Caymanian 1 1 Thursday, March 19, 2020 Issue No 522

GET THE FACTS

For the **latest, accurate** information on the Coronavirus (COVID19), please visit

gov.ky/Coronavirus



Cayman Brac students get careers experience



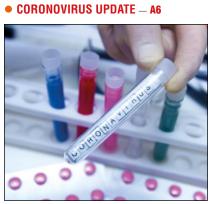


Regiment Officers Assisting HMCI



CORONOVIRUS UPDATE — A6

CAL adjusts operations for airport closures



= Complimentary =

First Test Samples Negative; Bars and Restaurants to close

First 19 Health City staff member tests are negative

Health City Cayman Islands is reporting that the first 19 of the hospital's staff members tested for COVID-19 are negative for the virus. The results of the tests run by the Cayman Islands Health Services Authority (HSA) were announced at a Cayman Islands Government press conference by Chief Medical Officer Dr. John Lee on Tuesday, March 17.

Since the tests were performed for the first time in the Cayman Islands, the samples will also be sent to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) as a quality control measure, and confirmation of the initial results should be received in the next few days.

In total, forty Health City staff members and their families who were considered to be in direct risk were immediately quarantined and had samples taken from them once a patient at the facility tested positive for the virus on Thursday, March 12.

"For these first 19 tests to have negative results is very good news," Dr. Binoy Chattuparambil, Clinical Director of Health City Cayman Islands said. "These were the first samples sent for testing and were taken from those



... Continued story on page A6

Health City Cayman Islands Main Entrance

Caymanian Times donates free advertising space to CIG

JOBS CAYMAN

A high powered team from WORC, Grand Cayman led, by Deputy Director of Compliance, Mr. Jeremy Scott, made their 1st visit for the year to Cayman Brac.

The session, which was conducted from the I.T office of the Public Library, commenced around 10.a.m last Thursday. Edward Michael Trevor Reid, a 24 year old job seeker was first to be taken through the entire process. The team was com-

GLOBAL

MEDICAL

Your Health is Our Mission

BORATORY

posed of members from Customer Care and Compliance.

A beaming and excited, Mrs. Maureen Tibbetts, was the second resident to be present. She was paying a very special visit to the team who was instrumental in assisting her in obtaining employment. "They are highly professional. They ensure

... Continued story on page A7

Dr. Joan Harriott

Dr. Alice Blavo



The WORC team with Mrs. Lisa Ritch, Finance Manager at left and Mr.Jeremy Scott, Deputy Director of Compliance in the middle



The Caymanian Times has become Cayman's trusted daily news source for thousands of people across the island. In times of difficulty we understand that responsible journalism which brings you the true story is absolutely critical to the entire community's wellbeing, so we strive to only bring the truth to our readers. Relying on social media for the latest information is a dangerous game, with rumour and false information easily passed as fact.

... Continued story on page A2

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EDITORIAL | COMMUNITY NOTICES

PAGE A2

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EDITORIAL **Doing our part**

... Continued story from page A1

In addition to the hard work of our small team, we also wish to go the extra mile to ensure that we do all that we can to aid in promoting accurate information among the community dur-

ing this difficult time, as we battle the COVID-19 corona virus together as one.

To assist with any crucial advertising they need to undertake, we are donating free advertising space to the Government in the daily newspaper. We understand the burden now upon Government to ensure that those in need get the help they are asking for. We appreciate that Government funds could be better spent with departments such as the Needs Assessment Unit, to ensure that Caymanians are helped out in this hour of need. We will be running free advertisements for Government for four weeks from now. In addition to our free advertising for Government, we want the wider community to also benefit and therefore we will now run all advertising for all clients

at reduced rates. We will also provide free death announcements.

In addition to the above, the community can rest assured that the Caymanian Times will remain a free newspaper, so everyone can get up-to-date on this fast-moving situation. 📀



▶ Ralph Lewis, Caymanian Times owner and publisher

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

Ministry Suspends Visitors to Group Homes

The Department of Children and undertaken in the best interests of the Family Services (DCFS) has suspended all social visits until further notice to the Kirkconnell Community Care Centre, Cayman Brac; Golden Age Home and Maple House in Grand Cayman.

Older people and vulnerable individuals have increased susceptibility to the upper respiratory complications caused by coronavirus. Some are immunosuppressed with chronic ailments including heart disease, diabetes and asthma. Other residents have a range of underlying health conditions; therefore this decision is being home's residents.

Mindful that this decision will be difficult for some residents and their families, DCFS is exploring alternative methods of maintaining contact between residents and their families. Staff are also keeping residents engaged through a variety of indoor and outdoor activities within their respective facilities.

Given the rapidly evolving situation, this isolation measure will be reviewed periodically and will be lifted once the threat is known to have diminished sufficiently. 😚

Statement on the Cayman Islands Government Right to Restrict Freedom of Movement

Globally the spread of COVID-19 (or "coronavirus") has become of the highest concern as countries, governments, heads of state, and health service organisations continually assess how to combat mounting concerns of the virus.

On 12 March the Public Health Department of the Cayman Islands confirmed its first case of COVID-19, which was identified in a cruise ship passenger following his transfer to Health City due to his experiencing critical cardiac issues.

Since then the Government has made numerous decisions, including the passage of regulations, the ban on all cruise ships, the restriction of gatherings of more than 50 people, and the denial of entry of visitors from identified high risk countries in an effort to minimise the impact of COVID-19 on the people of the Cayman Islands. Most recently the Cabinet made the decision to restrict travel as a whole into and

out of the country for a period of three weeks.

Whilst persons in the Cayman Islands enjoy the right of movement as engrained in s.13 of the Cayman Islands Constitution this is a qualified right and can be restricted in the interests of defence, public safety, public order, public morality or public health; or for the purpose of protecting the rights and freedoms of other persons. The Commission supports the efforts of the Cayman Islands Government to protect the Cayman community with these preventative measures.

Further information on freedom of novement, other rights, or the Human Rights Commission can be found at Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009 or on www.humanrightscommission.ky. You can contact the Commission via email at info@humanrightscommission.ky or via phone 244-3685. 💎

Effective 13th March 2020

For the safety of our residents and staff, The Pines Retirement Home Board of Directors and Management have suspended ALL visits from the general public (including residents' family members) until further notice.

Thank you for your patience with us during this coronavirus pandemic!

