

# T Caymanian Times

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www.caymaniantimes.ky

GET THE FACTS

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

[gov.ky/Coronavirus](http://gov.ky/Coronavirus)

Complimentary

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## Courts' response to the Coronavirus crisis

On Monday March 16, the Judicial Administration published its interim response measures on our website: [www.judicial.ky](http://www.judicial.ky).

Our objective then, as it remains our objective now, has been to continue to provide access to the administration of justice in the essential areas, even while minimizing risk to the health of members of staff, the jurors, the attorneys, other members of the public, police and prison officers, probation officers and other representatives of the various agencies who must interact with the Courts for the delivery of justice.

In addition to the measures described in the publication last Monday, we have now developed protocols which are more geared towards the specific kinds of work undertaken in the respective divisions of the Courts. Accordingly, set out below, are the protocols which will be in place until further notice, for the work in each Court and in each division.

All court users are advised to regularly check the website for continuing updates and to contact the Court if they have unanswered queries. The protocols or procedures may need to be changed from time to time. Criminal Help Desk - 244-3867 Email: [criminalregistry@judicial.ky](mailto:criminalregistry@judicial.ky)



► Hon. Chief Justice Anthony Smellie

[judicial.ky](http://judicial.ky); Civil Help Desk - 244-3842 [civilregistry@judicial.ky](mailto:civilregistry@judicial.ky)

### The Court of Appeal - April-May 2020 Session

• As a result of the prevailing travel restrictions, the President and Justices of Appeal will not be travelling to preside in Court in Cayman for this upcoming session. However, video-link ar-

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## UK GOV'T TAKES UNPRECEDENTED STEPS AGAINST COVID-19

The British government outlined a further series of measures on Friday to bolster the country's fight against the growing economic and healthcare impact of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak announced that some businesses are being closed and employees workers across the economy left out of work

are now guaranteed up to 80% of their wages.

Already schools have been closed indefinitely and several businesses have cut back their operations.

Announcing the closure order effective this weekend, Prime Minister Johnson listed restaurants (except for take-

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## Life after Lock Down

In an outlook balancing optimism with realism, Premier Hon. Alden McLaughlin feels that while the world is entering uncharted territory, Cayman is positioned to weather the storm, at least in the interim.

But he cautions that once this crisis has passed some things may have to be done differently as the world adjusts to the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic dislocation it will have caused.

The Government has instituted a series of measures, the cumulative effect intended to mitigate the impact of the

disease on community health and the economy.

The 'lockdown' is expected to last for an initial three three week period.

The effectiveness of the Government's response to cushion the effect of the outbreak here will be measured in both lives saved and how Cayman moves from lockdown stage to phased economic recovery.

Both pose their own unique set of challenges and the Premier notes that the recovery and readjustment could

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Caymanian Times

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EDITORIAL



LIFE AFTER LOCKDOWN - THE LONG LOOK

... Continued story from page A1

take longer than might be otherwise expected due to largely to external factors.

He was at the time responding to a direct question from Caymanian Times' editor Ralph Lewis on what to expect post-Covid-19, especially the medium to long term outlook, after Cayman opens its doors once again.

"Those are the sort of questions that keep me awake every night," Mr McLaughlin admitted. "This really is a big question."

He referred to Wuhan in China, the epicentre of the pandemic, where local

transmission has been curbed to the extent that "ironically" - as he put it - efforts are now focused on preventing the importation of the virus from outside the country.

It's a situation Mr McLaughlin said that he is very mindful of in the context of the Cayman Islands.

"The struggle for us is that as soon as we open our doors if the virus is still raging (elsewhere), it will be here again. So we have to really think much longer term than just the three-week lockdown."

He is confident that the territory's strong financial position would allow it to weather the storm in the interim.

Premier McLaughlin tempers his outlook by referencing the situation in the United States, the Cayman Island's main market for imports, tourism and financial services.

"What I see happening in the United States, I don't see this going away in three to six weeks or even nine weeks.

"The Governor and I have already spoken about it. Cayman Islands government is in a very strong posi-



► Premier Hon. Alden McLaughlin

tion probably for four months even if we don't earn another penny, another cent." Beyond that Mr McLaughlin said is where the challenge lies.

"I don't think any country in the world has the answer to what happens beyond that six weeks or two months but we are continuing to grapple with that question.

"We will have to face it at some point, but the whole thing is moving so fast and in ways that you can't even predict that it's impossible to sit here today and say precisely what we will do in three week's time," he opined.

The Premier said he thinks the most likely decision three weeks from now is an extension of the current state.



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# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## CBC Extension & Visa Counters Closing 23 March

Customs & Border Control would like to let the public know that the Extensions & Visa Counters at CBC office on Elgin Avenue will be closed as of 23 March 2020 until further notice.

Persons whose time expires between 22 March to 31 March, 2020 and are unable to exit by 11:59pm on Sunday 22, March 2020, are asked to make the necessary arrangements to depart as soon as the airport reopens.

We will be issuing another release to the public in the near future on this matter.

For official governments statements on COVID-19 measures, please visit



www.gov.ky/coronavirus or www.cbc.gov.ky and look for the Coronavirus Update page under the Travel tab.

## DCI IMPLEMENTS CHANGES, CLOSES BUSINESS LICENSING COUNTER

The Department of Commerce and Investment (DCI) wishes to advise the public of changes that are being implemented to ensure the safety and health of employees and customers.

Effective today, Friday, March 20, 2020, the business licensing counter will close to the public until further notice.

A Drop-box system will be in place for all applications as follows:

- Drop box system is available at the Government Administration Building between the hours of 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

- Documents must be placed in a sealed envelope with applicant's name, telephone and email information.



- Cheque payments made payable to the Cayman Islands Government will be accepted.

- No cash transaction will be accepted at this time.

Members of the public are reminded to use the government online platforms, www.eservices.gov.ky or www.dci.gov.ky to apply for or renew a trade and business licence.

They can also email info@dc.gov.ky for trade and business and other licensing information.

## RETAIL BANKS BRANCH OPERATING HOURS

As COVID-19 continues to impact our community, the Cayman Island Banker's Association member Retail Banks remain committed to your banking needs while taking precautionary measures to minimize the spread of the virus while protecting customers and their staff. In view of this Branch Operations have been reduced to the following hours effective Monday, March 23rd 2020 until further notice.

**Monday - Friday 9:00 AM -1:00 PM**  
**Priority to seniors and those considered higher risk**  
**9:00 AM & 10:00 AM**

Customers are encouraged to make use of their bank's electronic banking services wherever possible. These include Bill Payments, Bank transfers and Electronic Funds Transfers via Online Banking platforms as well as making cash withdrawals and deposits at ATMs.



CIBA and its Member Retail Banks support and encourage your adherence to the established social distancing guidelines.

This message is supported by our member lending institutions; Butterfield Bank (Cayman) Ltd, Cayman National Bank Ltd, CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank (Cayman) Limited, Fidelity Bank (Cayman) Ltd, and ScotiaBank & Trust (Cayman) Limited.

## Statement from the Chief Medical Officer, Dr John Lee

"The information and studies we are receiving on COVID-19 grow by the day, and so does the understanding. The advice that I have been giving is that shared by national public health agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control in the USA, Public Health England and the World Health Organization. Of serious concern is the possibility of asymptomatic transmission of the virus, which would allow it to spread without us knowing from person to person. In particular, children are likely to be able to transmit the virus without any symptoms as they do not seem to be affected. The Government has been increasing its measures to protect the people of Cayman by a staged reduction in travel and deterring people from gathering. These are absolute key ways to suppress the transmission of the COVID-19 causing virus, so please, do not gather together except as a household.

We will learn more about exactly how COVID-19 transmits itself as time passes. I believe that caution is the right way



► Chief Medical Officer, Dr John Lee

forward and urge the public to keep their distance from people and practice hand hygiene whilst we learn more about this disease and how best to suppress its spread."

## DVDL SUSPENDS ROAD TESTS, INTRODUCES NEW MEASURES

The Department of Vehicle and Drivers' Licensing (DVDL) wishes to advise the public of precautionary measures and changes that the Department has implemented to ensure the safety and health of employees, customers and the public in general.

- Effective today, Thursday, March 19, 2020, **all driving/road tests will be suspended** until further notice. The Department will contact all persons with appointments and reschedule tests for a later date.

