



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

## Ministry of Health

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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

### M E D I A R E L E A S E

March 22, 2020

#### **Trinidad and Tobago COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Update # 41**

**Port-of-Spain, March 22, 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.

Thus, as of the morning of **Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020** the Ministry reports the following:

- **Number of samples submitted to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) for testing for COVID-19 = 298**
- **Number of samples which have tested positive = 50**

It should be noted that **40** of these positive cases came from the group of nationals who recently returned from a cruise. Additionally, the fiftieth (50<sup>th</sup>) positive covid-19 case had a recent travel history.

**The Ministry of Health confirms that all positive COVID-19 cases, thus far, have been imported.**

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
  - 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. tabletops, handrails, doorknobs and trolleys) as often as possible.
- Avoid close contact with people who have flu-like symptoms
- Stay home if you are ill



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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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