The Pines Retirement Home Board of Directors and Management





Monday to Friday 9 am to 6 pm Saturday 10 am to 5 pm

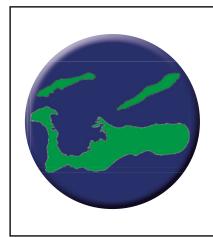
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LOCAL NEWS

CAYMANIAN TIMES

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▶ Intern Daniela Walton with Mrs. Neila Jones, Child Care Supervisor

<image>

▶ Interns Jaedon Tatum (L) and Intern Jovian Thompson (R) along with their mentors

LSHS students get careers experience

By Lindsey Turnbull

Even though a vital school fair for Cayman Brac students was postponed last week, students are still getting important work experience on the Sister Island thanks to Layman Scott High School's (LSHS) vocational work experience programme, called Work Link.

Jenine Stewart, Career Services Manager with the Cayman Islands Further Education Centre (CIFEC) and Denver Bloomfield, Career Advisor, were on the Brac last week Thursday in anticipation of the careers fair, due to be held on Friday but unfortunately postponed. They worked alongside Yvette Gayle, Coordinator – Career Activities at LSHS, who was the organiser of the Career Fair.

"It was unfortunate that we have had to postpone the careers fair, as we had more than 30 businesses planning to come to the event. We had a cross-section of businesses lined up, within IT, banking, tourism hospitality, agriculture, healthcare, the fire department, the RCIPS, legal and accounting," Ms Gayle advised. "Those people who were coming over from Grand Cayman still have tickets and we very much hope the event will take place before the end of the school year."

Hands-on experience

While the careers fair itself was cancelled, the 19 students in year 11 or 12 at the LSHS are very well covered when it comes to future career direction. There are currently 13 students studying for their dual entry exams to take them on to higher education and six in vocational programmes providing them with careers opportunities.

"All students in Years 11 and 12 undertake work experience through the Work Link work experience programme. Traditionally, students worked for two hours per week, at different placements over two years," Ms Stewart advised.

Based on feedback from many employers and students, they had changed the format to improve the quality of the programme, she explained. As a result, Year 11 students participate in two such placements in January and June and vocational students participate in an on-going work experience placement for two days each week in Year 12. The students benefit from a greater understanding of the range of activities that each job entails.

The six Year 12 students on work placement are currently placed with Cayman Brac's Customs and Border Patrol, The Cayman Islands Fire Service (two students), Air Traffic Control, Cayman Brac Day Care Centre and Troy's Garage.

Troy Grant from Troy's Garage has been involved with the school for many years. He said that he generally had quite a few students join him for the



 Centre, LSHS Intern Nathan Tibbetts with Raquel Matute- Assistant Director (Cayman Islands Customs and Border Control) – Sister Islands Operations and Dave Tatum – Deputy Director Cayman Islands Customs and Border Control (Sister Islands Operations)

programme, with the main aim of "souping up" their own cars.

"Once they see that this type of job is not a clean office-type job they realise the field is not for them," Troy acknowledged. "Even so, we have had a small number of students who have come and worked with us during the summer."

With the aim of enticing students into the world of early learning, Ms Neila Jones from Cayman Brac Day said that she has had considerable success.

"Mr Bloomfield and I had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with the six students of LSHS who are currently on work experience. The students were satisfied with their placements, the only little concern being, that there are certain areas that some of them cannot be exposed to at this time. Justin has plans to become a pilot and has already formulated a plan as to how to achieve his goals, liaising with former LSHS past student Rodney Dixon, who is now an Air Traffic Controller and with a retired pilot," she advised. "The students were positive, happy and explained that the experience has been meaningful. Mrs Jones stated that Daniela already operates more like a member of staff, than an intern." Ms Stewart sad that employers stated that the students were receptive and cooperative and applied themselves. The supervisors at Customs and Border Control explained their limitations, in that, they were not always able to expose the intern to all areas of the job, due to the nature of their job and the confidentiality that must be maintained. They, however, try to expose him to as many areas as possible, rotating him to the different departments under their control. "The employers gave very positive feedback. They indicated that students acted in a professional manner, willingly performed tasks, were respectful and eager to learn," she stated. 夺



Centre Intern Carl Stevens ; Denver Bloomfield – Career Advisor (L) and Troy- Owner of Troy's Garage

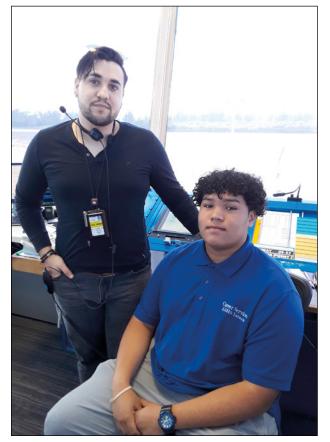
"Over the years we have had several students come through the Work Link programme and from there, some have moved on to internships and then on to becoming staff members," Ms Jones advised.

Ms Jones said she had thought it a great idea for students from the school to gain some hands-on work experience in her field, allowing them to really immerse themselves in the area of early childhood learning.

"There is a humungous internal benefit when you see what a difference you are making," she confirmed. "Early childhood development is the foundation from which everything else is based. This is true nation building."

Positive results

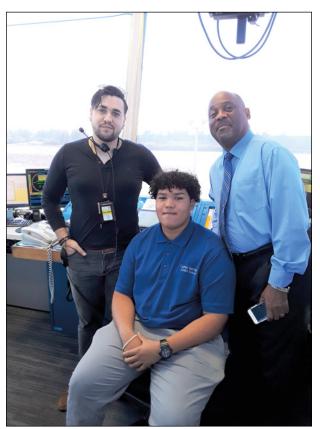
Ms Stewart said the students were all excited about their 'jobs' and valued the experience that they were gaining.



Seated, Intern Justin Paz and Air Traffic Controller Rodney Dixon



Intern Carl Stevens with two employees



Seated – LSHS Intern Justin Paz. Behind him is Air Traffic Controller, Rodney Dixon and Career Advisor Denver Bloomfield (blue shirt)

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Coronavirus Information and Advice for Vulnerable People

Prevention Tips

- frequently **cleanse hands** with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitiser
- cough or sneeze in a tissue and bin it
- if a tissue is not available cough/sneeze into your elbow not your hands
- avoid close contact with people suffering from fever or cough
- avoid travel if you have a fever, cough, or flu-like symptoms
- avoid wearing a surgical mask unless advised by a medical professional

Extra Steps You Can Take To Avoid Covid-19

If you have a **chronic illness** (e.g. respiratory disease, diabetes, heart disease, COPD, hypertension or cancer), are **elderly** (over 60) or have a **compromised** immune system, you can further protect yourself with the below extra precautionary steps in addition to the prevention tips above.