- As of 12:00 p.m. Thursday, March 19, 2020, all 3 locations on Grand Cayman will no longer accept walk in customers. A Drop-box system will be in place for vehicle and driver's license renewals as well as all other paper-based transactions.

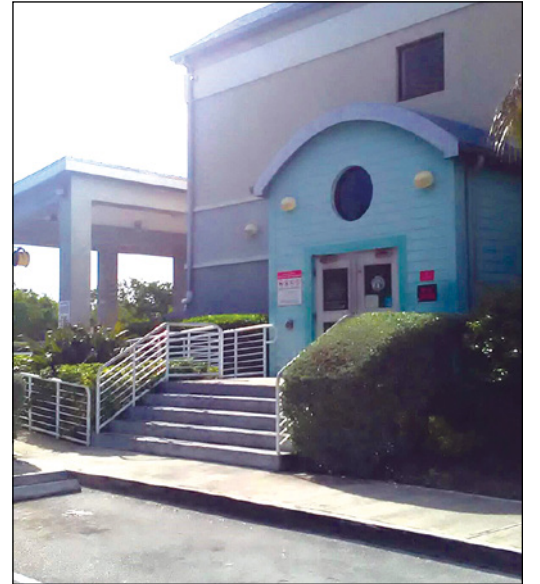
- Drop box system is available at the Crewe Road, West Bay and Breakers locations.

- Documents must be placed in a sealed envelope with applicant's name, telephone, email information and postal address.

- Cheque payments made payable to the Cayman Islands Government will be accepted and credit card, debit card transactions will be made over the phone.

- No cash transaction will be accepted at this time.**

- Inspections with restricted procedures** - Inspections will continue at the Crewe Road and Breakers locations under the following guidelines:



- Driver to remain in vehicle
- Inspector will carry out inspection of undercarriage
- Inspector will take documents from driver, process and return to driver
- Driver/Owner can then use online or drop box to complete the license renewal.

While these options remain available at this time, the Department will continue to assess and make changes, where necessary.

DVDL encourages customer to use the online options available to renew vehicle and driver's licence via DVDL's website at www.dvdl.gov.ky or through the e-services portal www.eservices.gov.ky. Persons experiencing issues can call the DVDL's helpdesk at (345) 945-8344 or email dvdlhelpdesk@gov.ky.

## DCFS Implements Changes Due to COVID-19

In accordance with the Civil Service's COVID-19 Continuity of Operations Plan, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) will implement social distancing protocols and focus on essential services delivery, in the form of child protection and residential care.

All direct contact with clients is temporarily suspended with immediate effect. This includes home and facility visits along with supervised contact. Instead of direct contact, DCFS will maintain contact with clients where possible via telephone, WhatsApp video or Zoom. Staff at the department's main office at Apollo House East and the Cayman Brac office will work reduced hours in office, on a shift basis, to minimise the number of persons at those locations. The M.A.S.H. office at Anderson Square is now closed to the public.

The DCFS residential homes are now also closed to all visitors. Persons



wishing to speak with family members can contact the Golden Age Home at 949-1972, Maple House at 945-2615 and the Kirkconnell Community Care Centre, Cayman Brac at 948-2291.

Although the Department's offices are closed to the public, clients and partner agencies may contact the DCFS at 949-0290 in Grand Cayman and at 948-2331 in Cayman Brac, or email DCFS@gov.ky. To report child abuse, please email MASH@gov.ky or call 945-0545 or 1-800-534-2273.

DCFS remains committed to its staff and vulnerable clients and will continue to provide updates as the situation unfolds.

## Student Taken To Hospital For Assessment

A student in one of the isolation facilities provided by Government was taken to the Cayman Islands Hospital for assessment yesterday evening (Friday, 20 March).

The student was taken to hospital by ambulance and now remains in isolation. All medical staff and vehicles in contact with the student have taken necessary precautions to prevent onward transmission of any infectious condition. Appropriate contact tracing will take place in any case deemed necessary by Public Health.

All travellers arriving this week have been asked to self-isolate and should alert Public Health immediately if they develop any symptoms consistent with COVID-19. The students at the isolation facility were screened prior to departure from the airport and they are in regular contact with medical professionals while they remain in isolation.

Chief Medical Officer, Dr John Lee, commends the management of the isolation facility and the support that has been rendered to those that need

it. "I am reassured that the protocols we put in place are robust and this situation reminds us exactly why these isolation facilities are a necessary step in our efforts to protect the public. We are trying to keep all persons, especially the vulnerable, safe by limiting their exposure to any arriving passenger from a high risk area. I would like to wish the student all the best for recovery" Dr. Lee states.

CEO of the Health Services Authority (HSA), Ms Lizzette Yearwood, thanks parents and students in isolation at this time for their compliance with the mandatory requirements. "I would like to reassure you that all measures are in place to care for your family members at this difficult time. Any calls from them are taken seriously; we will triage and care for them as the need arises," Ms. Yearwood explains.

Anyone exhibiting flu-like symptoms is reminded to self-isolate at home and call the flu hotline on 1-800-534-8600 or 947-3077. More information is available at gov.ky/coronavirus.

# CAYMAN KEY TO OTs IN COVID-19 FIGHT

The British government has given an assurance to the Overseas Territories that in response to the COVID-19 outbreak additional essential equipment and supplies are being arranged.

"Whatever the UK Government can do to assist the OTs will be done" is the message coming from London.

That information was relayed by Premier Hon. Alden McLaughlin following a teleconference between the UK Overseas Territories Minister Baroness Liz Sugg and OT leaders to discuss the COVID-19 crisis.

Premier McLaughlin said the UK is determined that an air-bridge between the UK and its OTs is maintained and that his administration is at the forefront of efforts with the UK to achieve this.

According to the Premier, "Cayman should be able to use Cayman Airways jets or the Saab aircraft to distribute equipment, personnel, medications and the like to the other OTs, which was a

fine testament to the infrastructure developed in Cayman and its ability to help its brothers and sisters in these territories and further afield, if necessary."

The Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) meeting between the OTs and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office planned for next week in London has been postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Meanwhile, a team of experts from Public Health England are in the Cayman Islands offering support in the fight against the disease.

They've also been assisting with the commissioning of Cayman's new coronavirus testing facility which was put into operation this week.

Access to the facility will be extended to other OTs for COVID-19 testing.

The team from Public Health England will also be visiting the other UK Caribbean territories as part of their COVID-19 support arranged through the FCO. [🌐](#)



► UK Overseas Territories Minister Baroness Liz Sugg

# FREE ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENT SELF-ISOLATION

## (and more new measures)

The Government continues to intensify measures to address the range of challenges and changed circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the latest moves, arrangements are being put in place for returning students and there's more support for the business sector.

Hundreds of Caymanian students studying overseas have been returning home with a huge influx expected this coming weekend especially from the UK.

Under current policy to suppress the spread of COVID-19, they are required to self-isolate for 14 days.

As explained by Hon. Premier Alden McLaughlin, "Since all returning students should self-isolate and so should their families and all those who visit them, this could become a significant logistics issue, particularly if essential services personnel like firemen, nurses, doctors and police officers should be part of their family."

In this regard, he said, Government in conjunction with National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC), is putting into place a central facility at a local hotel to where they can self-isolate for 14 days free of cost.

This facility is being made available for those who need to self-isolate if unable to do so at their homes.

Similarly, such a free stay will be available at another hotel for the same period for essential services personnel who are family of returning students, if they consider it prudent to be in a separate accommodation as a precaution.

Premier McLaughlin thanked the key partners in providing this service in

conjunction with Government, describing it as "another stellar example of public-private sector partnership, one of the foundations for Cayman's continuing success."

Students and essential services workers requiring such accommodation should contact the NEOC on 1-800-534-6555.

### FURTHER BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Due to the economic impact of the virus and the measures Government are taking to constrain its spread, a onetime emergency COVID 19 stipend will be made on Tuesday 31st March of \$600 per person to anyone who operates a 15-seater bus, taxi or tour bus or dual taxi-tour bus and water sports.

This would be to cover the one month closure of the airport. Additional tourism sector groups could be added depending on need.

The Government has also welcomed the decision by Butterfield Bank to introduce a three-month automatic payment deferral programme for all residential mortgages and personal loans in good standing.

