**Covid-19 and Islands**

***Trinidad and Tobago***

1. What actions are being taken to protect the island community from Covid 19? In particular, how are travel restrictions being put in place and enforced?

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Margaret Hinkson  [magintob@hotmail.com](mailto:magintob@hotmail.com) | 22 March 2020 | * From 22 March, international air and sea borders are closed except for cargo vessels. No passenger flights or cruises permitted. * Closure of all bars, dining in restaurants, cinemas, members clubs * All schools and university campuses closed * Facilities at beaches are closed * Public urged to stay indoors and practice social distancing |
| See [Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency Situation Report](https://www.cdema.org/FINAL_CDEMA_Situation_Report_3_-_COVID_19_Outbreak_26_March_2020.pdf) | 26 March 2020 | * Borders remain closed except to receive cargo; individuals are not permitted to enter the country. * COVID-19 hotline operational. * If necessary, the State will enforce certain aspects of the quarantine act to address challenges with those not obeying self-isolation orders. Procedures are in place with the police service to ensure that those per list remain in self-isolation. * The public has been asked to remain calm and vigilant and those returning to obey self-isolation. |
| Kaneisha Toussaint  [Toussaint\_13@live.com](mailto:Toussaint_13@live.com) | 6 May 2020 | * In TnT the boarders have remained closed, wearing masks in public have become the new norm and going outside is done only if absolutely necessary. |
| Genève Phillip-Durham  [Geneve.phillip@yahoo.com](mailto:Geneve.phillip@yahoo.com) | 22 April 2020 | * The air and sea borders have been closed for arrivals and departures, except in cases where import and export has to be facilitated. There are limited exemptions which must be pre approved by the Minister of National Security. Even so, no crew members are allowed to disembark vessels on arrival to air and sea ports. * There is currently a stay at home order in effect for non-essential individuals, businesses and services. Restaurants either for dine in or take out are not considered essential at this phase of the stay at home order, although they were allowed to remain open for take out during the first few weeks of the order which commenced 30th March. |
| Rima Mohammed  New Earth Organic Enterprises Limited  rimamohammed@hotmail.com | 20 May 2020 | * Our borders have been closed since midnight of March 22nd. Re-opening is slated as Phase 6 in gov't overall plan for the return to pre Covid conditions |
| Jude Alibey  jude.alibey@gmail.com | 20 May 2020 | * No air travel at this time consequently not in TimeTable for the year |
| Adelle Roopchand  [adelleroopchand@gmail.com](mailto:adelleroopchand@gmail.com) | 13 May 2020 | * Borders are closed until a date to be determined by Govt |

1. What actions will be taken should people on the island have Covid 19?

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Margaret Hinkson  [magintob@hotmail.com](mailto:magintob@hotmail.com) | 22 March 2020 | * There is testing only where a real possibility of infection is assessed. * After positive test result persons are placed in quarantine under medical observation for minimum of 14 days. * If hospitalization is required, 2 isolation centres have been earmarked. |
| Kaneisha Toussaint  [Toussaint\_13@live.com](mailto:Toussaint_13@live.com) | 6 May 2020 | * We have quarantine bases set up and recovery houses. |
| Adelle Roopchand  [adelleroopchand@gmail.com](mailto:adelleroopchand@gmail.com) | 13 May 2020 | * Quarantine, testing, treatment. |
| Rima Mohammed  New Earth Organic Enterprises Limited  [rimamohammed@hotmail.com](mailto:rimamohammed@hotmail.com) | 20 May 2020 | * A parallel health care system has been put in place that includes dedicated hospital and step down facilities to accommodate Covid positive patients to ensure they are quarantined apart from the population |

