THE COVID-19 EXPERIENCE IN THE BAHAMAS

Dr. Pearl McMillan
Chief Medical Officer

JUNE 2020
The Pandemic is Not Over

Success with containment and mitigation measures thus far

Proven public health measures – hand and respiratory hygiene, physical distancing

Border restrictions, Curfews & Lockdowns

Not out of the woods yet! Cannot become complacent!
First Case Diagnosed

March 14, 2020

Seven months after Hurricane Dorian – Category 5

Massive destruction on Abaco Island and surrounding cays

Massive disruption in health care services infrastructure on Grand Bahama Island

Major Hospital declared uninhabitable due to black water damage

1. Surrounding community health care facilities destroyed

Disruption in health services delivery and public health infrastructure

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National Context

- **Jan. 2020**: Partial Activation Health Emergency Operations Center
- **27 Jan. 2020**: National Border Control Measures
- **30 Jan. 2020**: PHEIC Declared
- **February 13, 2020**: Preparedness and Response Plan
- **February 25, 2020**: Laboratory Testing
- **11 Mar. 2020**: Pandemic Declared
- **14 Mar. 2020**: Bahamas 1st confirmed COVID-19 Case
- **16 March 2020**: Full Activation Health Emergency Operations Center
- **15 June 2020**: Bahamas last confirmed COVID-19 Case
Previous Preparedness for Emergencies

Integrated into general emergency preparedness

Served us well but not enough!

2008 Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Planning

A “whole-of-society” approach to pandemic influenza preparedness
COVID-19 Response Requirements

SERVICES
EQUIPMENT AND INVENTORY
LABORATORY CAPACITY
PERSONNEL
FINANCIAL
Characteristics of the Epidemic
Outcome of Public Health Measures
# A Measured Plan for Re-Opening Economy

Contingent on advice of Health Officials

27 April 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 1a</th>
<th>Phase 1b</th>
<th>Phase 2</th>
<th>Phase 3</th>
<th>Phase 4</th>
<th>Phase 5</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ESSENTIAL SERVICES &amp; HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS</strong></td>
<td><strong>DELIVERY &amp; CURBSIDE SERVICE &amp; CONSTRUCTION</strong></td>
<td><strong>EXPANDING OPERATIONS</strong></td>
<td><strong>BEGINNING THE NEW NORMAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>MOVING FORWARD</strong></td>
<td><strong>RE-STARTING TOURISM &amp; OPENING THE BORDERS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economic</strong> Essential businesses.</td>
<td><strong>Economic</strong> Businessess that can provide goods and services through delivery and curbside pick-up, Monday - Friday.</td>
<td><strong>Economic</strong> Resume business operations in Family Islands with no presence of COVID-19. Increase businesses that can scale up to operate via delivery and curbside.</td>
<td><strong>Economic</strong> Introduce non-essential storefront business operations with essential staff required to allow the business to function. Must have posted protocols and train staff. Number of customers limited based on store square footage.</td>
<td><strong>Economic</strong> Introduce restaurants, cultural facilities, gyms, movie theaters and entertainment facilities to operate with social distancing protocols inclusive of masks. Resume office operations with strict social distancing. <strong>Personal</strong> services such as hair care and nails with PPE.</td>
<td><strong>Economic</strong> International travel resumes with strict safety protocols to ensure The Bahamas is a safe destination. <strong>Hotels</strong> in full operation with appropriate safety protocols. <strong>Tourism</strong> and transportation related businesses resume with safety protocols.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Social</strong> 24-hour curfew, Monday 5 AM - Friday 9 PM.</td>
<td><strong>Social</strong> Exercise 90 minutes in neighborhood, Monday - Friday.</td>
<td><strong>Social</strong> Worship services with strict social distancing and masks. Relax restrictions on exercising even further.</td>
<td><strong>Social</strong> Limited educational operations (including national examinations based on appropriate social distancing and masks). Relax restrictions on weddings, funerals and social gatherings.</td>
<td><strong>Social</strong> Expanding educational operations with social distancing protocols. <strong>Domestic</strong> travel to commence with strict screening and protocols. <strong>Group</strong> exercise or recreation with social distancing.</td>
<td><strong>Social</strong> Public transportation resumes with safety protocols. <strong>Restrictions</strong> lifted on movement.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Home &amp; Hardware, nurseries and auto parts stores permitted 2 days in store.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Property</strong> management, and Landscaping, Monday - Friday.</td>
<td><strong>Permit</strong> construction in Nassau with Industry Protocols, Monday - Friday.</td>
<td><strong>Manage</strong> lines in store and outside with markers and security staff.</td>
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<td><strong>Manufacturing</strong> of PPE and sanitizers, Monday - Friday.</td>
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Thank You!