

COVID-19

**PRIMARY
HEALTH CARE IN
THE BAHAMAS**

**CORONAVIRUS
COVID-19**

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OVERVIEW OF THE BAHAMAS

- The Bahamas is an Archipelago that is made up of over 700 islands and Cays of which approximately 30 are inhabited.
- Our Primary Health Care Services consist of the Public and Private Health Sectors
- The Primary Health Care services have to be duplicated and the goal is to ensure that the services are the same across all islands and Cays





Outline

1. Communication
2. Preparation
3. Implementation
4. Response
5. Outcomes
6. Challenges

Communication





Key Components of Communication

- What is a Pandemic ?
- Operation of the Health Care facilities to ensure safety of health care providers and clients.
- Signs and symptoms of a suspected case of coronavirus.
- What is the expectation of the health care facility and providers should a case of Covid 19 present
- Public health measures to be taken such as wearing of face masks, hand washing and social distancing.

The image features a large orange semi-circle on the right side, which serves as a background for the word 'Preparation'. To the left of this semi-circle, there is a solid blue circle. Further to the left, there are several yellow dashed lines of varying lengths and orientations. At the top left, there are two vertical yellow dashed lines. At the bottom left, there are three yellow dashed lines. On the far left, there is a green square outline. At the top center, there is a green triangle outline. In the top right corner, there is a yellow circle. The word 'Preparation' is written in a white, sans-serif font within the orange semi-circle.

Preparation



Focus Areas

- Training of all health care staff
 - Clinical and Support
- Protocols
 - Triage, Isolation and Treatment
- Establishment of a call centre
 - 24 hour coverage, daily
- Establishment of a mobile assessment unit
- Engagement of an air evacuation service

Photos of One of Our Health Care Facility In Preparation Of COVID-19



Implementation

Comprehensive Approach

- New Providence

- Call centre and mobile unit was fully implemented in March 2020

- Family Islands

Local Health Committees

- Replication services on major family islands and cays.
- Porous borders
 - Immigration and Customs Department.





Response

Actions Taken I

- Select Primary health care services suspension
 - Maternal and Child Health
- Focus was mainly on clients with signs and symptoms of COVID 19
 - rapid identification, isolation and treatment.
- If Clients presented with signs and symptoms suggestive of COVID-19
 - Triaged on the outside by health care workers who wore the appropriate PPES
 - Taken to an identified isolation room at the health care facility.
 - Assessed by health care providers to determine the level of illness whether mild, moderate or severe.
 - Surveillance unit notified – Follow Up and Contact Tracing
 - Treatment was rendered , mild cases were self isolated at home where appropriate. Moderately and Severely ill clients, were referred to a tertiary care institution for further investigation and management and those in our Family Islands and cays were also evacuated into tertiary care.

Action Plan II

- Non-Cases were self - quarantined at home or in a government facility
- Primary Healthcare Facility - Retrofitted



Outcomes

Outcomes

- Diagnosed our first case of COVID -19 – March 16, 2020
 - Total Cases – 104, Deaths 11
 - No community spread of COVID -19 , only cluster and sporadic cases.
 - Two Islands outside of New Providence recorded cases
 - Grand Bahama and Bimini
- Other islands remain COVID -19 free

The background is a vibrant orange color. On the left side, there are several yellow geometric shapes: a vertical dashed line, a solid square, and a large solid circle. In the upper right, there is a yellow triangle and a yellow circle. In the lower left, there are several short, curved yellow dashes. A large white semi-circle is positioned on the right side of the page, containing the text.

Challenges

Current Challenges

- Establishing our regular primary health care services (getting back to normal)
 - temporarily lost one of our major primary healthcare facility which was retrofitted in anticipation of the surge of COVID-19.
 - displaced population that is now underserved
 - Potential effect on our immunization coverage
- Finding alternative sites to render primary health care services



Thank You!

