GUYANA’S COVID-19 Experience & Response

presented by
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Minister of public health
Background

Coronavirus Outbreak
- Dec, 2019

Assessment & Heightened Surveillance
- June, 2020

National Preparedness & Response Plan
- Jan-Feb, 2020

Pandemic Declared by WHO & Guyana’s Index Case & Death
- 11th Mar, 2020

Implementation of National Preparedness & Response Plan
- Apr-Jul, 2020

Full activation of HEOC & Operationalization of NEOC & National Task Force
- Mar, 2020

Ministry of Public Health, Guyana
National & Regional Preparedness & Response

- Activation of the Health Emergency Operations Committee
- Activation of the National Emergency Operations Centre
- Activation of the Regional Health Emergency Operations Committees

Health Emergency Operations Centre
- Key Departments from the Ministry of Public Health
- Other sectors: Other Ministries, CDC, PAHO, UNICEF

National Health Emergency Operations Centre
- MoPH, CDC, other Government Ministries
- International and National Partners including NGOs

Regional Health Emergency Committee
- Regional Health Officer (Lead) with support from the Regional Executive Officer
- Other key players (Security Services, Tushaos, private sector, NGO’s)
# Regional Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>No. of cases</th>
<th>Population (2012 Census)</th>
<th>Incidence per 100,000 populations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>26,941</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>107,416</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>313,429</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>109,431</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>20,280</td>
<td>173</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>24,212</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>39,452</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mapper: CDC GIS Team  
Date created: 30/06/2020  
Purpose: Depict the no of confirmed cases by Region  
Information Source: HEOC
Epidemiology
Data as at June 30th, 2020:

NUMBER TESTED - 2578 PERSONS
NEGATIVE - 2333 PERSONS
POSITIVE CONFIRMED - 245 PERSONS (10%)
RECOVERED - 114 PERSONS (47%)
ISOLATION - 119 PERSONS
DEATHS - 12 PERSONS (5%)
QUARANTINE - 16 PERSONS
Institution of Public Health Measures

+ Closing of all Airports
+ Closing of all official ports of entry
+ Closing of all un-official ports of entry

+ Institution of wearing face mask
+ Institution of physical distancing in all public & private entities
+ Limit on size of gatherings

+ Institution of the stay at home policy with only essential workers allowed to be out
  + Closure of all non-essential businesses
  + Institution of the 6pm to 6am curfew
Formulation of the COVID-19 Network

- Surveillance
- Hotline
- COVID Community Facilities
- Mobile Units
- Port Health

Quarantine

- Isolation:
  - Asymptomatic & Mild Cases
  - Severe Cases (Include ICU care)
  - Deliveries
Risk Communication

- Education of the general public
- Community education
- Feedback mechanism by implementing a KAP survey
- Education of health workers
- Education of officials at ports of entry
- Education of private sector actors
- Education of officials of the government sector
Challenges

- Lack of adequate human resources and facilities for quarantine & isolation
- Lack of adequate communication in hard to reach areas making contact tracing difficult
- Daily cross border activities in bordering communities
- Denial among some members of the public on the seriousness of the disease because of the low mortality, Religious beliefs among others
Lessons Learned

- Addressing COVID-19 cases while providing the continuum of care
- Using limited resources like in the case of Guyana to address several emerging health situations at the same time
- The collaborative efforts by several agencies including the private sector to address the needs, utilizing a pool of limited resources to mitigate the impending challenges
- The resilience of our Health Workers, citizenry and communities
Next steps

- The completion of Centre for Disease Control Corporation
- Outfitting of the Centre for Disease Control Corporation
- Training of specialized Health Care Workers in Infectious Diseases
- Strengthening Surveillance
- Establishment of COVID-19 Health Facilities in the Regions across the
- Removing Measures