Premier McLaughlin expressed the hope that other banks will follow their example and he urged persons who would benefit from a deferral to contact their bank to make the necessary arrangements.

The CICSA Credit Union are also working with their customers to provide waivers of payment or refinancing and members who want to avail themselves



► Students in Residence Hall

of this service are to call (345) 949 8415 and speak to one of the loan officers.

Hon. Joey Hew, Minister for Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure confirmed that Government are in contact with the Small Business Association and the Chamber of Commerce to agree on tangible solutions to support businesses during this unprecedented time.

Mr Hew announced the fast-tracking of the Cayman Islands Centre for Business Development.

The Centre which will begin providing services on Monday 23rd March will provide training in the following areas:

- Smart Measures for Business Continuity
- Best Practices for Handling a Cash Flow Crisis

• Conducting a Business Impact Analysis

- Business Model Innovation
- Social Media Marketing
- Online Freelancing Opportunities

The Centre will also work with small businesses to prepare them for renegotiating existing loans with commercial banks or to request and access a period of moratorium on loans.

However, because of the importance of social distancing as a means of combating the spread of COVID-19, the Centre will operate by appointment only.

To make an appointment call (345) 244-3451 or (345) 244-2498 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 pm and (345) 926-5771 up to 10:00 pm. [🌐](#)

# Clarification of Self-Isolation Requirements

The Ministry of Health has provided the public with clarification on who should self-isolate to ensure full understanding and compliance.

### Individuals in the Cayman Islands

Anyone who believes they may have come in contact with someone who has coronavirus should self-isolate at home for 14 days.

Anyone who shows symptoms of coronavirus should self-isolate at home for 14 days. Symptoms include a cough, fever or shortness of breath.

In both cases, the individual should also contact the 'Flu Hotline on 1-800-534-8600 or 947-3077 to inform the Health Services Authority and seek medical advice. Alternatively, they may also contact their regular GP via phone.

### Individuals travelling from overseas

Individuals arriving from anywhere overseas are required to self-isolate at home for 14 days whether they show any symptoms of coronavirus or not. Those that do display symptoms including a cough, fever or shortness of breath, are also required to contact the 'Flu Hotline or their regular GP to seek medical advice.

If a member of a household is required to self-isolate, due to any of the circumstances described above, every-



one in the household are also required to self-isolate, even if they do not show symptoms.

Members of the household should limit their contact and maintain a 6 foot distance from the individual who is suspected of having coronavirus.

"If we don't isolate the whole household, then the effect of isolating the in-

dividual is negated and the rest of the community is at risk," said Chief Medical Officer, Dr. John Lee.

The practices of self-isolating and maintaining social distancing have proven successful in halting the spread of coronavirus in other countries.

Dr. Lee continued, "Limiting any potential exposure to COVID-19 is our best

defence against transmitting the virus. Changing our behaviour may seem difficult or inconvenient but we must think about the most vulnerable in our community and do whatever we can to protect them."

For more about how to self-isolate, individuals should visit [www.explore.gov.ky/news/coronavirus-resources](http://www.explore.gov.ky/news/coronavirus-resources). [🌐](#)

# COVID-19 Procedures at WORC Apollo House West

During this time of national uncertainty, we appreciate the spectrum of vulnerability across our diverse customer base of individuals, families, corporate entities, and public sector partners alike.

Given the potential for COVID-19 to cause significant socio-economic impact to the Cayman Islands, the team at Workforce Opportunities and Residency Cayman (WORC) is actively evaluating and making changes to our policies and service delivery methods as necessary to responsibly maintain continuity of operations.

For the safety of both staff and customers, we encourage all of our customers to utilise the phone numbers and email addresses provided and to avoid in-person attendance at the WORC offices at Apollo House West.

This advisory is only one of what will be a series from WORC to keep customers in the know on matters relating to our services.

## Employment Services

We recognise that COVID-19 will potentially result in the displacement of Caymanian employees, and as such we are pursuing strategic solutions to connect Caymanian job-seekers with employment opportunities and support services.

Our Employment Service Officers are equipped for remote working, and as such they will proactively establish contact with our current and newly registered Caymanian Job Seeker customers to offer specialist guidance, support, and assistance via phone and video conferencing.

If you have registered and have not yet been contacted, we ask that you reach out to the one of the Employment Service Officer listed below:

- Rohan Webster – 244-4020 or rohan.webster@gov.ky
- Felipe Terc – 244-4026 or felipe.terc@gov.ky
- Priscilla Powery-Livingston – 244-4021 or Priscilla.powery-livingston@gov.ky
- Tania Ebanks – 244-4023 or tania.ebanks@gov.ky

If you are Caymanian job seeker and require assistance in finding employment, contact:

- Shantannia Bryan – 945-9672 or email shantannia.bryan@gov.ky

Please be reminded that for matters relating to the administration and enforcement of the Labour Law and

Pensions Law, customers can contact the Department of Labour & Pensions at 945-8960 or email [dlp@gov.ky](mailto:dlp@gov.ky)

## Passport Endorsements Stamps

Effective 20 March, until further notice, WORC will no longer provide passport endorsement stamps.

If your Work Permit has been approved and you have received a Work Permit License (approval letter), do not come to the WORC office. Your Work Permit License (approval letter) will act as the authority you need for any travel purposes.

If you have not received your Work Permit License (approval letter), contact: WORC Call Centre – 945-9672 or Customer Care WhatsApp 927-7199 or email [generalqueries@worc.gov.ky](mailto:generalqueries@worc.gov.ky)

## Work Permit Renewals

In the interest of reducing the burden on medical personnel and facilities, applications submitted between 20 March and 20 May for a renewal of a Work Permit will not require a medical.

Additionally, applications related to medical and essential services personnel will be considered on a priority basis to assist in rapidly surging critical resources.

While we manage resource constraints internally, we ask for customers' patience where delays are experienced in relation to applications for the grant of a Work Permit, Permanent Residency, or Caymanian Status.

## Application Drop Offs

Customers dropping off applications are asked to place completed documents and payments (cheques are preferred) using a drop bag that you will be given at the WORC office door. Customers will be asked to fill out the drop bag details and leave this with WORC staff for processing. Should a member of the team need to contact you, we will do so with the information provided on the application. Where payments are by cheque, customers' receipt will be sent via email.

## Job Registration and Job Postings

Using a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer, Job Seekers and employers can register and interact with our JobsCayman platform. Unfortunately, due to technical



constraints, the JobsCayman platform cannot currently accept registrations or job postings via mobile phones.

Employers and Job Seekers who are already registered, are encouraged to visit [www.worc.ky](http://www.worc.ky) for 'How To' guidance while additional assistance can be accessed by calling 925-9639 or emailing [generalqueries@worc.gov.ky](mailto:generalqueries@worc.gov.ky) 8am – 4pm Monday thru Friday.

## Training & Development

Workshops have been cancelled for the next 2 weeks, however, key team members are accessible via phone or email from 8am – 4pm Monday thru Friday:

- Passport2Success – Paul 925 5827 | [paul.puckerin@gov.ky](mailto:paul.puckerin@gov.ky)
- Ready2WorkKY – Antonette 926 6286 | [antonette.mcfarlane@gov.ky](mailto:antonette.mcfarlane@gov.ky)
- National Training & Development – Dianne 925 7230 | [Dianne.conolly@gov.ky](mailto:Dianne.conolly@gov.ky)

## Complaints

Customers wishing to lodge a complaint should do so by email only, by contacting [worccomplaints@gov.ky](mailto:worccomplaints@gov.ky).

This email address will be checked daily and resulting actions handled by a WORC Compliance Manager.

Residents of Cayman Brac are also advised to utilize the WORC complaints email address or to send written complaints addressed to WORC Complaints Manager (Confidential) P.O. Box 1098, George Town, Grand Cayman KY1-1102. 🌐

# UK SUPPORTING THE OTs on COVID-19

The UK Minister responsible for the Overseas Territories, Baroness Liz Sugg has confirmed the British governments continued support for Cayman and the other OTs in the battle against COVID-19.

Baroness Sugg hosted a teleconference with the leaders of the Overseas Territories to discuss the response to COVID-19, and how the UK can support the OTs response to this crisis.

The Minister for the Overseas Territories assured that the UK Government is working closely with the Overseas Territories "to ensure they receive the help that is necessary."

She said the UK Government is procuring medical equipment and support for each Territory immediately, "but we will also stand by the OTs in the long run as they deal with the impacts of the pandemic."