1. What actions are being taken to ensure that essential goods and services are provided to the island community?

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Margaret Hinkson  [magintob@hotmail.com](mailto:magintob@hotmail.com) | 22 March 2020 | * Supermarkets and pharmacies remain open, also the green market. * Utilities are running as normal. * Transport services in operation with wider spacing between seats. |
| Kaneisha Toussaint  [Toussaint\_13@live.com](mailto:Toussaint_13@live.com) | 6 May 2020 | * Supermarkets and pharmacies have remained opened with specific hours and daily sanitization practices. |
| Genève Phillip-Durham  [Geneve.phillip@yahoo.com](mailto:Geneve.phillip@yahoo.com) | 22 April 2020 | * They are mandated to be quarantined at a public health facility for 14 days in the initial instance or until they become asymptomatic and must then undergo two consecutive tests within a 24hr period, which must have negative results before being discharged. |
| Rima Mohammed  New Earth Organic Enterprises Limited  [rimamohammed@hotmail.com](mailto:rimamohammed@hotmail.com) | 20 May 2020 | * Cargo vessels and aircraft have been allowed to enter the ports and airports, but crews are not allowed to disembark. |
| Adelle Roopchand  [adelleroopchand@gmail.com](mailto:adelleroopchand@gmail.com) | 13 May 2020 | Food stock estimated to last until September. Agricultural sector is an essential service to continue providing food crops to community. Food sector value chain will be reopened in the near future |

1. What actions are being taken to ensure that people working on the islands, not only in the tourism sector, are sustained financially in the short term and in the long term?

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Margaret Hinkson  [magintob@hotmail.com](mailto:magintob@hotmail.com) | 22 March 2020 | * Commercial sector is trying to not reduce staff. * Govt measures to supplement low income families through food cards and financial grants. * Banks and finance Houses have reduced interest rates and suspend repayments * Govt is to pay long outstanding debts owed to private contractors and others to protect jobs |
| Kaneisha Toussaint  [Toussaint\_13@live.com](mailto:Toussaint_13@live.com) | 6 May 2020 | * Short term: grants are being given out to help sustain the livelihood. |
| Genève Phillip-Durham  [Geneve.phillip@yahoo.com](mailto:Geneve.phillip@yahoo.com) | 22 April 2020 | * Financial institutions have provided moratorium for clients and the government is providing a range of social and financial support measures by way of unemployment grants, rental assistance grants and food support grants for three months in the initial instance. A committee has been appointed to draft policy for longer term/post covid 19 recovery. |
| Rima Mohammed  New Earth Organic Enterprises Limited  [rimamohammed@hotmail.com](mailto:rimamohammed@hotmail.com) | 20 May 2020 | * Gov't social assistance measures through the NIS and through the facilitation of grants for rent relief, foods cards and hampers, as well as a substantial sum has been allocated to NGOs and faith based organizations to assist with their work among the socially displaced, as well as with migrant groups. Gov't has also allocated 300 million in loans to the SME sector. Commercial banks have waived instalments of loans and mortgages for between 3 to 6 months. There is to be no disruption in public utilities such as water and electricity which is still state controlled. |
| Adelle Roopchand  [adelleroopchand@gmail.com](mailto:adelleroopchand@gmail.com) | 13 May 2020 | Currently there is a stay at home regulation. There is a subsidy for the unemployed directly affected by the shutdown for 6 months in two schemes across the board, not just tourism sector. Soft loans for business community and relaxed interest on individual debt. |

1. What actions are being taken to ensure the mental well-being of people on the islands?

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Margaret Hinkson  [magintob@hotmail.com](mailto:magintob@hotmail.com) | 22 March 2020 | * No specific measures. But daily briefings and updates on the cases along with frequent public announcements on health measures. |
| Kaneisha Toussaint  [Toussaint\_13@live.com](mailto:Toussaint_13@live.com) | 6 May 2020 | * I am not aware of any at this time |
| Genève Phillip-Durham  [Geneve.phillip@yahoo.com](mailto:Geneve.phillip@yahoo.com) | 22 April 2020 | * Counselling services are being provided via the Ministry of Health. |
| Rima Mohammed  New Earth Organic Enterprises Limited  [rimamohammed@hotmail.com](mailto:rimamohammed@hotmail.com) | 20 May 2020 | * Mental health hot lines have been increased |
| Adelle Roopchand  [adelleroopchand@gmail.com](mailto:adelleroopchand@gmail.com) | 13 May 2020 | * PSA on to keep and stay healthy by sponsoring the amount of covid content especially GOR children * Mental health support via hotlines |

1. If you consider it appropriate, feel free to share any data about people who have Covid 19 on your island and of people who, sadly, have passed away because of Covid 19.

