 persons currently eligible
and pre-enrolled for the GovUEBex
Programme.



Have you maxed out your 13-week
NIB benefits?

NIB has launched a **new registration portal** for eligible persons to access the **Government-Funded Unemployment Benefit Extension Programme (GovUEBex)**.

**VISIT NIB-BAHAMAS.COM FOR
MORE INFORMATION.**



Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development's Information, Technology and Communications (ITC) Unit launch the implementation of the ProMis Management Information System

The ProMis Management Information System was designed to “enhance the delivery of social assistance throughout the Commonwealth of The Bahamas”



Training session on the new platform hosted by technical experts from the Ministry's Information, Technology and Communications (ITC) Unit.



National Food Task Force

COVID-19 EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF

NATIONAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION TASK FORCE

Ground-breaking community-based partnership between Government and non-governmental organizations.

GOVERNMENT INJECTION

(Since formation of Task Force)

\$900K

76,000 people

5,054 food parcels or vouchers

**\$500,000 released Friday 19 June*

NGO/PRIVATE SECTOR

(April and May)

\$2.02M

137,000 people

41,014 food parcels or vouchers

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

COVID-19 Emergency Food Coupons

(Since 7 April)

\$134,050

1,098 people

DISABILITY AFFAIRS UNIT

(20 March – 5 June)

\$6,720

120 people

More
76,000 people
have received
assistance



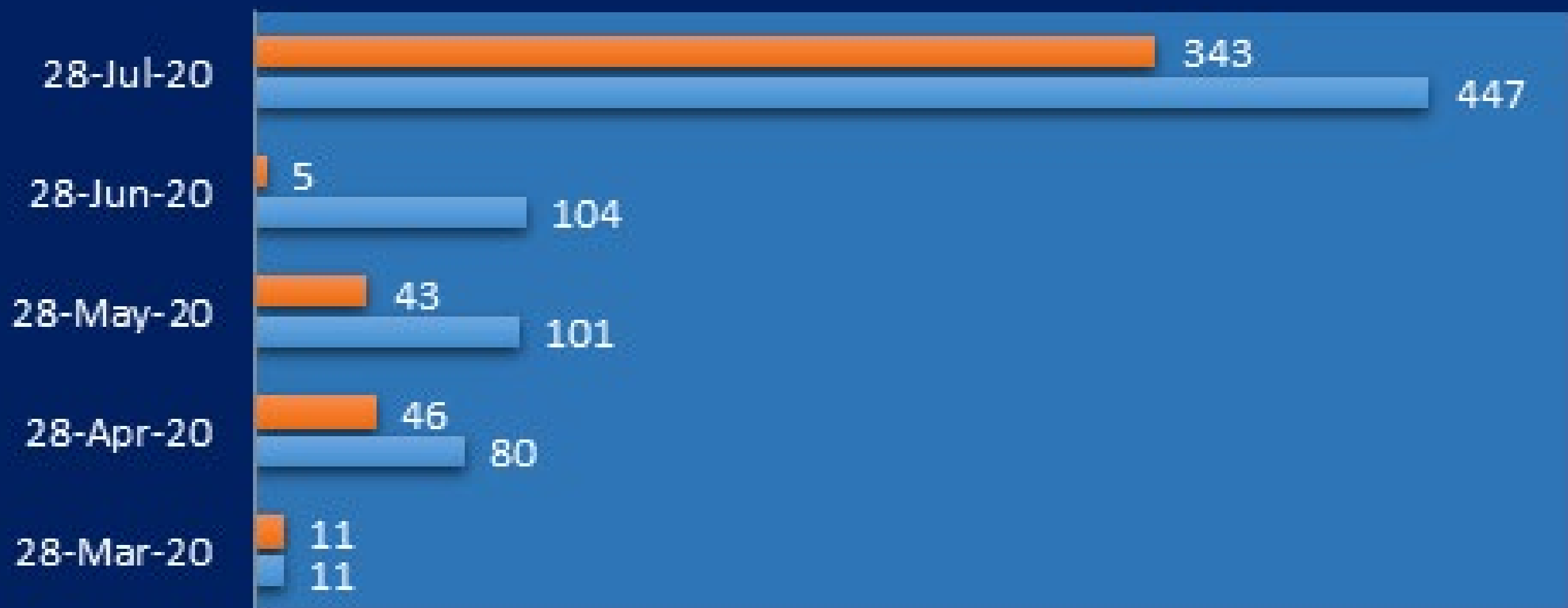
2020/21 BUDGET DEBATE - 22 JUNE 2020



Snapshot - Active & Confirmed COVID-19 cases - The Bahamas

Active & Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in The Bahamas
(28 Mar. - 28 July 2020)

Active Confirmed



343

Active Cases

as at July 28th, 2020



COVID-19 presents critical changes

“We may be shifting from the traditional big volume, big box tourism. We are seeing a move to a more specialty product; a more indigenous product which we anticipate will have even more benefits to Bahamians.”



The Hon. Peter Turnquest, M.P., Deputy
Prime Minister & Minister of Finance





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***Just as in the nations of the world,
The Bahamas must continue to
balance health, economic and
social concerns in order to
ensure viability and sustainability
of our countries.***

”

THE MOST HON. DR. HUBERT MINNIS, PRIME MINISTER

2020/21 BUDGET DEBATE - 22 JUNE 2020