The OTs Minister thanked the Premier and public servants in the Cay-

man Islands "for their hard work to help stop the spread of the virus", and encouraged everyone to follow the advice that has been issued.

"We all have a role to play in keeping people safe," she added.

His Excellency the Governor Martyn Roper noted that; "Public Health England continue their work with the Chief Medical Officer and the Ministry of Health Colleagues on Island."

He also encouraged the public to continue to follow the Government guidance on practising good hygiene, social distancing and self-isolating when required.

"As Governor I will continue to do all I can to help ensure the safety and security of Cayman, working in close conjunction with both the Cayman authorities and UK Government agencies," Governor Roper stated. 🌐



► Governor of the Cayman Islands, Martyn Roper

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# The Courts' response to the Coronavirus crisis

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rangements are being made to allow the Court to be convened with the President and Justices presiding from the United Kingdom.

- The List of appeals to be taken will likely be reduced because of the circumstances. Parties and/or their attorneys should contact the Registrar of the Court of Appeal for the confirmation of listings at 244-3808 or by email: [Jenesha.Simpson@judicial.ky](mailto:Jenesha.Simpson@judicial.ky).

## Grand Court Criminal Division

- Apart from the trial currently underway, all jury trials will be postponed until Monday 13 April 2020.

- Three such trials are already listed, to commence respectively on 30 March (for 5 days), 1 April (for 3 weeks) and 6 April (for 2 days). These three cases will be brought up for mention on the said dates for adjournment to future dates. Fortunately, all defendants in these three cases are on bail and so (unless their status changes), the postponements will not impact upon their liberty.

- Two trials set to be taken before a judge alone are set respectively for 4 May (for 10 days) and 25 May (for 3 days). Efforts will be made to bring these forward to fill the slots which will become available from 30 March- 20 April, due to the postponements. The Case Progression Officer will notify the parties of the case management hearings to settle these arrangements. Contact with the Case Progression Officer may be made by telephone at 244-3871 or by email: [suzanne.livingston@judicial.ky](mailto:suzanne.livingston@judicial.ky).

- Sentencing hearings for two of the Grand Court Criminal Division's lengthiest trials in 2019 are set for the week of the 30th March. These remain as set with the Judge seized of these cases conducting the hearings from the U.K. by video-link.

- Jurors who have been required to attend at Grand Court on Monday 23 March 2020 are no longer required to attend.

- Jurors who have been summoned to attend for the next session of the Court commencing on the 1st April 2020 are required to attend unless otherwise advised by announcement in the media. Any person summoned who is concerned about his or her health or needs to self-isolate in keeping with Government guidelines, should write in advance of the date to the Clerk of Court seeking an exemption. Jurors wishing to contact the Court may do so by telephone at 244-3867 or by email: [jury@judicial.ky](mailto:jury@judicial.ky).

- Remand hearings for persons in custody will be taken as far as possible, by video-link from HMP Northward. Persons on bail who are required to attend for remand must attend on the stipulated remand date already notified.

- Bail applications will be taken in Open Court as usual on remand dates or in Chambers on dates to be assigned.

- Other emergency applications will be taken as the need arises.

- On 13 April (or sooner if necessary) a further statement will be made in relation to the work of this Division in response to developments at that time.

## Grand Court Family Division

- Until further notice Grand Court Family cases will continue to be listed and heard as usual.

- However, if a party or persons attending with a party have confirmed or possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection or need to self-isolate in line with Government advice, you should inform the court in a timely manner by telephone or email.

- Applications to vacate a hearing will be considered on a case by case basis taking into account matters including but not limited to (I) the availability of a larger court room (if the hearing is not suitable to be conducted in a Judge's Chambers; (II) the urgency of the hearing; (III) the nature of the hearing; (IV) whether the hearing can proceed with a party or all parties attending remotely by video-link or teleconference; (V) the



► Grand Cayman Court house

health of the parties/their families; and (VI) the inability of a party or their attorney to attend the hearing for other good reason.

- To ensure appropriate distancing in all family hearings held in a Judge's Chambers, attendance will be limited to just the parties (litigants) and one attorney (or one McKenzie friend) per party. The attorneys will sit on the front row at opposite ends and the litigants will sit on the second row at opposite ends.

- For substantive family matters or applications that can be dealt with administratively by a Judge, parties should inform the Court well in advance of hearing if they feel that the hearing would be better suited to a larger court room due to factors such as the nature and length of the hearing, the number of parties and witnesses.

- If parties have reached agreement and wish to submit a consent order (directive or substantive orders) for review, then they should submit the order signed by both parties (or if a satisfactory explanation is given as to why that is not feasible, then by the attorneys) to the relevant judge for review.

- The Court may be able to deal with suitable family cases without an oral hearing "on the papers". However, contested matters requiring determination of issues of fact will likely not be suitable for a hearing on the papers. If parties wish to invite the Court to consider a family matter on the papers then they must first submit such a request to the Court which will be reviewed by a Judge who will then determine whether the matter can be heard on the papers.

- Family Mediation fixtures will continue as scheduled subject to the availability of parties (and attorneys when instructed) in with the social distancing protocols already identified above.

## Grand Court Financial Services Division (FSD)

- Until further notice cases in the FSD will continue to be listed and heard as usual. This will include the established procedures for applications to be taken administratively; ie: without a hearing on the papers.

- The social distancing protocol for dealing with COVID-19 described above for the Family Division will also apply to FSD hearings in Chambers. Similar concerns arise for hearings in Open Court and so the parties and their attorneys are required to keep the numbers of those in attendance to a minimum in order to maintain the six-foot separations. The presiding judge will direct compliance.

- To the same end, the use of video-conferencing and teleconferencing will be encouraged and implemented where possible. The practice is particularly well established in the FSD where Judges frequently preside over interlocutory proceedings in Court from the UK (and other places) by video-link. However, given the travel bans, it now seems likely that substantive trials will also have to be taken by these means. And so, in keeping with Grand Court Rules Or-

der 33 rule 1, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has confirmed, through the Office of the Governor, that he consents to Grand Court judges presiding from the UK for trials in Cayman by way of video-link.

- Parties and their attorneys are advised to contact the FSD Registrar and/or Listing Officer to identify those cases which must proceed by way of video-link and to confirm the arrangements with the designated Judges.

- Subject to the directions of the Judge in each case, the use of electronic bundles is especially encouraged at this time to reduce the need for photocopying and circumstances for the transmission of COVID-19.

## Grand Court General Civil and Admiralty Divisions

- Until further notice matters in these divisions will continue to be listed and heard as usual.

- Similar social distancing protocols will be observed as in the other divisions.

- Applications may also be taken administratively without a hearing when first notified to the Listing Officer and approved by the Judge assigned to case management in these divisions.

- The use of video-conferencing and teleconferencing is also encouraged in these Divisions, as is the use of electronic court bundles (subject to the requirements of the designated Judge).

## The Summary Courts-Criminal Division

- The Summary Courts will continue work as usual with particular care taken to prevent transmission of COVID-19, given the larger number of persons who regularly attend. Some measures were already published on Monday, others are described below.

- Priority will be given to trials involving persons in custody, to sentencing matters and to matters involving defendants or witnesses who have minimal or no ties to the Islands.

- Urgent bail applications will, as usual, be given priority.

- The appearance of persons for Traffic Court (on Mondays) or for Criminal remands (on Tuesdays) will be staggered by reference to their surnames, subject to directives which the Presiding Magistrate may issue to ensure that the lists are kept moving. Persons with surnames initials A to M will be required to attend at 10:00am and persons with surname initials N to Z to attend at 11:00 am. Persons attending outside of their attendance time will be dealt with as the presiding Magistrate may direct.

- It may become necessary to divide the Monday traffic lists in two with the second half set for the following Monday. The Chief Magistrate will monitor the need for this and notifications will be issued to advise persons responding to tickets of the Monday for appearance (unless the tariff is sooner paid).

- If not notified before arriving at court, persons should check with the

security officer on duty for attendance times.

- In order to maintain the required separations, no more than **15 persons** will be allowed in a court room at any time and security staff will be instructed to monitor this.

