



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Health

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Ground Floor Park Plaza, St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain

MEDIA RELEASE

March 26, 2020

Trinidad and Tobago COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Update # 50

Port-of-Spain, March 26, 2020: As part of the national drive to safeguard the health of the Trinidad and Tobago population in the face of the global COVID-19 outbreak, the Ministry of Health continues to provide up-to-date information on the country's status in this regard.

As of the afternoon of **Thursday, 26th March, 2020** the Ministry reports the following:

- **Number of samples submitted to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) for testing for COVID-19 = 415**
- **Number of samples which have tested positive = 65**
- **Number of deaths = 1**

The Ministry provides the following update:

- Three (3) additional nationals who returned from the cruise.
- One new positive case is another imported case.

Forty-seven (47) of these positive cases came from the group of nationals who recently returned from a cruise, (44 from the group of 68 nationals who returned together and 3 additional persons, who were also on the cruise, but returned to Trinidad and Tobago separately, from the other 68).

The Ministry of Health urges members of the public to stay at home if ill. If you have a high temperature or a continuous cough, please remain indoors and contact your nearest health facility. If ill at home, practice self-isolation from other members of your family as much as possible. Do not share common household items. This is important to prevent the spread of COVID-19 from person to person.

The public is also urged to take the following personal hygiene measures to protect themselves and their loved ones from COVID-19:

- Wash your hands properly with soap and water
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if water and soap are not available
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
 - Dispose of tissue immediately after using



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- Cough and sneeze into the crook of your elbow if you do not have a tissue
- Avoid touching your face
- Sanitize hard surfaces (e.g. table tops, handrails, doorknobs and trolleys) as often as possible.
- Avoid close contact with people who have flu-like symptoms
- Practice social distancing
 - Maintain at least 2 metres (6 feet) distance between yourself and others, especially anyone who is coughing or showing signs of illness

It is also advised that all public transportation vehicles should operate with windows open and, where possible, limit their occupancy.

The Ministry will continue to provide accurate information to the public in a timely fashion. The public is therefore urged to disregard and avoid sharing all unconfirmed, misleading and/or false information about COVID-19 (formerly Novel Coronavirus).



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