

PARTNER STATEMENT

RE: Barbados increases measures in response to COVID-19

Thursday, March 19, 2020

The Government of Barbados announced today the mandatory quarantine for 14 days, of any persons arriving from United States of America, the United Kingdom, and Europe, regardless of nationality and travel documents. They join the destination's previous list of China, South Korea, Iran and Italy, as identified countries which have widespread local transmission of COVID-19.

The mandatory quarantine mandate will take effect from Sunday, March 22nd, 2020 and will remain in effect until further notice. The Ministry of Health and Wellness requires that all persons coming to Barbados from these countries/ territories be quarantined for a period of fourteen (14) days from the time of last exposure. Barbadian residents returning from these countries will be required to self-quarantine. Non-residents will be quarantined at a Government facility.

Three new cases recorded

On Thursday, Prime Minister the Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, announced that Barbados has recorded three new COVID-19 cases. These patients, who have presented with mild symptoms, are receiving care in isolation until a full recovery is made.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness continues its process of contact tracing to identify every individual who came in close contact with these patients. Those persons will also be placed in quarantine for 14 days.

No travel ban

The protocols established by the Ministry of Health and Wellness to contain the virus for visitors arriving from all other countries, remain in effect.

They are:

- Surveillance measures including utilisation of advance passenger information, immigration screening, and Port Health monitoring. All current and proposed actions are based on level of risk determined by Public Health Authorities.
- All persons coming to Barbados with a history of having travelled to countries with widespread local transmission are quarantined for a period of fourteen (14) days after last exposure.

- Barbados has a programme for both quarantine and isolation based on the level of risk determined by Public Health Authorities. Both units are guided by standard operation procedures and protocols. Barbados is able to accommodate both high and low risk travellers.
- The Government quarantine facility is to be used for high risk persons without symptoms.
- Any person with potential exposure who develops symptoms consistent with coronavirus will be admitted to the National Isolation Facility for testing and further management.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness will continue to closely monitor the situation. More updates on Barbados' response to COVID-19 can be found at <https://gisbarbados.gov.bb>. Any enquiries on health information on COVID-19 may be addressed to the hotline at 536-4500 (operating 24 hours daily).

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