- Persons who attend on traffic ticket charges should bear in mind that an appearance before the Court is not required if the ticket tariff is paid before 10:00am on the date endorsed on the ticket. Traffic tickets are issued by the Police and require payment prior to that time. Otherwise, a warrant is issued for the arrest of the person who failed to pay or attend at court on the date endorsed on the ticket.

- Persons who wish to pay the tariff should endeavor to do so before the endorsed date to reduce the pressure upon court staff (and themselves) to transact payment on that date. The new hours of operation for the Court Finance Centre (Kirk House, Albert Panton Street) will be 9am- 1pm, Monday to Friday. Depending on the number of persons arriving for payment, staggered times may be given by the security officer to ensure the observance of "social distancing" inside the building.

- The Judicial Administration is taking steps to arrange for online payment of tickets. The website will be updated if and when this is arranged.

## Coroner's Court

- Coroner's inquests will be postponed until 13 April 2020 when the situation will be reviewed and a further announcement made.

- Persons summonsed to attend as coroner's jurors should monitor the website for updates or call the Criminal Registry at 244-3867 or by email to: [criminalregistry@judicial.ky](mailto:criminalregistry@judicial.ky).

## Summary Court Family Division

- Public law applications under the Children's Law and applications for maintenance or child support payments will continue to be taken as usual.

## The Summary Courts - Specialist Diversionary Courts

- Applications under the Protection from Domestic Violence Law (dealt with by the Specialist Domestic Violence Court); under the Drug Rehabilitation Court and under the Mental Health Court will be dealt with on schedule as usual.

## The Summary Courts Civil Division

- Civil cases in the Summary Courts will proceed as listed, usually on Fridays.

**Further information in relation to the current operations of the FINANCE CENTRE; THE CIVIL REGISTRY; THE FAMILY PROCEEDINGS UNIT; MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS THROUGH COURT FUNDS; THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT AND THE COURTS ADMINISTRATOR is available on the website.** [🌐](https://www.judicial.ky)

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► A tourism business-owner expresses concerns

# West Bay Officials and Residents Work to Counter COVID 19

Countering the effects of the Coronavirus (COVID 19) pandemic was the topic of a small community discussion on West Bay district, from the Seven Mile Beach to all the respective communities, as more than 30 residents attended a recent gathering called by Speaker McKeeva Bush, including fellow MLA and Health Ministry Councillor Eugene Ebanks, and others, to review the situation.

The district's elected representatives shared information and answered questions from a range of community leaders, including District Community Development Officer Vanda Powery, even as senior government officials and a range of key government agencies continued meeting.

While Minister Tara Rivers was still engaged in a separate meeting, there were representatives from her office as well, in addition to former government Minister Rolston Anglin - who now sits on the Health Services Authority (HSA) Board.

Opening the forum, Mr. Bush said, "This is a major crisis, for it really affects all of human life, and this is the most worrying aspect. This poses a threat to the economic well-being of the country, and we will take a hit. Especially small businesses, which are the strength of the community."

Apart from the serious health implications, the other concerns expressed by those present included unemployment, commercial activities, banking, health services and insurance arrangements. Many are employed in the tourism industry, which is a mainstay on the West Bay corridor.

"As good community members, we can provide a good forum for the work that has to be done, especially from a

civic standpoint. Government will do its part, but we can only do so much, we need helping hands; I am especially concerned about the vulnerable sick, elderly and shut-ins across our three Islands," added Mr. Bush. "However, while this threatens our way of life, good Caymanian common sense can prevail - and must prevail!"

He said that there are several existing groups and councils already engaged in the process, and that the civil service is "really on the ball" - making positive impacts in areas of strategic concern.

Participants fielded issues such as possible payment abatements for laid-off workers: "There are many who are living paycheck to paycheck," shared one attendee. A tourism worker said, "We're all going to need some kind of bailout."

Mr. Bush then called for remarks from Mr. Anglin, who was appointed to the HSA board in September 2018. Mr. Anglin encouraged calm, conscious measures: "We each need to stay in-tune with our own bodies, look out for key symptoms, and call the Flu Helpline if there are questions or suspicions. But - we're trying to keep people from visiting the hospital unnecessarily."

"The HSA has taken an aggressive stance against this pandemic, and no one who presents with any inkling of this virus will be turned away", he stated. All residents will receive free testing where necessary, health insurance companies will cover COVID 19 related issues and the Cayman Islands Government will cover any remain under- or uninsured expenses.

Sharing that "There are just so many considerations," Anglin noted that an initial order of 400 C-19 test kits are now on-island. In the interim, local tests are



► Speaker McKeeva Bush welcomes the gathering

being shipped to regional labs for determinations - which can take up to a week. "Once we can do testing here, this will reduce to 24 to 48 hours."

"Health City has seen what COVID 19 looks like, and they are constantly sharing indicators and other information with the HSA," he added. "This couldn't have come at a worse time, as we were in the process of major upgrades. For instance, we recently occupied new offices in the Smith Road Centre."

Outlining some of the strategies being implemented by HSA, he explained that the national hospital has a plan to establish a flu clinic, and to have plans on how to accommodate mild to serious cases. Mr. Anglin assured attendees the HSA's CEO Lizette Yearwood and her team were being proactive in their preparations.

While the West Bay attendees speculated on the need for more hospital beds, Mr. Anglin explained that the HSA team is working cooperatively with other facilities to serve the public. "The big question is, 'What do we do if even more capacity is needed?'" To that end, he shared, the HSA has reached out to tourism properties, as a strategy preferred to converting open community centers. "The potential challenge will be how to isolate and separate people."

Even so, the HSAs staffing levels are another concern. As a result, the CEO earlier announced restrictions on staff travel. "We need to hunker down and keep as many of our people here as possible," said Mr. Anglin.

He emphasized that residents with suspected C-19 should not go to General Practice or to the district clinics for attendance - but only to the HSA's Emergency Care Unit. For detailed information, residents may call the Flu Helpline at 1(800)534-8600.

Councillor Capt. Eugene Ebanks also fielded questions, and shared that there are ongoing high-level meetings between CIG and banks, insurance providers, utility-service providers and other businesses - which are "very receptive to the measures being undertaken." He added that CIG will try to assist parents who need special help. "This is a crisis the likes of which the world has never seen, and we are prepared to deal with as many circumstances as possible. Government is prepared to do what it must!"

As has been reported, commercial shipping imports are not expected to be impacted, except where there are supplier shortages, schools are on a 60-day shutdown effective Friday, some travel bans are already in place, cruise lines will not be calling as a voluntary decision, and public gatherings of 50 people or more are prohibited under emergency legislation.

Mr. Bush added that there are plans to set up a West Bay COVID 19 Response Committee once he consults with other colleagues. He thanked participants of their constructive feedback, and said that, in addition to sharing info with the various area groups and committees, he also expects to establish a formal means of keeping residents updated. 🌐



► A small cross-section of the community was present

# CARIBBEAN TOURISM WILL EMERGE STRONGER AFTER CORONAVIRUS SCOURGE, TOURISM LEADERS SAY



CARIBBEAN HOTEL & TOURISM ASSOCIATION

The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) urged its stakeholders to take advantage of coronavirus (COVID-19) resources it has set up to contain the spread of the virus in the region, and reminded the world of the Caribbean tourism sector's proven ability to strongly bounce back from adversity.

Recalling the association's experience in dealing with emergencies, CHTA's CEO and Director General Frank Comito, and Patricia Affonso-Dass, President of CHTA, reported that immediately upon understanding the potential threat of COVID-19 in January, the association reached out to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) to begin to put in place monitoring, education and awareness initiatives. The association also advanced and implemented measures to ensure the safety of its employees.

In a joint statement, Comito and Affonso-Dass pointed to online resources available to help the industry manage the crisis. Many of these, along with updates on travel advisories, airline and hotel cancellations, and other notices can be found at the CHTA COVID-19 Resource Center at [www.caribbeanhotelandtourism.com/covid-19](http://www.caribbeanhotelandtourism.com/covid-19).

They reminded that the Caribbean tourism sector has considerable experience in managing disruptions and risks: "We demonstrated this post 9-11, through SARS, Zika, hurricanes and other natural disasters over the past two decades, all while experiencing unprecedented growth."

The organization's leaders admitted, however, that nothing compares to what the region and the world are experiencing with the coronavirus threat, and



► Patricia Affonso-Dass



► Frank Comito

while much of what happens is beyond individual control, through sound collective actions by companies, organizations, communities and governments, the duration and intensity of the pandemic can be managed. "Difficult decisions which are made today will help us to recover sooner and ultimately be stronger," they asserted.