Most importantly, remember you are supported.

DATED: 12

Call the H.S.A. helpline on **1-800-534-8600** or **947-3077** if you have any questions.

For the latest updates and information, please visit HSA.ky/public-health/coronavirus or gov.ky/coronavirus

Coronavirus – Self-Isolating

- Stay at home
- Try not to be in the same room as other people at the same time
- Only allow people who live with you to stay
- Stay in a well-ventilated room
- Ideally, keep two weeks of food, drink, medication and cleaning supplies at home
- Ask friends, family members or delivery services to carry out errandsfor your such as getting groceries, medicines or other shopping
- Make sure you tell delivery drivers to leave items outside for collection
- Clean toilets and bathrooms regularly
- Think about a bathroom rota if a separate bathroom is not available, with the isolated person using the facilities last, before thoroughly cleaning the bathroom themselves
- Use separate sheets and towels from anyone else in the household and launder at the hottest temperature possible for the material
- Wash crockery and utensils thoroughly with soap and water. Dishwashers may be used to clean crokery and cutlery
- Stay away from your pets if unavoidable, wash your hands before and after contact

- Invite visitors to your home or allow visitors to enter
- Go to work, school or public areas
- Use public transport or taxis
- Do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eatingutensils, towels, bedding or other items with other people in your home

Stayin touch with friends and relatives on the phone or by social media. You may find it helpful to talk to them.

Most importantly, remember you are supported.

For the latest updates and information, please visit HSA.ky/public-health/coronavirus or gov.ky/coronavirus.

DEH Advises Food Business Operators, Food Handlers on Preventative Measures to Minimise the Future Spread of Coronavirus

The coronaviruses (CoV) comprise of a large family of viruses that cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). Coronaviruses are zoonotic, which means that they are transmittable between animals and humans.

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19), that is responsible for the pandemic, is a new strain of coronavirus that has not previously been identified in humans. Although the virus is not a foodborne pathogen food handling personnel are vulnerable to infection. They are also capable of passing the virus on to work colleagues, customers and members of the public.

Food business operators and food handlers should note that the virus is spread mostly through airborne droplets. This being so, coronavirus is spread whenever the infected host coughs or sneezes, resulting in contamination of equipment, food and food contact surfaces, as well as other working surfaces.

Currently there are has been one known case of coronavirus in the Cayman Islands. It is however likely that returning residents and/or visitors from affected areas will bring coronavirus to our shores. Since anyone can be affected, the Department of Environmental Health is informing food business operators and food handlers that they are key in helping prevent the spread of the virus. The DEH currently conducts food hygiene training where one of the main topics covered is personal hygiene. Personal hygiene requires food handlers showering on a daily basis, wearing clean clothing and maintaining good grooming on and off the job.

To avoid contamination it is very important that food handlers wash their hands with warm water and soap more frequently while handling food and food preparation equipment. Good work practices will help prevent the spread of coronavirus. Also apart from hand-washing activities, care must be also taken to clean and sanitise food preparation surfaces, along with other work surfaces such as counter tops, fridge handles, door handles and tables.

Food handlers are reminded that it is advisable that fruits and vegetables that may have been touched by consumers, while on display in respective food outlets, especially those that are likely to be eaten in their raw state (e.g. lettuce, apples and grapes) must be thoroughly washed before they are eaten.



Food handlers are also reminded that they should sneeze or cough into a tissue and dispose of it. If tissues are not available they should cough or sneeze into their elbows, not their hands. Food handlers are asked to avoid shaking clients' hands or touching accompanying pets, to avoid contracting or spreading coronavirus.

If food handlers have coronavirus symptoms (e.g. coughing, fever or shortness of breath), they should stop working, inform management, self-isolate and seek medical guidance through the HSA Hotline 534-8600 or toll free 1.800.534.8600 or 947-3077 (Digicel users) or email flu@hsa.ky. Follow self-isolation household guidance on www.hsa.gov/public-health/ coronavirus or www.gov.ky./coronavirus.

LOCAL NEWS

DEH Food Safety Officers will be visiting food business operators to remind them of their obligation to maintain clean and safe work environments for both their staff and customers. 😚



Regiment Officers Assisting HMCI

Officers from the new Cayman Islands Regiment have been deployed to support the staff in Hazard Management Cayman Islands (HMCI) as the department works hard on planning to assist with the Government's response to COVID 19. The officers have recently returned from training in Bermuda and will assist HMCI with logistical planning and support.

The Regiment team is also drawing up plans to take forward the recruitment of the first 50 volunteer reservists for the Regiment and more details on this will be released shortly.

Governor Martyn Roper said: "Although the COVID 19 emergency has come before we have been able to recruit reservists for the Cayman Regiment, it is great that the officers that were recently trained in Bermuda are able to support the planning work that is going on. We will also continue to plan recruitment for the Regiment in the coming months. Current events underline the usefulness of having a military team that can assist us in times of need."

GUIDANCE FOR COVID-19

Advice sheet for home isolation

Your health team have agreed that you may stay at home while you wait for the results of tests for COVID-19 infection. This is because you do not need to be admitted to hospital and because you have agreed to follow the important instructions described below.

Stay at home

You or the person you are caring for should remain in your home, except for getting medical care Do not go to work, school, or public areas, and do not use buses or taxis until you have been told by the Public Health Department that is safe to do so.

You will need to ask for help if you require groceries, other shopping or medications. Please seek the advice from the Public Health Department.

Separate yourself from other people in your home (if able or appropriate)

You should stay in a well-ventilated room with a window to outside that can be opened, separate from other people in your home. Keep the door closed. Use a separate bathroom from the rest of the household, if available. If you have to share these facilities, regular cleaning will be required.

If a separate bathroom is not available, consideration should be given to drawing up a bathroom rota for washing or bathing, with the isolated person using the facilities last, before thoroughly cleaning the bathroom themselves (if able or appropriate). Ensure the isolated person uses separate towels from other household members, both for drying themselves after bathing or showering and for hand hygiene purposes.

If you live in shared accommodation with a communal kitchen, bathroom and living area, you should stay in your room with the door closed, only coming out when necessary, wearing a facemask if one has been issued to you by your healthcare provider.

If you share a kitchen with others, if possible avoid using it whilst others are



present. If this is not possible then wear a facemask if you have been issued with one. Take your meals back to your room to eat. Use a dishwasher (if available) to clean and dry your used crockery and cutlery. If this is not possible, wash them by hand using detergent and warm water and dry them thoroughly, using a separate tea towel. If these recommendations cannot be implemented, then home isolation should be avoided.

