



CORONAVIRUS

Management of COVID-19 Pandemic in Mauritius

Hon. Minister of Health and Wellness

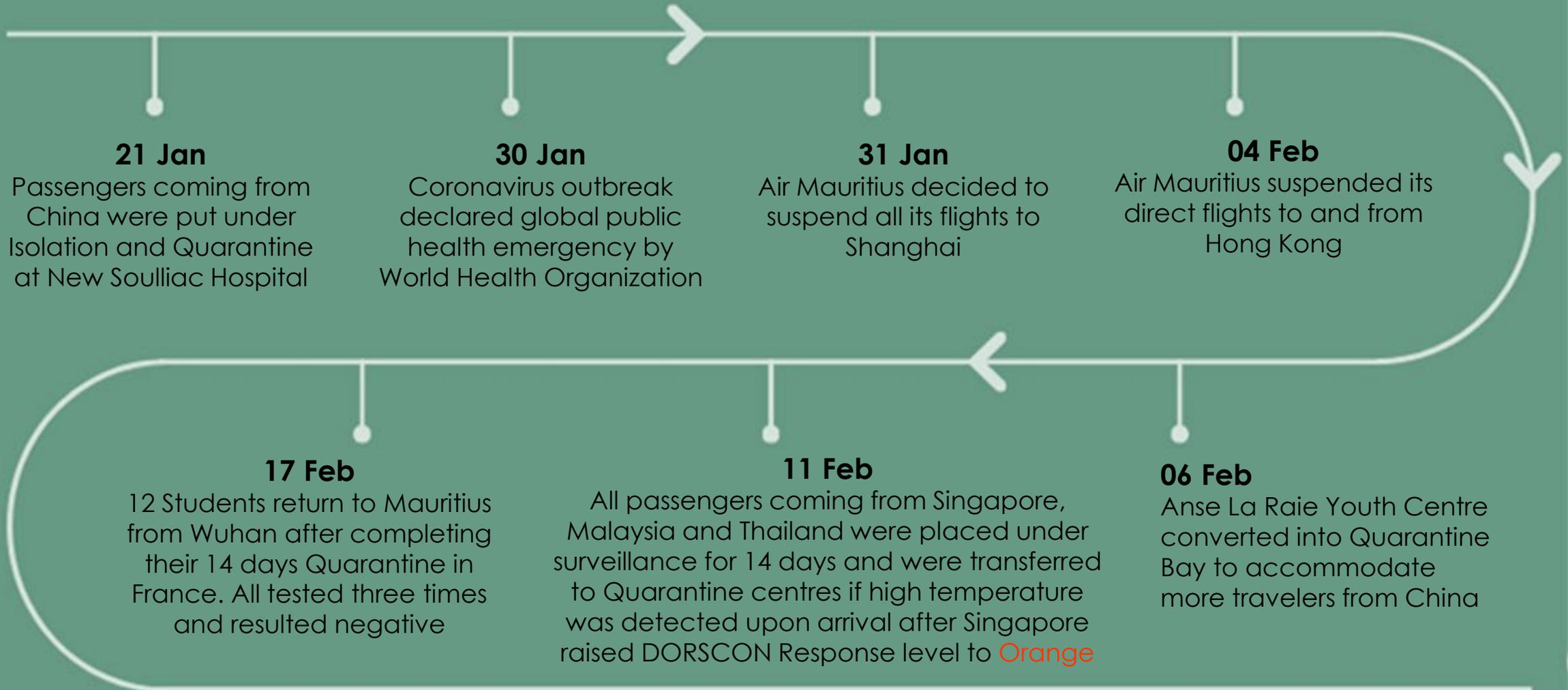
July 2020



Overview of COVID-19 in Mauritius

- **Number of confirmed cases of COVID-19: 344, including 10 deaths**
- **First Case: 18 March 2020 (3 Cases)**
- **First Death: 20 March 2020**
- **Last Case in Community: 26 April 2020**
- **From 24 May 2020 till 29 July 2020: No locally transmitted cases; 12 Imported Cases reported.**
- **Total Number of Passengers that were quarantined as at 29 July 2020 : 5082**

Measures taken in Mauritius to prevent COVID-19



Comprehensive public education programme

Sensitization campaign by Ministry of Health and Wellness started on 23 January 2020 through Radio, TV and written press.

