

# Response to COVID-19 in the Dominican Republic

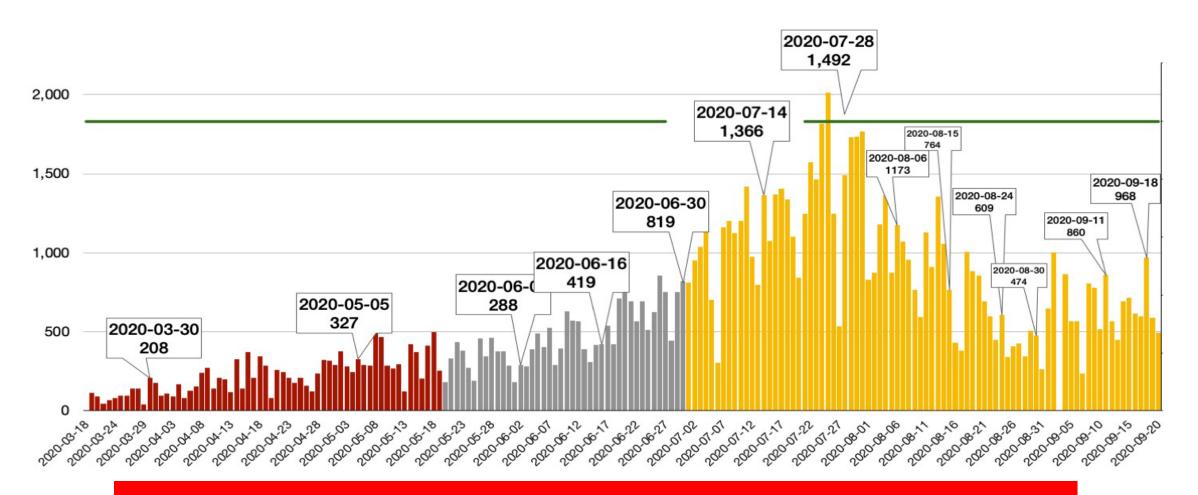
Dr. Ivelisse Acosta

Vice-minister of Population Health Ministry of Public Health

Santo Domingo, September 18th, 2020

### COVID-19 daily cases in the DR, from March 18th to September 21st

■Periodo de cierre ■Fases de desescalamiento ■ Post desescalamiento —Toque de queda



# Trends in COVID-19 indicators in the Dominican Republic, May 31<sup>st</sup> to September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

COVID-19 Indicators	Mayo 31 <sup>st</sup>	June 15 <sup>th</sup>	June 30 <sup>th</sup>	July 15 <sup>th</sup>	July 31 <sup>st</sup>	August 15 <sup>th</sup>	August 31 <sup>st</sup>	Septem 15 <sup>th</sup>	Septem 20 <sup>th</sup>	Tendencia
Attak Rate per 100,000	2.75	3.97	7.84	10.26	16.82	7.31	2.53	6.87	4.73	<b>↑↑ ↑↑ ↓</b>
% Positivity	19.2*	22.6**	27.1***	36.2***	33.55 a	31.94ª	28.09ª	20.19 <sup>b</sup>	14.75 <sup>b</sup>	$\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\downarrow$
PCR tests per million	7,986	10,777	14,752	19,301	25,170	31,054	35,699	41,099	43,029	<b>†† †† †</b> †
% Fatality Rate	2.86	2.60	2.26	1.93	1.64	1.68	1.83	1.90	1.89	<b>††††††</b>
% ICU beds occupancy	<40%	48%	62%	70%	81.3% <sup>c</sup>	60%	52%	40%	37%	<b>↑↑ ↑↑ ↓</b>

Fuente: DIGEPI, MSP; Plataforma del Servicio Nacional de Salud

\*\*\*\*Semana epidemiológica 29 (12 julio – 18 de julio)

<sup>c</sup>Dato del 29 de julio.

<sup>\*</sup>Semana epidemiológica 23 (31 de mayo – 6 de junio)

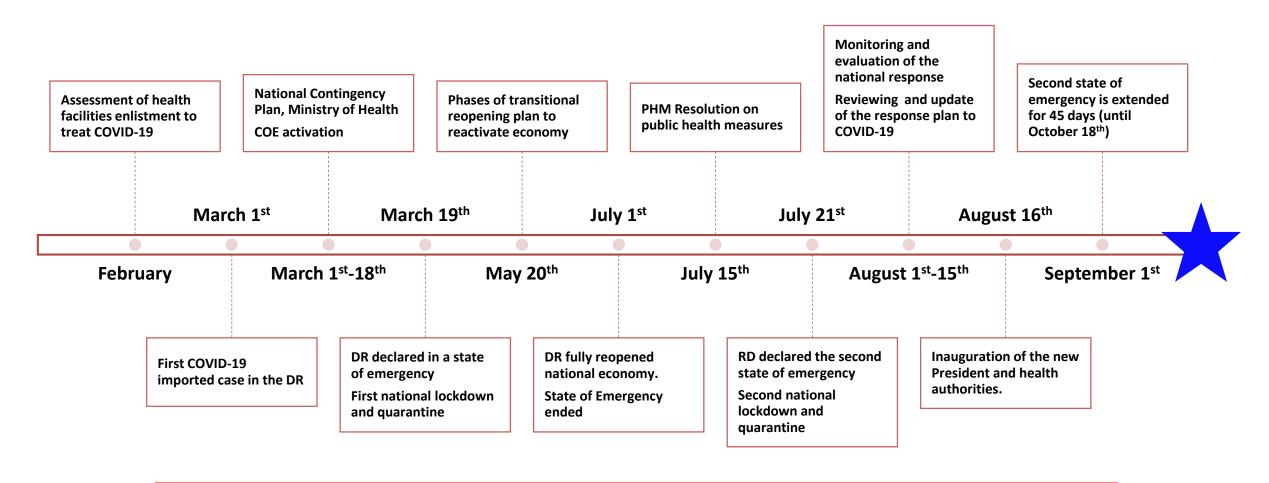
<sup>\*\*</sup> Semana epidemiológica 25 (14 de junio – 14 de junio)

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Semana epidemiológica 27 (28 de junio – 4 de julio)

a% de positividad en las ultimas 4 semanas.