Please seek advice from the Public Health Department for alternative options.

Call ahead before visiting your doctor

All medical appointments should be discussed in advance with your designated healthcare provider using the number that has been provided to you. This is to ensure that your healthcare provider can take steps to minimise contact with others.

Wear a facemask if advised to

If you have been provided with facemasks, then you should wear the mask when you are in the same room with other people and when you visit a healthcare provider. If you cannot wear a facemask, we recommend people who live with you to avoid close contact (3-6 feet) while they are in same room with you.

Cover your coughs and sneezes

Cover your mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when you cough or sneeze. Carers of others undergoing testing for COVID-19 infection should use disposable tissues to wipe away any mucus or phlegm after they have sneezed or coughed.

Dispose of tissues into a plastic waste bag (see waste section for managing rubbish), and immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds rinse and dry thoroughly. Carers should wash their hands as well as helping the person they are caring for following coughing or sneezing.

Wash your hands

Wash your hands or assist the person you are caring for in washing their hands. This should be done often and thoroughly with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds, rinse and dry thoroughly. The same applies to those caring for anyone that is being tested for COV-ID-19. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Do not have visitors in your home

Only those who live in your home should be allowed to stay. Do not invite or allow visitors to enter. If you think there is an essential need for someone to visit, then discuss it with your healthcare provider first. If it is urgent to speak to someone who is not a member of your household, do this over the phone.

Avoid sharing household items

You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, bedding or other items with other people in your home when you have used them (or after your child or the person you are caring for has used them). After using these items, wash them thoroughly with soap and water; dishwashers may be used to clean crockery and cutlery.

Laundry, bedding and towels should be placed in a plastic bag and washed once it is known that the tests for COV-ID-19 are negative.

Monitor your symptoms (or the person you are caring for), as appropriate

Seek prompt medical attention if your illness is worsening, for example, if you have difficulty breathing, or if the person you are caring for symptoms are worsening. If it's not an emergency, you should call your healthcare provider using the number that has been provided to you.

If it is an emergency and you need to call an ambulance, inform the call handler or operator that you are being tested for COVID-19 (or that you are caring for someone being tested for COVID-19, as appropriate).

Waste

All waste that has been in contact with the individual, including used tissues, and masks if used, should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full. The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied.

Do not dispose of it or put it out for collection until you know that patient does not have COVID-19. Should the individual test positive, you will be instructed what to do with the waste.

For more information, visit hsa.ky/ public-health/coronavirus/ OR Call the Hotline on 1-800-534-8600 (?)

CORONOVIRUS UPDATE

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First 19 Health City staff member tests are negative for COVID-19

... Continued story from page A1

staff members who were in direct contact with the patient, and some of whom also exhibited flu-like symptoms."

The hospital quarantined and tested all staff members and their families who were considered to be at direct risk for exposure to the COVID-19 virus. The level of contact with the patient determined the risk level. Additionally, any of those staff members who displayed flu-like symptoms were included in the testing group.

"As we await the remaining test results, we are secure in the knowledge that we at Health City have taken rigorous measures to contain any possible spread of the virus, and have also been advised, instructed and reassured by Public Health England officials in this effort that we are taking all of the necessary and correct steps," Dr. Chattuparambil explained.

He further outlined how the levels of contact were assessed for testing.

"In the context of COVID-19, there is an important degree of difference between what is considered 'social contact' – such as passing someone in a hallway; 'infectious contact' - such as being sneezed or coughed on by a symptomatic contact; or 'secondary infectious contact' - such as touching a surface that a symptomatic person has sneezed or coughed on. Those individuals who have tested positive would have had 'infectious contact' or 'secondary infectious contact'. In this instance, it is unlikely that a positive test result would have resulted from 'secondary infectious contact' as Health City employs stringent infection control procedures

including mandatory regular hand-sanitation and hand-washing by staff members, and ongoing cleaning and sanitation of the facility," Dr. Chattuparambil said.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), COVID-19 can spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth which are spread when a person with COV-ID-19 coughs or exhales. These droplets land on objects and surfaces around the person. Other people then catch COV-ID-19 by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose or mouth. People can also catch COVID-19 if they breathe in droplets from a person with COVID-19 who coughs out or exhales droplets. Studies to date suggest that the virus that causes COVID-19 is mainly transmitted through contact with respiratory droplets rather than through the air. (Source: https://www. who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-acoronaviruses)

Currently testing capabilities are limited on island and testing for COVID-19 and at present is being restricted to symptomatic high risk contacts. Symptoms include fever, respiratory symptoms such as sore throat, cough, chest tightness or shortness of breath.

According to the WHO, the COVID-19 incubation period - which means the time between catching the virus and beginning to have symptoms of the disease - ranges from one to 14 days, and is most commonly around five days. (Source: https://www.who.int/news-room/q-adetail/q-a-coronaviruses)

Dr. Chattuparambil counseled members of the public to remain vigilant in protecting themselves from infection. "Please rest assured that we are abiding by the highest standards of infection control and have also taken expert advice on the containment of COVID-19. I would like to continue to urge everyone to follow standard precautionary measures against contracting the virus, including regular hand-washing and practicing good respiratory hygiene," he said.

Dr. Chattuparambil advised that Health City is continuing to work closely with Cayman Islands Government health officials on regular updates

regarding the local COVID-19 situation and will issue further updates as soon as any new information is available.

Individuals who develop any flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough, runny nose etc., are advised to contact the Cayman Islands Public Health Department at flu@hsa.ky or via the flu hotline at 1-800-534-8600.

For more information about how to protect yourself from acquiring COV-ID-19, visit www.hsa.ky/coronavirus and www.gov.ky/coronavirus

About Health City Cayman Islands

Health City Cayman Islands, the vision of renowned heart surgeon and humanitarian Dr. Devi Shetty, is supported by Narayana Health, one of India's largest private healthcare systems. Health City, only the second hospital in the Carib-



bean to receive the Joint Commission International's "hospital accreditation", provides compassionate, high-quality, affordable healthcare services in a world-class, comfortable, patient-centered environment. Offering healthcare to local, regional and international patients, Health City Cayman Islands delivers excellence in adult and pediatric cardiology, cardiac surgery, cardiac electrophysiology, medical oncology, orthopedics, sports medicine, pediatric endocrinology, gastrointestinal, hepato-pancreato-biliary and bariatric surgery, neurology, interventional neurology and neuro-diagnostics, neurosurgerv. minimally invasive spine surgery, gynecology, urology, pediatric allergies, colorectal surgery, dental, sleep lab and pulmonology services.