Several meetings were held with various stakeholders namely:

- ▶ Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology
- ▶ Local Government Representatives
- ▶ Social Security Representatives
- ▶ Representatives from metro Express
- ▶ Bus Owners Association
- ▶ Social Welfare Division
- ▶ Representative from Bank
- ▶ Business Mauritius
- ▶ CEB
- ▶ CWA

Travel Restrictions

- ▶ Based on the increasing number of COVID-19 cases worldwide, the MOHW issued several communiqués regarding travel restrictions from high risk countries (China, Italy, Iran, South Korea, France)
- ▶ On 16 March 2020, Mauritius extended travel restrictions for a period of two weeks on foreign passengers coming from or having transited during the last 14 days in countries of the European Union, including the United Kingdom and Switzerland; and also from Reunion Island.
- ▶ As for Mauritians coming from these countries, they were automatically placed in quarantine for a period of two weeks.
- ▶ After Mauritius declared its first 3 cases of COVID-19, the Prime Minister announced that the country would be under "sanitary" lockdown for two weeks starting 20 March 2020.

Implementation of Lockdown Procedures

- ▶ During the lockdown, only the essential services and certain economic activities and minimum public transport service would operate.
- ▶ On 24 March 2020, the Prime Minister announced that the country would be under complete lock-down until 31 March 2020 with only essential services being operational. Work Access Permit was granted to officers working.
- ▶ All other activities were banned during the curfew period, including all supermarkets, shops and bakeries
- ▶ On 30 March 2020, sanitary curfew was extended till 15 April 2020 and supermarkets, excluding bakeries, would restart operations as from 2 April 2020. Customers were allowed to enter supermarkets as per the alphabetical order.
- ▶ All flights to Rodrigues island were suspended until further notice.

De-confinement Phases

- ▶ On 15 May 2020, Mauritius embarks on the first phase of easing its lockdown protocol
- ▶ On 29 May 2020, the Mauritian government announced the end of lockdown for the 30 May at 00.00. However, some restrictions was imposed on certain activities, in public spaces and public gatherings.
- ▶ On 12 June 2020, the Prime Minister announced the decision to lift all business and activity lockdowns ordered earlier to cope with the COVID-19, as from Monday 15 June 2020.
- ▶ Consequently, beaches, markets, gyms, parks, Village Halls, Community Centres, cinema and other public places became accessible to the public but the wearing of masks was compulsory.

Involvement of stakeholders in Response to COVID-19

March

- 18 Schools and Universities shut until further notice. Education programs were provided to all students online and on the television
- 25 Distribution of 35,000 food packs to families in the social register and those in need.
- 26 COVID-19 Solidarity Fund set up, whose collected funds would be used to help people who have been affected by the pandemic

April

- 3 Contribution of MUR 11.3 million by European Union to the Covid-2019 Solidarity Fund.
- 9 Implementation of Self Employed Scheme and Wage Assistance Scheme as a measure of financial assistance

It was observed that many people refused to follow instructions. Consequently, the Police Force reinforced and reorganise its patrol operations and became more stringent against the non-compliance of curfew order.

May

Distribution of 2,500 Tablet Computers to children who are on the social security register for E-Learning

Legislations reinforced in relation to COVID-19

- ▶ Sections 79 to 83 of the Public Health Act were amended.
- ▶ The Quarantine (Quarantinable Diseases) Regulations 2020 were published. Any person who contravenes the Quarantine Act, shall on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding MUR 500,000 and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years
- ▶ The Prevention and Mitigation of Infectious Disease (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020 were published
- ▶ Curfew Order was issued by the Government of Mauritius, aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in Mauritius.
- ▶ COVID-19 (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill and the Quarantine Bill were passed , which aims at empowering the economy, save enterprises and jobs, and build for a recovery.
- ▶ The Prevention of Resurgence and Further Spread of Epidemic Disease (COVID-19) Regulations 2020 was published in the Government Gazette on 17 May 2020.