Despite the severity of the pandemic, Comito and Affonso-Dass predicted the region will emerge and use lessons learned to make the region even more desirable: "Despite the temporary dark clouds, the sun shines in the Caribbean and will continue to do so. As we come through this, the world will need the Caribbean to help it to heal."

To the millions of individuals with fond memories of time spent in the region, the tourism leaders noted the region will be ready to welcome them back soon: "A trip to the Caribbean, with over 30 incredible and diverse destinations, is one of the best remedies for wiping away stress and anxiety - refreshing, renewing and warming your heart and soul in the process."

### About the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA)

The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) is the Caribbean's leading association representing the interests of national hotel and tourism

associations. For more than 55 years, CHTA has been the backbone of the Caribbean hospitality industry. Working with some 1,000 hotel and allied members, and 33 National Hotel Associations, CHTA is shaping the Caribbean's future and helping members to grow their businesses. Whether helping to navigate critical issues in sales and marketing, sustainability, legislative issues, emerging technologies, climate change, data and intelligence or, looking for avenues and ideas to better market and manage businesses, CHTA is helping members on issues which matter most.

For further information, visit [www.caribbeanhotelandtourism.com](http://www.caribbeanhotelandtourism.com).

# UK GOV'T TAKES UNPRECEDENTED STEPS AGAINST COVID-19

... Continued story from page A1

aways and deliveries),pubs, restaurants, theatres, leisure centres and gyms.

No specific reopening date was specified but the Prime Minister stated that this could be reviewed in a month.

Public transportation services are also being scaled back.

Focusing on the gravity of the situation, Mr Johnson said: "We are going to defeat this disease with a huge national effort to slow the spread by reducing unnecessary social contact.

"I know it has been tough, I know it has been inconvenient, but these actions that we're all taking together are already helping to take the strain off our NHS (National Health Service)."

"We will be able to save literally thousands of lives of people of all ages, people who don't deserve to die now," the Prime Minister intoned in underlining the importance of washing hands, san-

itising and maintaining social distance to prevent the virus from spreading further and alleviating the pressure on the NHS.

The NHS is at the forefront of the UK's fight against the spread of COVID-19.

The government had previously announced an extensive package of measures for the NHS to help it cope with the crisis but it's struggling under the demand.

Stressing the importance of compliance with this first-phase of closure of establishments nationwide, Mr Johnson stated: "I know how difficult this is, how it seems to go against the freedom-loving instincts of the British people.

"And I also know much, right now, workers and business deserve the financial reassurance we are giving them."

Following an earlier package of relief for businesses and workers the government is now extending the level of support as the economy contracts.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak, said the support being put in place was unprecedented in the UK and exceeds what other countries are offering.

"Today I can announce that, for the first time in our history, the government is going to step in and help to pay people's wages," Chancellor Sunak said.

"We're setting up a new Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Any employer in the country - small or large, charitable or non-profit - will be eligible for the scheme.

"Employers will be able to contact HMRC for a grant to cover most of the wages of people who are not working but are furloughed and kept on payroll, rather than being laid off.

Government grants will cover 80% of the salary of retained workers up to a total of £2,500 a month - that's above the median income. And, of course, employers can top up salaries further if they choose to."

Mr Sunak explained "that means workers in any part of the UK can retain their job, even if their employer cannot afford to pay them, and be paid at least 80% of their salary."

"We have never had a scheme in our country like this before - and we're having to build our systems from scratch," the Chancellor added.

The Johnson administration was previously criticised for not going far enough fast enough to alleviate the pressure on businesses and workers, especially the self employed.

Prime Minister Johnson said, "These measures are intended to be temporary and of course I am confident that, in time, the UK economy is going to bounce back. Of course it is."

But he underscored: "I must be absolutely clear with you: the speed of that eventual recovery depends entirely on our ability, our collective ability, to get on top of the virus now." 🌐

## Caymanian Times

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# Haiti Government Stops Commercial Flights and Imposes Curfew Under State of Emergency As First COVID-19 Cases Recorded

As Haiti recorded its first two cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19) yesterday the government declared a state of emergency, closing the country's airports to commercial flights and imposing a nine-hour curfew.

Announcing the state of emergency late yesterday, President Jovenel Moïse said ports, airports and borders would be closed to people but would remain open to accept goods.

In an effort to prevent COVID-19 from reaching Haiti, the government had previously suspended flights from Europe, Latin America and Canada and imposed restrictions on the border with neighbouring Dominican Republic where there have been 21 cases recorded so far.

With the virus now confirmed here, several measures have been implemented in addition to the month-long suspension of commercial flights.

Moïse said schools, universities, places of worship and industrial parks would also be closed, and an 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew will take effect from tonight.

No details of the gender, age, nationality or travel history of the two people who tested positive for COVID-19 have been provided.

Education Minister Pierre Josue Agenor Cadet would only say on local radio that the two had been abroad and were placed under quarantine after being suspected of having the virus.



► President Jovenel Moïse

COVID-19 has been detected throughout the Caribbean. There are cases in Aruba, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Jamaica, Marti-

nique, Montserrat, Saint Barthelemy, St Lucia, Saint Martin, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Puerto Rico, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

Five deaths have been attributed to the virus – one each in Jamaica, Guyana,

Cuba, the Dominican Republic and the Cayman Islands.

As of yesterday, the World Health Organization said there were 209,839 COVID-19 cases confirmed in 169 countries, areas or territories, and 8,778 deaths. 🌐

## Curfew Imposed in The Bahamas in Effort to Fight Spread of COVID-19

An eight-hour curfew will go into effect in The Bahamas tonight under an emergency order that gives the government the authority to use temporary, but necessary measures in the country's fight against the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

There are currently three confirmed case of the virus in The Bahamas.

Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis announced yesterday that the curfew will run from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m., with any exceptions to be approved by the Commissioner of Police.

"We will end the curfew after consultation with medical professionals. I stress that these are temporary measures," he said.

Dr Minnis, who is a medical doctor, said the strong measures are intended to "save lives, protect health and aggressively attack the spread of COVID-19" which was first discovered in China.

Noting that social distancing has been shown to slow the spread, the Prime Minister strongly urged businesses to operate with essential staff only and to allow those who can work remotely, to work from their homes.

"Members of the Public Service shall work from home, as may be authorized by the Permanent Secretary, maintaining only essential staff for the performance of essential functions while adhering at all times to social distancing," he said.

The Government has also requested that Water and Sewerage Corporation reconnect all disconnected services for residential customers to ensure personal hygiene is not compromised, and defer payment of bills – for an initial period of three months – for residential customers who are diagnosed with COVID-19, who are in quarantine or who have been laid off.

"The Government will cover the cost of those utility bills, as this is an unprecedented situation facing our nation," Minnis said.

The regulations in the proclamation of emergency orders issued by Governor General Cornelius Smith also criminalize the deliberate creation of fake news for the purpose of inciting public fear or panic.



► Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis making the announcement at a press conference yesterday

The Prime Minister said this is an important and necessary provision, noting that countries around the world are having difficulties with this issue.

"Some individuals are deliberately circulating lies and false information to cause panic, unrest, violence and confusion. In some countries, the creation of malicious fake news has led to killings by those who incited fear and panic.

"We must be responsible with what we say. There is now circulating through social media a fake emergency order that was not issued by the Government of The Bahamas. This was an intentional and malicious attack that could cause panic and harm. Just as we are fighting a virus that can cause harm we must address a conta-

gion of fear and panic that can cause harm to others. I plead with Bahamians to play their role to stop the spread of COVID-19 and to stop the spread of malicious and fake news," he urged.

Prime Minister Minnis also urged Bahamians to be calm, and not to engage in any panic buying.

"I want to reassure Bahamians and residents that our food and medical supplies are well stocked and there is absolutely no need for panic buying or hoarding. Fuel supplies are also very strong. Propane gas is well stocked as well. Our ports will remain open for freight and cargo. Our airports will remain open. However, the Government of The Bahamas strongly discourages non-essential domestic and international travel," he said. 🌐

## Bermuda Government to Provide Benefits to People Unemployed As a Result of COVID-19

Minister of Labour, Community Affairs and Sports Lovitta Foggo says Government is working to provide an unemployment benefit for individuals who are out of work due to the economic impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

She said a task force has been created to implement the unemployment benefit scheme.