For further information, visit www. healthcitycaymanislands.com. (*)

Bars and Restaurants to close

By Christopher Tobutt

During the March 17 official government press briefing on the coronavirus, Chief Medical officer Dr. John Lee shared some good news about the recent test results: "The preliminary results to come back from the first tests that we've done (subject to confirmation) on the presence of the coronavirus; of these 20 tests there were 19 samples sent from Health City, and one referred through the Health Services Authority. All the samples have tested negative for the virus. In addition to the 24 tests we previously reported, there are a further 16, so there are 40 tests now outstanding which are a mixture of samples from both Health City and the Health Services Authority," he said. Premier Hon Alden McLaughlin said that all bars will be closed from 11.59 P.M on Sunday 22nd March and all restaurants will only be allowed take-out and delivery services. In addition, all gyms, spas, salons, and public swimming baths will be shut for an initial period of two weeks.

Mr. McLaughlin also announced some government financial help: "The government will be making a one-time emergency covid-19 stipend to permanent financial assistance recipients; that is, elderly persons or the disabled, seamen veterans and persons who receive ex-gratia payments to accommodate additional medical supplies and groceries. This will be a one-time payment in addition to the 850 dollars they currently receive monthly," he said. The amount would be 425 Cayman dollars, he said. "We will also be making a one-time payment to families presently receiving vouchers, to accommodate additional groceries and supplies. We are estimating a possible doubling in the number of families who currently receive support, which is 311," he said. "This payment will be made on the 30th of March."

had to make some very "robust decisions," saying that he fully supported all of the new measures. He assured the people of the Cayman Islands that the Overseas Territories were very much in the minds of UK ministers, and that their commitment was "steadfast."

The Governor also praised law enforcement entities, who had, he said, "a good track record of stepping up in times of difficulty," and said he felt sure they would do the same now. He went on to reiterate the warnings against spreading fake news and malicious rumors.



H.E the Governor, Martyn Roper paid tribute to the government, who had

Mr. McLaughlin warned against one such piece of fake news: the rumor, he said, that cargo ships would be stopped, was "Absolutely untrue." Mr. McLaughlin warned the 470 students who will be arriving home on Friday Saturday and Sunday to not treat their extra time away from their studies as an additional "spring break," in order to stay up partying, as this would bring the whole community into risk. Self-isolation for 14

Chief Medical officer Dr. John Lee

days upon arrival was very important. Dr. Lee added that the 14 day isolation included all the members of the household of a returning person too.

Minister of Health, Hon Dwayne Seymour urged everyone to follow the protocols, guidance and rules provided by government authorities: "I ask persons to adhere to policies we are put into place for your own safety," he said, and reminded everyone to keep their distance from others by 6 feet, and to continue to frequently wash their hands. He also asked everyone to watch out for vulnerable members of the community such as the elderly, and for those who had chronic health issues, such as diabetes, bronchitis, or cancer." **?**



CAL adjusts operations for airport closures

Following the Cayman Islands Government's (CIG) decision today to temporarily close passenger air traffic in and out of Grand Cayman, and to limit domestic flights between Grand Cayman and the Sister Islands to help safeguard the Cayman Islands from the Coronavirus (COV-ID-19), Cayman Airways is in the process of making the necessary adjustments to its operations, and to assist customers with finalizing their travel needs.

The CIG announced that for a period of three weeks, commencing at 11:59pm on Sunday March 22, 2020, all commercial passenger flights will cease inbound and outbound at Owen Roberts International Airport (ORIA) and at the Charles Kirkconnell International Airport (CKIA). Prior to the halting of

passenger flights, visitors to the Cayman Islands will not be allowed to enter the country as of 11:59pm on Thursday March 19, 2020, except for visitors from the UK.

Cayman Airways is currently in the process of contacting those customers with existing reservations for travel during this time, but customers may also call Cayman Airways Reservations, or contact their travel professional, to make the necessary changes to their travel itinerary.

Additionally, as announced by CIG, as of 11:59pm on Sunday March 22, 2020, transportation between Grand Cayman and the Sister Islands will be restricted

... Continued story on page A8



LOCAL NEWS

CAYMANIAN TIMES

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Edward Reid 1st job seeker to attend



▶ Ms. Antonette cheerfully doing her presentation

JOBS CAYMAN COMES TO THE BRAC

... Continued story from page A1

that proper follow up is undertaken to assist us. I am testimony that the system is working."

Priscilla Powery Livingstone, who headed up the Customer Care team said, "We are very excited to be here again. Even though this is only our second trip to the Brac, the response from our first visit last year was overwhelming. We are anticipating both employers and job seekers to take advantage of our presence here today. WORC offers a 5 step- approach to assisting as many people as possible enter the job market. There are the National Training, National Internship, National Job Link, National Apprenticeship, and National Mentorship programmes. All of these are tools to aid job seekers and employers."

Mr. Jeremy Scott, Deputy Director of Compliance was elated to see how the programme is working on the Brac. After visiting and chatting with personnel

from District Administration, he along with Mrs. Lisa Ritch, Finance Manager, viewed proceedings at the Library. When I chatted with him he said, " The senior team is here to support general business operations. We are committed to ensuring that the Sister Islands' public is at the forefront of our services. I am delighted with the efforts of our Customer Care team. Compliance will be the key to the success of this endeavour. My thanks are expressed to Ms. Rosa Ritch, Compliance Manager, Kyle McLean, Deputy Director Business Operations, and Thoywell Facey who is the Head of Finance."

Mrs Lisa Ritch, Finance Manager was delighted to be a part of this visit. "Happy to see the interest here on the Brac. I am pleased with the responses from the various personnel from District Administration."

During the day there was a constant flow of job seekers and employers taking advantage of the vast experience provided by the Customer Care team. 📀



Customer Care Team (left to right) Antonette McFarlane, Vanessa Grace, Priscilla Powery Livingstone, Netty Arch Wagner and Charisse Dixon

CIAA Coronavirus Advisory

The Cayman Islands Airports Authority (CIAA), which owns and operates the Owen Roberts International Airport (ORIA) and the Charles Kirkconnell International Airport (CKIA), has been closely monitoring the developments of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The safety, security and health of the travelling public and employees at ORIA and CKIA are a top priority for us. We are taking proactive measures and are in close communication with our employees, airline partners and tenants to reduce the risk of the spread of illnesses and impacts to the operations of the Airports. We are working with our government and staying in close contact with public health agencies to have the latest updates on the virus and any potential impacts to our Islands and surrounding borders. On Monday, 16 March 2020, the Cayman Islands Government announced that Owen **Roberts International Airport** and Charles Kirkconnell International Airport will suspend

all international flights in an effort to slow the spread of the Coronavirus, with the exception of domestic, cargo, courier and emergency medical flights, for a temporary period of three weeks starting at 11:59 p.m. Sunday, 22 March 2020.

