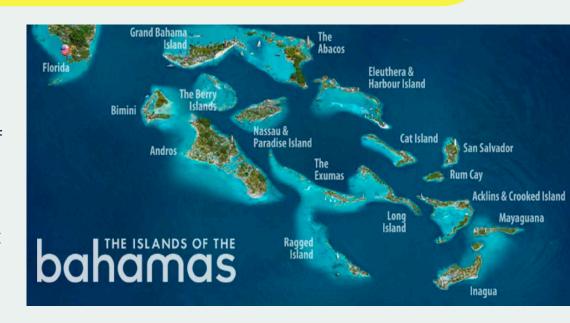
COVID-19

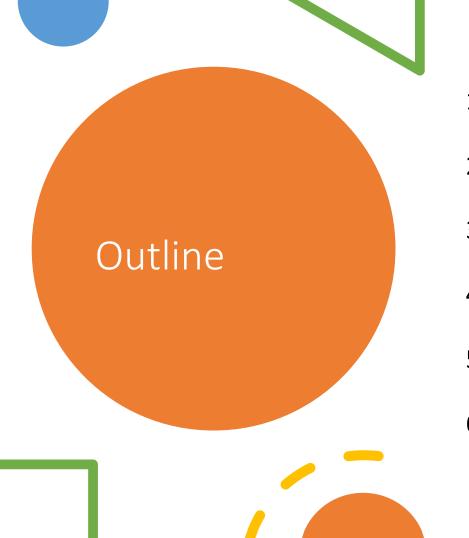
PRIMARY CORONAVIRUS HEALTH CARE IN THE BAHAMAS

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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





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





- 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.



Focus Areas

- Training of all health care staff
 - Clinical and Support
- Protocols
 - Triaging, 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.





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

- 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



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!