"We appreciate that these are unprecedented and uncertain times, particularly for employees who may be facing unemployment due to business closures. So, this Government is trying to be sensitive to the needs and hardship that our residents may face," Foggo said.

"To be clear, this unemployment benefit is not intended to be a substitute for financial assistance. The proposed period for this unemployment benefit is three months, after which workers may apply for financial assistance. The policy

will be administered through the Department of Workforce Development."

The Labour Minister said further details are being finalized regarding the unemployment benefit. But the aim is to have the programme operational by next Monday.

Bermuda has two confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Following the announcement of that development on Wednesday, Premier David Burt said the LF Wade International Airport will be closed on tonight for two weeks, the seaport is closed to vessels other than cargo ships, public transportation services have been suspended until April 6 and schools have been closed until that date as well.

Burt has encouraged private businesses to ask their employees to work from home, if possible, or stagger work schedules to minimize the number of people in the workplace. 🌐



► Minister of Labour, Community Affairs and Sports Lovitta Foggo

**CROSSWORD**

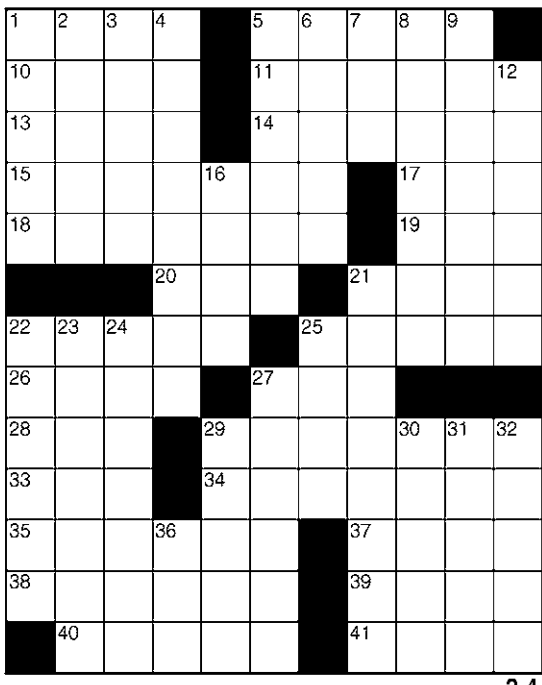
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 39 Mob revolt
  - 1 Egotist's focus
  - 5 Takes the bus
  - 10 Lotion additive
  - 11 Future oaks
  - 13 Spill the beans
  - 14 Wizard's concoction
  - 15 Song part
  - 17 Binary base
  - 18 Guarantees
  - 19 2016 Olympics host
  - 20 Vacuum lack
  - 21 Transmitted
  - 22 Piece of lumber
  - 25 Male deer
  - 26 Just
  - 27 Soup sphere
  - 28 Wager
  - 29 Kitchen tools
  - 33 Life story, for short
  - 34 Free of additives
  - 35 Asimov book
  - 37 Opposed
  - 38 Generic
- DOWN**
- 1 Buffalo hockey player
  - 2 TV's DeGeneres
  - 3 Avoids work
  - 4 Winter month
  - 5 Slender sword
  - 6 Clickable pictures
  - 7 Period
  - 8 Sudan neighbor
  - 9 Doing a con job on
  - 12 Snobby ones
  - 16 Like the Sahara
  - 21 Sculptor's output
  - 22 Thread holder
  - 23 Golfer's cleek
  - 24 Pennsylvania city
  - 25 Theater unit
  - 27 Talks nonsense
  - 29 Ageless dwarf
  - 30 Bert's pal
  - 31 Inform against
  - 32 Narrow cuts
  - 36 Flying mammal



Saturday's answer

- 9 Doing a con job on
- 12 Snobby ones
- 16 Like the Sahara
- 21 Sculptor's output
- 22 Thread holder
- 23 Golfer's cleek
- 24 Pennsylvania city
- 25 Theater unit
- 27 Talks nonsense
- 29 Ageless dwarf
- 30 Bert's pal
- 31 Inform against
- 32 Narrow cuts
- 36 Flying mammal

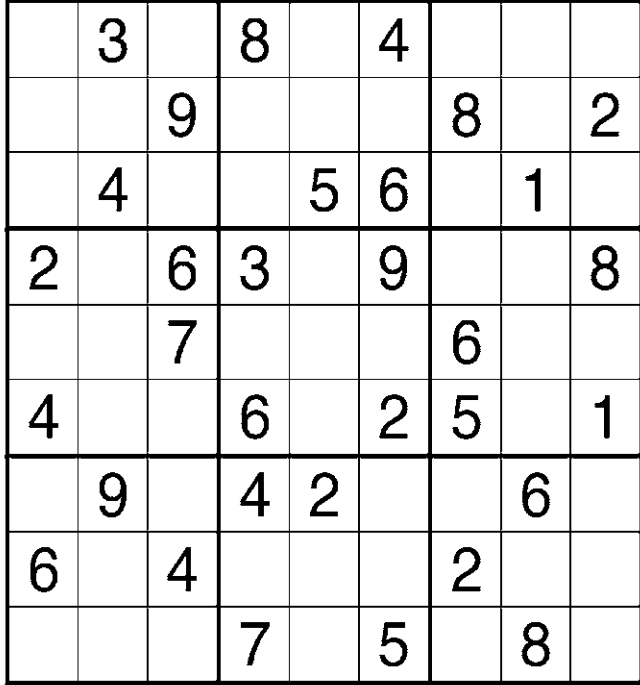


**SUDOKU**

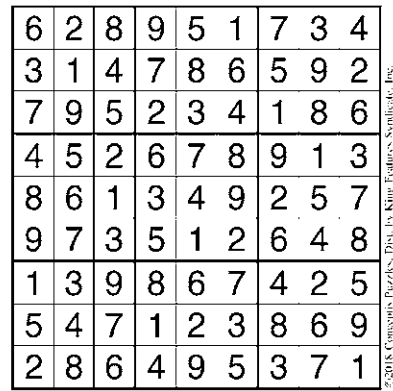
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

**Conceptis Sudoku**

By Dave Green



Answer to previous puzzle



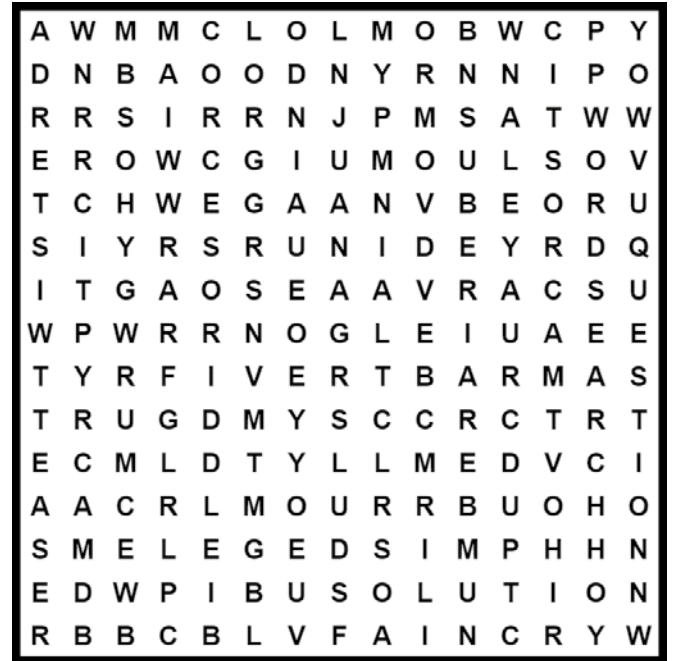
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Difficulty Level ★

12/10

**Word Search**

- Acrostic
- Anagram
- Answer
- Clue
- Conundrum
- Crossword
- Cryptic
- Enigma
- Jigsaw
- Logic
- Mystery
- Number
- Question
- Rebus
- Riddle
- Solution
- Teaser
- Trivia
- Twister
- Word Search