Entry to the country will be restricted to returning residents after 11:59 p.m. Thursday, 19 March 2020. Effective this afternoon, 16 March 2020, anyone who arrives on Grand Cayman will be required to self isolate for 14 days.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer;

• Keep a social distance of three (3) to six (6) feet from other people;

 Avoiding close contact with people who are sick;

• Avoiding touching your nouth, nose and eyes;

Cleaning and sanitation efforts will continue around the clock throughout the Airport terminals. We are also working with professional cleaning companies to be available to assist our staff with deeper cleaning of the terminals. Additionally, there are alcohol-based hand sanitizers available for use throughout the terminals.

The Cayman Islands Airports Authority encourages travelers to follow the guidelines below to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus:

Veterans, Seafarers and Those **Receiving PFA Get** Early Payday

The Cay-Islands man Civil Service bringing is forward this month's pay day to Wednesday, 18 March

for its employees. This will also mean early payment for local veterans, seamen and those on Permanent Financial Assistance.

A Ministry of Community Affairs spokesman confirmed that the decision by the Head of the Civil Service and Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz Manderson includes the aforementioned groups.



The early payday is part of a range of measures being taken by the Civil Service given the rapidly developing COVID-19 situation. The decision is in recognition of the extra and anticipated expenses that are likely to be incurred by these individuals and their families in buying additional supplies.

The original pay date was Monday, 23 March. 😚

• Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Passengers travelling this week to and from the Cayman Islands are encouraged to check with their airline for the



latest travel and flight advisories.

For more information about the Coronavirus, please visit

the Cayman Islands Government links below:

www.hsa.ky/coronavirus www.gov.ky/coronavirus 📀



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Orchid Show Cancelled

Following the response and guidelines set forth by the Cayman Islands Government due to the current coronavirus (COVID-19), and in the interest and wellbeing of the Cayman community, the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park and the Cayman Islands Orchid Society has regrettably cancelled the Orchid Show and Sale scheduled for March 28th & 29th, 2020.

The Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park and the Cayman Islands Orchid Society would like to thank all our dedicated sponsors, as well as the general public for their continued support over the years and look forward to seeing everyone soon.

We would like to advise the public that there are many beautiful and healthy plants currently in stock. These will be made available to the public at a future date once the Cayman Islands Government has determined it to be safe for our community.

Please note the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park remains open to the public with regular business hours of 9:00 AM till 4:30 PM.

To learn more, kindly email Manager@botanic-park.ky or call 947-9462. 😚



NATIONAL ATTRACTIONS SCALE DOWN **AMID COVID-19 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Cavman Islands Tourism Attraction Board (TAB) is announcing that while its National Attractions remain open for business, the entities will continue its offerings in accordance with the directives declared by the Premier, the Hon. Alden McLaughlin in his Friday 13th March press conference.

The TAB is responsible for managing the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park; the National Historic Site, Pedro St. James; the Cayman Craft Market and the Hell geological site.

The TAB is working with guidelines from the Public Health (Control and Suppression of Covid-19) Regulations (2020) and as such, is placing more em-

phasis on ensuring the cleanliness of its facilities through frequent disinfecting of hard surfaces, implementing the use

For information on the TAB or its agencies please email marketing@tab.ky, call 949-6999 or visit the website www.tab.ky and it social media sites (below). https://www.facebook.com/TourismAttractionBoard

- https://www.facebook.com/pedrostjames https://www.facebook.com/QEIIBotanicPark/
- https://www.facebook.com/caymancraftmarket/ https://www.facebook.com/hellgeologicalsite
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of additional hand-sanitization stations, social distancing and is encouraging increased instances of handwashing for visitors and staff.

"We are diligently monitoring the developments surrounding the Novel Coronavirus and remain committed to upholding the preservation of our cultural and heritage sites while maintaining the health and safety of visitors and staff as a priority," said Patrick Thompson, TAB Director.

Mr. Thompson added that to offer additional safety for staff, the decision was made to discontinue the use of the attraction's courtesy shuttle in accordance with the necessary "social distancing requirements" of maintaining a safe distance of six feet or more.

Additionally, as a result of the new protocol restricting crowds of more than 50 people, the TAB is asking anyone who may have upcoming site rental bookings at either the Botanic Park or Pedro St. James to contact the manager of the respective attraction for infor-



mation on rescheduling your planned event.

The TAB will continue to modify its policies and practices in response to the evolving developments surrounding the virus in order to remain in line with the updates and recommendations from Cabinet, the Ministry of Tourism, Portfolio of the Civil Services, HSA and the Hazard Management Cayman Islands. 📀

CAL adjusts operations for airport closures

... Continued story from page A6

to Sister Island residents and essential persons only. Passengers not meeting this criteria should contact Cayman Airways right away to make the required adjustments to their travel itineraries. Cayman Airways will operate a revised domestic schedule during this time, to appropriately match the number of seats to the actual demand.

ADJUSTED BOOKING **PROCESS AND LIMITED CASH TRANSACTIONS**

As of Tuesday, March 17, 2020, all changes to existing reservations must now be done through the Cayman Airways Reservations Call Center or via travel professionals only. The Cayman Airways ticket offices will open only for cash collections between 10am and 1pm, Monday - Friday. Visit https://bit. ly/3b8fWsP to learn more.

CHANGE-FEE WAIVERS

Cayman Airways is continuing to offer change-fee waivers for customers with existing tickets purchased prior to March 3, 2020. The airline will also be waiving fare differences providing the passenger remains in the same cabin as originally booked. Any passenger wishing to make changes to an existing ticket for either international or domestic travel may do so without being subject to the change fee, providing:

• Travel is on Cayman Airways (waiver applies only to CAL flights)

• The ticket was purchased prior to March 3, 2020

• Travel is scheduled between March 2, 2020 - June 30, 2020

Travel can be rebooked within the validity of the original ticket. However, changes must be made on or before December 31, 2020. Fare differences will not apply providing there is no change in cabin. Any student returning to the

Cavman Islands due to the closure of the educational institution they are attending abroad, regardless of the date of travel, will be eligible for a waiver.