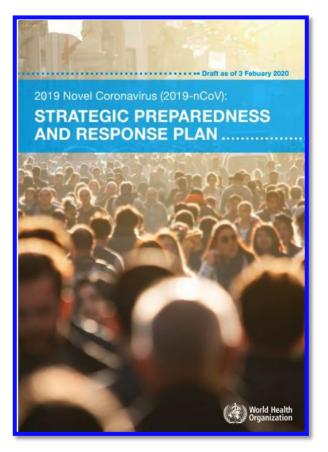
b% de positividad diaria

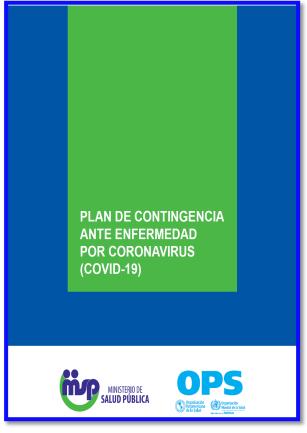
### **Covid-19 Response: Main chronological events**

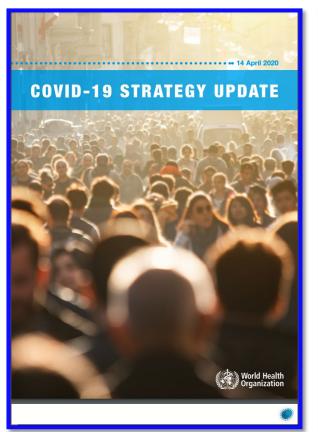


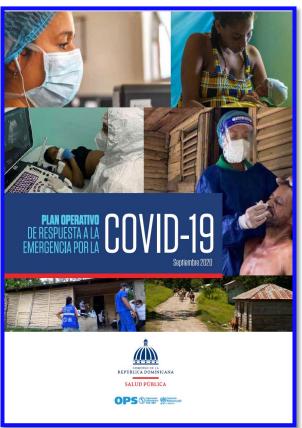
Source: DIGEPI, DR

## **Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19**









Pillar 1: Coordination, planning and monitoring



- Development of cross-sectoral and multisectoral decision-making teams.
- Strengthening public and private sector integration.
- Agreements for the management of inputs, medicines and the COVAX mechanism.

Pillar 2:
Risk communication and community participation



- Development of tools and educational materials to keep the community informed and involved.
- Press conferences, epidemiological newsletter publication, real-time dashboard.

#### Pillar 3: Surveillance, rapid response teams and case investigation



- Implementation of new communitybased active surveillance activities.
- Implementation of the seroprevalence survey (8.5%).
- Domiciliary visits for case investigation and EPP distribution.

#### Pillar 4: Points of entry



- Development of the new response plan for tourism and health.
- Start of implementation of the Responsible Tourism Recovery Plan.
- Health plan verification actions at airports: random quick tests, installation of cameras to take temperatures, among others.

#### Pillar 5: Dr. Defilló National Laboratory



- Strengthening the capacities of the National Laboratory.
- Increased number of daily PCR tests at the national and provincial levels, and decreased processing time.

# Pillar 6: Infection prevention and control



- Development of guides and protocols for PCI at the institutional level, at different levels of care.
- Training to health personnel PCI measures, proper use of PPE, cleaning and disinfection, among others.

#### Pillar 7: Case management



- Update on clinical management of COVID-19.
- Strengthening pre-clinic attention and triage.
- Strengthening the capacity of response for the health facilities in terms of hospitalization and ICU.
- Training for health workers.

#### Pillar 8: Operational support and logistical aspects



- Replenishment of specialized equipment, medicines, medical supplies, supplies and PPE at the provincial and local levels.
- Receipt of donations of inputs and PPE.

# Pillar 9: Essential maintenance of health services and systems



 Reactivation of all population health programs: maternal child health, adolescent health, noncommunicable diseases, HIV, Tuberculosis, zoonotic infections, immunizations, and others.

•





# Challenges

- Strengthen and automate the National Laboratory to increase the number of PCR tests.
- Develop active, institutional and community surveillance actions, as well as public health measures at the local and provincial levels.
- Strengthen case identification and isolation and contact tracking.
- Plan and recruit the human resource in health to ensure the care of COVID-19 patients and expansion UCI beds.
- Ensure the planning and distribution of inputs, equipment and PPE at different levels of care according to their role in the response.
- Advance clinical research projects, including the WHO Solidarity study.
- Consolidate cross-sectoral actions to prioritize public health measures, in sectors such as tourism, transport, food chain and supplies, among others.
- Strengthen the First Level of Care to ensure continuity of essential health services.
- Development of the APS strategy with an integrated health services networking model.