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Margaret Hinkson  [magintob@hotmail.com](mailto:magintob@hotmail.com) | 22 March 2020 | As of 22 March:   * The positive curve was initially very low, at 10 with only imported cases. * However, 5 dozen stranded cruise passengers were flown back home and that has increased the number of positive cases to 50. Now there is growing alarm in the community and panic is setting in. * Testing has been very limited, to persons with a major symptom who also had contact with a recent traveller. Trace testing is due to increase this week. |
| See [Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency Situation Report](https://www.cdema.org/FINAL_CDEMA_Situation_Report_3_-_COVID_19_Outbreak_26_March_2020.pdf) | 26 March 2020 | As of 26 March:   * 65 confirmed cases. * 44 of these confirmed cases are from a group of nationals who recently returned from a cruise. * 1 death. |
| Genève Phillip-Durham  [Geneve.phillip@yahoo.com](mailto:Geneve.phillip@yahoo.com) | 22 April 2020 | As of 22 April   * There have not been many cases of community spread thus far. The majority of cases have been imported with moderate local transmissions. |
| Rima Mohammed  New Earth Organic Enterprises Limited  [rimamohammed@hotmail.com](mailto:rimamohammed@hotmail.com) | 20 May 2020 | As of 20 May:   * We have not had a new positive case in the past 25 days, including through more widespread testing of communities |

1. If applicable, how are lockdown measures being relaxed?

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Genève Phillip-Durham  [Geneve.phillip@yahoo.com](mailto:Geneve.phillip@yahoo.com) | 22 April 2020 | * They have been incrementally intensified with a decision to be made on its intensification or relaxation on 30th April. |
| Kaneisha Toussaint  [Toussaint\_13@live.com](mailto:Toussaint_13@live.com) | 6 May 2020 | * Our lockdown is carded to be lifted in phases come May 10th where we will see the new norms for the way forward |
| Rima Mohammed  New Earth Organic Enterprises Limited  [rimamohammed@hotmail.com](mailto:rimamohammed@hotmail.com) | 20 May 2020 | * We are now about to enter Phase 2 of the lifting of restrictions. A significant portion of the population will now be back to work in the private sector |
| Adelle Roopchand  [adelleroopchand@gmail.com](mailto:adelleroopchand@gmail.com) | 13 May 2020 | * Gradual. In Trinidad and Tobago, we did not have a complete lock down. People were advised to stay at home hence the closure of most business. Shopping for food and paying utilities we're allowed but you must maintain social distancing and wear a mask. Considerations by govt to make the wearing of mask law. |

1. Is there anything else you want to share?

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Genève Phillip-Durham  [Geneve.phillip@yahoo.com](mailto:Geneve.phillip@yahoo.com) | 22 April 2020 | * The government provides three updates daily on the national status via press release at 10am, 4pm and 10pm. There are also daily press conferences with a q and a session for members of the media. The personnel primarily involved in the press conferences are the minister of communication, minister of health and chief medical officer. Intermittently, other medical experts are invited to share about their areas of expertise in relation to covid 19. |

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*This information has been collated by the Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance in collaboration with Island Innovation and can be found at* [*https://www.strath.ac.uk/research/strathclydecentreenvironmentallawgovernance/ourwork/research/labsincubators/eilean/islandsandcovid-19/*](https://www.strath.ac.uk/research/strathclydecentreenvironmentallawgovernance/ourwork/research/labsincubators/eilean/islandsandcovid-19/)*.*