TOLL FREE RESERVATIONS NUMBERS

For more information and to request itinerary changes or book new tickets, customers can call Cayman Airways Reservations on: 345-949-2311; 1-800-422-9626 (toll free in the USA); 866-759-1372 (toll free in Jamaica); or 800-2791-9422 (toll free in Honduras). Visit https://bit.ly/2UdfZwR to learn more.

CAYMAN AIRWAYS CARGO

Cayman Airways Cargo will continue to operate Cargo flights into Grand Cayman and to and from the Sister Islands. Depending on demand for its air cargo service, Cayman Airways is expecting to add capacity to both Grand Cayman and the Sister Islands as may be necessary.

RESUMING NORMAL OPERATIONS

At this time, commercial passenger flights are expected to resume at 11:59pm on April 12, 2020 per the GIG announcement. During this time, customers will still be able to book tickets for travel on scheduled Cayman Airways flights to and from the Cayman Islands after April 12, 2020, unless the CIG order changes.

PROTECT YOURSELF

To learn more about protecting yourself from the Coronavirus, visit the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website in the USA at cdc.gov/coronavirus or visit the Cayman Islands Government's website at www.gov.ky/coronavirus.

To stay updated on the latest Cayman Airways news, visit www.caymanairways.com/latest-news. 📀

ADJUSTED BOOKING PROCESS &

LIMITED CASH TRANSACTIONS

The Cayman Airways ticket offices will open only for cash

collections between 10am and 1pm, Monday - Friday

until further notice.

Effective imediately, all changes to existing reservations, and any new ticket

purchases, must now be done through the Cayman Airways Reservations

Call Center, via travel professionals, or online where applicable.

Cayman Airways

Call Cayman Airways Reservations on 345-949-2311;

1-800-422-9626 (toll free in the USA); or

866-759-1372 (toll free in Jamaica). To book new tickets, visit www.caymanairways.com.



Public Service Announcement (PSA)

March 17, 2020

As Cayman Airways continues to adjust its operations for the health and wellness of customers and employees, the airline is advising the public that, effective immediately:

 Agents at the Cayman Airways airport counters and at ticket offices on Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac will not be making changes to existing reservations or issuing new tickets. All changes and new ticket purchases must now be done through the Cayman Airways Reservations Call Center, or via local travel professionals

• Ticket office hours on Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac have been reduced to just 10am to 1pm Monday through Friday, and will only be to collect cash payments for transactions already made through the Cayman Airways Reservations Call Center

Customers who need to request itinerary changes or book new tickets are asked to call Cayman Airways Reservations on 345-949-2311; 1-800-422-9626 (toll free in the USA); or 866-759-1372 (toll free in Jamaica). New tickets can also be booked online at www.caymanairways.com.

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REGIONAL C360

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Trinidad & Tobago Shuts Out International Community To Stem Spread of COVID-19; Schools Closed

Trinidad and Tobago will not allow anyone other than its nationals to enter the country - except under exceptional circumstances - for the next two weeks, while bars and schools will be closed, as the country seeks to contain the spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

As of this morning, there were four confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the twin-island republic, all of which health officials say were imported cases. And the total number of COVID-19 cases and deaths outside China, where the outbreak began, has overtaken the total number of cases in that East Asian country. The World Health Organization said today there were 81,077 confirmed cases and 3,218 deaths in China and 86,434 confirmed cases and 3,388 deaths in 151 other countries.

"We have to isolate ourselves from the supply, the source of the virus outside of Trinidad and Tobago," Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley said today at a post-Cabinet press briefing where he announced the measures being taken by his government. "We are in a crisis. We are in an emergency."

He said the Ministry of Health and Ministry of National Security would determine who would be exempt from the ban, as needed, but they would likely include health personnel and employees of the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA).

"Other than that, we are basically disconnecting ourselves from the international community for the next 14 days," Rowley said.

Among other measures taking effect are the closure of all public schools until the new term begins on April 20 - a measure which private schools are being asked to comply with; and the closure of bars for the next 14 days.

"Persons operating bars where people gather to drink and socialize, because our objective to deny the virus, connections from person to person, we are instructing that gatherings beyond 25 be avoided at all costs, except under unavoidable circumstances," the Prime Minister said.

While restaurants can remain open, only takeaway service will be allowed as no-inhouse dining is being banned.

Meantime, the Ministry of Health has taken the official decision to institute two parallel health care systems.

One public health system will focus on addressing confirmed cases of COV-ID-19. The Caura Hospital and the Couva Hospital and Multi-Training Facility will be used for this purpose and the public is encouraged to access the standard public health care services via the other existing health facilities.



...We are basically disconnecting ourselves from the international community for the next 14 days," said Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley

Additionally, Public Health Inspectors will visit various public locations within communities where large gatherings are common to advise key representatives on the necessary health care precautions.

Members of the public are also asked to take personal hygiene measures to protect themselves and their loved ones from COVID-19.

Apart from Trinidad and Tobago, countries in the Caribbean that have confirmed COVID-19 cases are: Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, the Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curacao, the Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Martinique, Saint Barthelemy, St Lucia, Saint Martin, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Puerto Rico, Suriname and Venezuela. 💎

Suriname Closes Borders, St Lucia Cancels Jazz Festival After Confirming Coronavirus; Curacao, Aruba Report First Cases

The Caribbean Community (CARI-COM) nations of St Lucia and Suriname and the Dutch Caribbean islands of Aruba and Curacao have been added to the list of countries that have confirmed cases of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

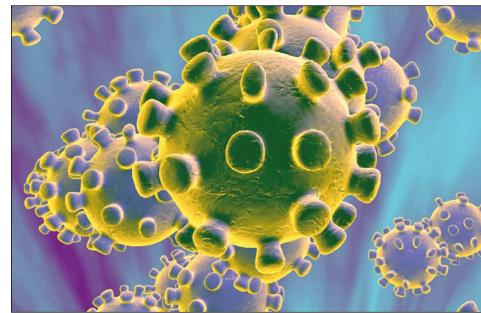
And Suriname's borders and airports were closed to all traffic from midnight last night as a result of the virus confirmation there.

Vice President Michael Ashwin Adhin said the infected individual had travelled from the Netherlands last Wednesday. The woman reported having symptoms yesterday morning and tested positive by afternoon, and has been transferred to an isolation facility at Wanica Hospital.

Additionally, passengers and airline crew who have travelled recently to other areas with sustained transmission of COVID-19 will be evaluated and screened if they are exhibiting symptoms.

Aruba has also confirmed two cases. and all flights from Europe have been banned until at least March 31.

St Lucia's first confirmed case is a 63-year-old woman with a travel history from the United Kingdom where, up to yesterday, there were 594 cases of COV-ID-19 and eight deaths.