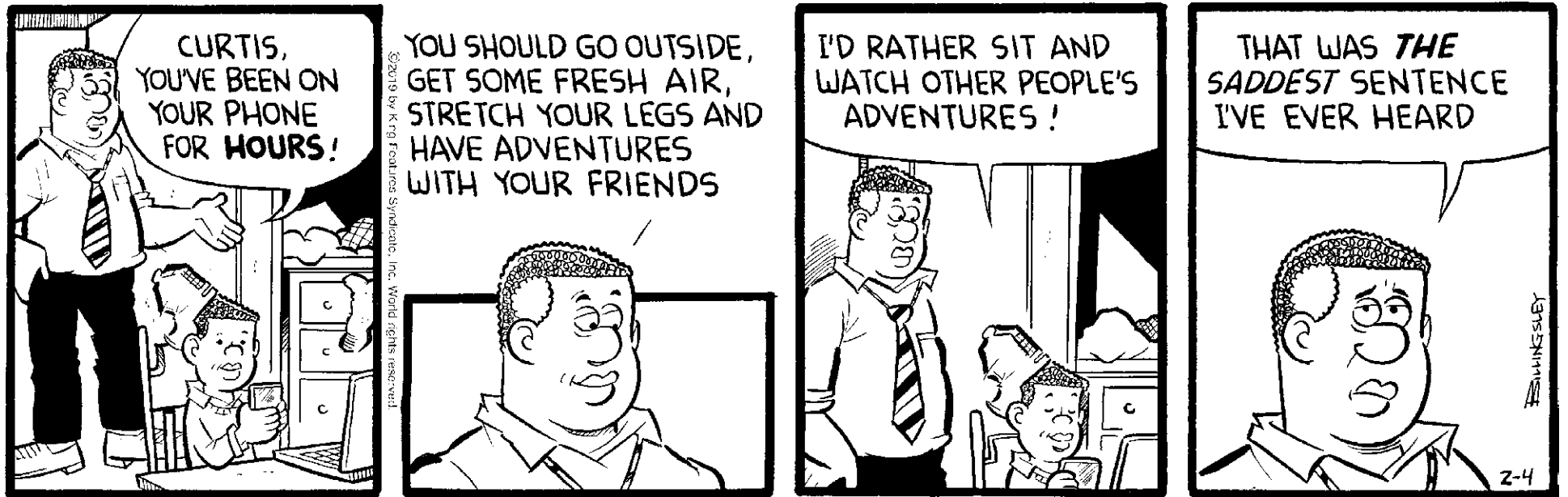


Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions – forward, back, up, down and diagonally.



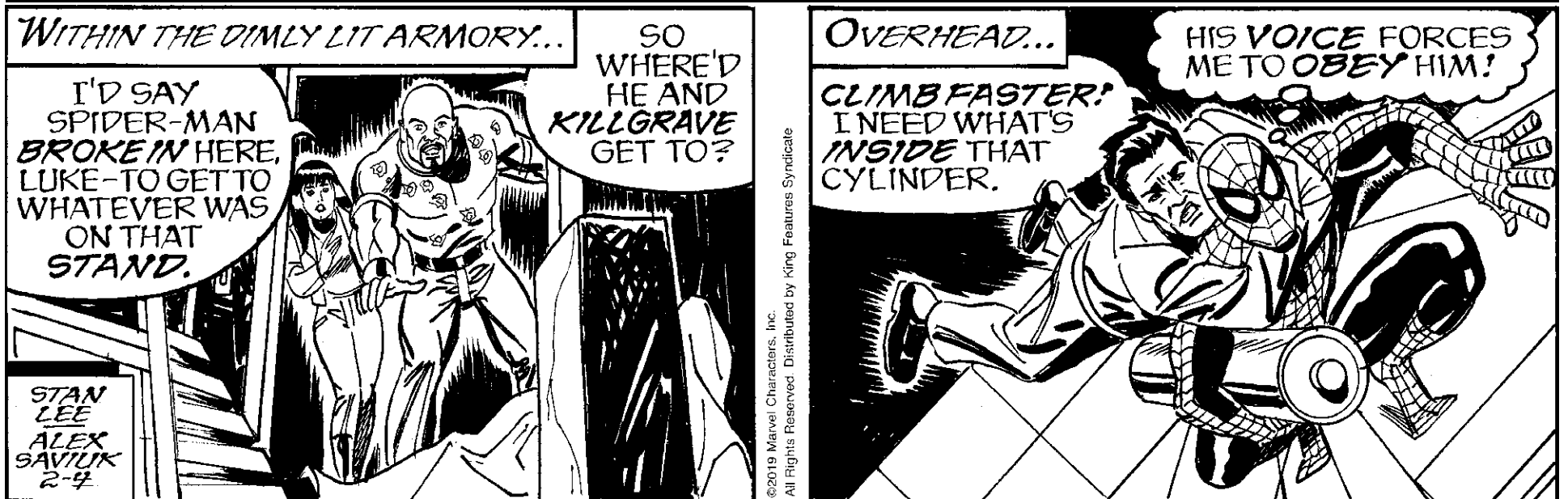
**CURTIS**

By Ray Billingsley



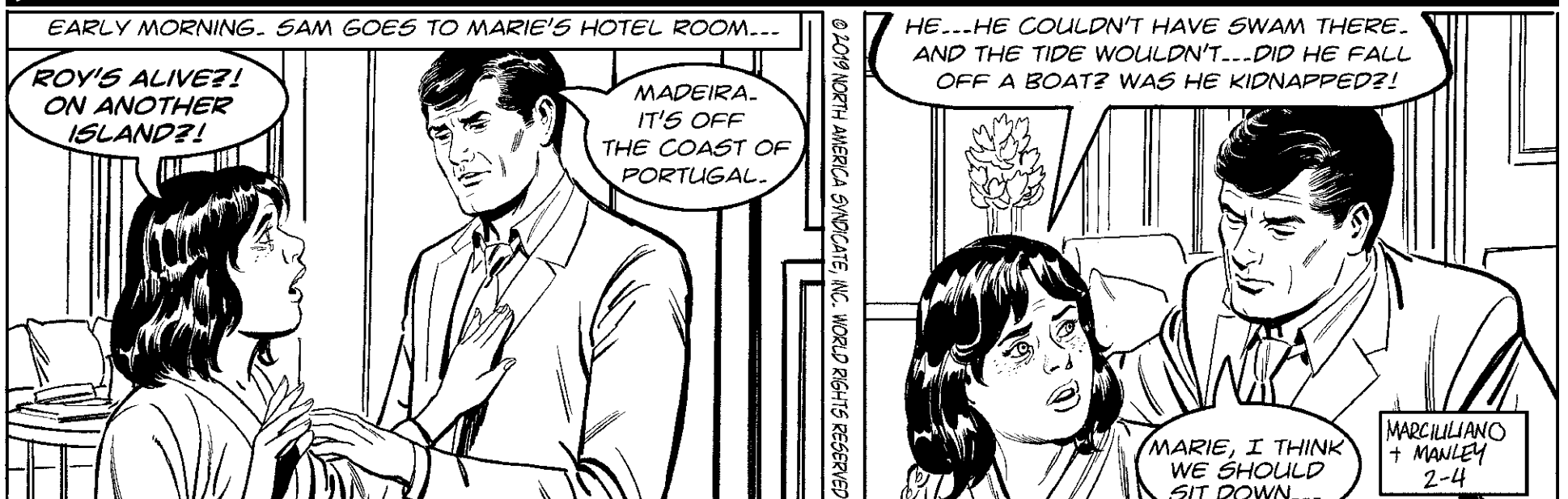
**THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN**

By Stan Lee



**JUDGE PARKER**

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley



# 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.



**1**

**limit guest visits**  
at home to a few family and friends or your district community officer during an outbreak



**2**

**avoid guests who show signs of flu-like symptoms**



**3**

**remain 3 – 6 feet away** unless being checked by your healthcare provider

Most importantly, remember **you are supported.**

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](https://HSA.ky/public-health/coronavirus) or [gov.ky/coronavirus](https://gov.ky/coronavirus)



DATED: 12 MARCH 2020

## Coronavirus – Self-Isolating

### Do

- 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 errands for you 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 crockery and cutlery
- Stay away from your pets — if unavoidable, wash your hands before and after contact

### Do Not

- 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, eating utensils, towels, bedding or other items with other people in your home

### Self-Isolation and Mental Health

Stay in 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](https://HSA.ky/public-health/coronavirus) or [gov.ky/coronavirus](https://gov.ky/coronavirus).



DATED: 13 MARCH 2020