After Curacao recorded its first case yesterday, all flights from Europe were banned until further notice. It was a 68-year-old tourist who arrived in the island last Thursday.

People who have been in China (including Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan), Singapore, Iran, South Korea, as well as the provinces Lombardy, Veneto, Emiglia, Romagna, Peimonte, Aosta-vallei, Trentino-South Tirol, Friuli-Julisch-Venice, and Liguria in Northern Italy in the past 14 days or had been in contact with someone who has proven COVID-19, will not be allowed to board flights destined for Curacao.

She had arrived in the island last Saturday with her husband, and went to hospital on Wednesday, March 11.

"The patient was been placed in isolation at a medical facility as per the established protocol for management of suspect cases of COVID-19. A clinical sample was taken from the patient on the same day, March 11, 2020 and sent to the Caribbean Public Health Agency CARPHA for testing. The result which was received on Friday. March 13, 2020 confirmed that this is a case of COV-ID-19," a statement from the Ministry of Health said.

Health Minister Mary Isaac has urged residents not to panic.

"It is understandable that this announcement will arouse the concern of everyone but please be assured that there is no need for panic. My team continues to work on all elements of our response to this first case and the possibility of further cases being diagnosed over time," she said.

"In the meantime, we continue to focus on our capacity respond to COV-ID-19 across all sectors nationally." It was also announced yesterday that the St Lucia Jazz Festival, which was scheduled for May 7-9, has been cancelled in the interest of health and safety.

Other Caribbean countries that have reported COVID-19 cases are Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Guyana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Martin, and Saint Barthelemy.

According to World Health Organization (WHO) figures, up to yesterday the number of global cases had reached 132,758 - 80,991 of them in China where the virus originated - and there were 4,955 deaths. Of those deaths, 3,180 were in China. 🔇

BVI Bans Cruise Ships and Closes Some Ports of Entry In Effort to Keep COVID-19 Out

The British Virgin Islands (BVI) Government has closed its Tortola cruise port, allowing no cruise ships to call on the territory for a 30-day period, in an effort to keep the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) out of the British overseas territory.

The number of international ports of entry into the BVI have also been limited to facilitate the effective screening of passengers. The three ports that remain open are Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport, Road Town and West End Ferry Terminals, and one cargo port of entry – Port Purcell.

The entry of passengers and crew members who have traveled to, from or through COVID-19 affected countries as specified in a list of countries of special interest within a period of 14 days or less, will not be allowed.

The entry of passengers and crew members who have traveled to, from or through COVID-19 affected countries classified as a high-risk country within a period of 14 days or less immediately preceding their arrival in the territory, will also be subject to advanced screening procedures and may be quarantined for a period of up to 14 days based on the outcome of the risk assessment.

Additionally, mass gatherings or festivals that were scheduled to take place in the BVI during the next month have been postponed until further notice. That includes the 2020 BVI Spring Regatta, scheduled for March 30-April 5, and the Virgin Gorda Easter Festival scheduled for April 11-13.

"After extensive consideration, the British Virgin Islands made the prudent decision to put stringent measures in place to temporarily enhance the protocols for entry into the Territory until April 13," said Premier Andrew Fahie, who is also Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for Tourism.

"It is imperative that we prioritize our limited resources to safeguard our residents and our guests. Tourism is our mainstay and it is important that we take measures to ensure our long-term sustainability."

The public has been reminded to take all necessary precautions against contracting COVID-19.



The BVI's cruise port has been closed

At present, there are no confirmed cases in the BVI. Elsewhere in the Caribbean, cases have been recorded in Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, the Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, the Dominican

Republic, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Martinique, Saint Barthelemy, St Lucia, Saint Martin, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Puerto Rico, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. 📀

PUZZLES | COMICS

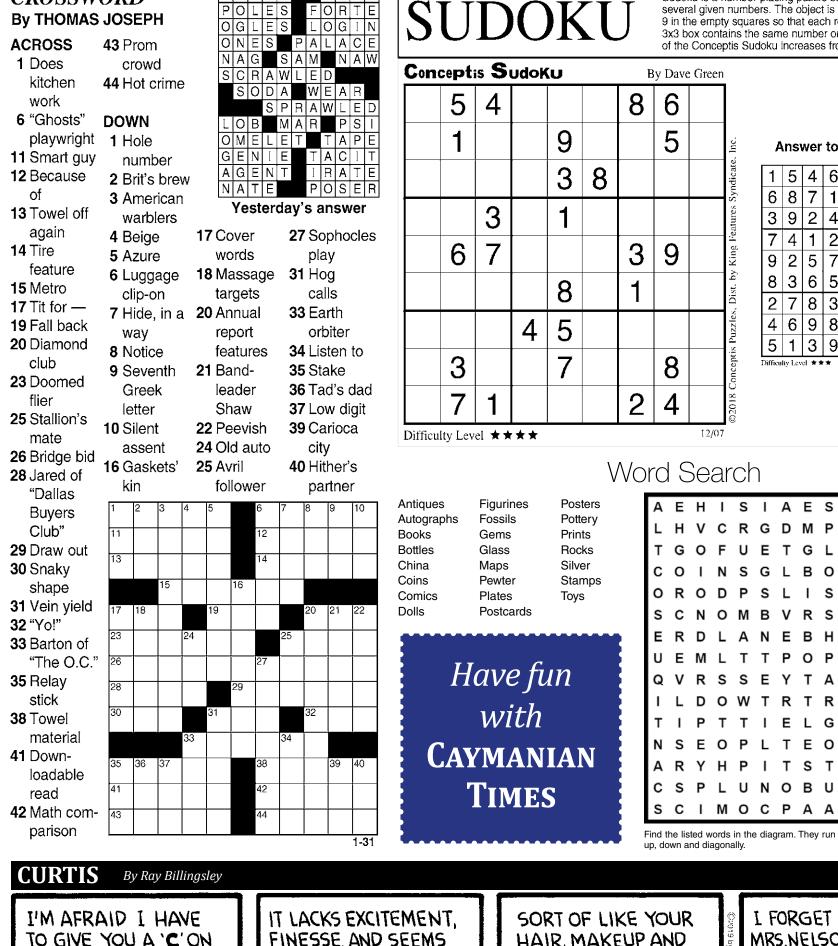
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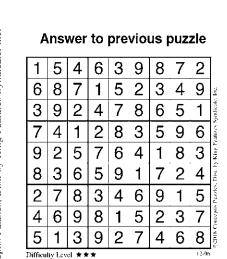
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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.



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Word Search

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