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MINUTES OF THE 44th MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 20th MAY 2021 AT 9.00 AM

- PRESENT:
- Her Excellency the Governor, Ms Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam
 - The Honourable Premier and Minister for Finance and Health,
Dr Ellis Webster
 - The Honourable Deputy Governor, Mr Perin Bradley
 - The Honourable Minister for Social Development, Cultural Affairs,
Youth Affairs, Gender Affairs, Education and Library Services,
Ms Dee-Ann Kentish-Rogers
 - The Honourable Minister for Home Affairs, Immigration, Labour,
Human Rights, Constitutional Affairs, Information and Broadcasting,
Lands and Physical Planning, Mr Kenneth Hodge
 - The Honourable Minister for Infrastructure, Communications,
Utilities, Housing and Tourism, Mr Haydn Hughes
 - The Honourable Minister for Economic Development, Commerce,
Information Technology, Environment and Natural Resources,
Mr Kyle Hodge
 - The Honourable Attorney General, Mr Dwight Horsford
 - Clerk to Executive Council, Mrs Angela Hughes
- IN ATTENDANCE:
- Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development,
Mrs Quincia Gumbs-Marie
 - Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social
Development/Education, Mr Merrick Richardson
 - Financial Specialist, Mr Stephen Turnbull

EX MIN 21/169

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained.

Council confirmed that the Minutes of the 43rd Meeting of Executive Council held on Thursday 13th May, 2021 would be approved by Round Robin.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

EX MIN 21/170

COVID-19 & ASTRAZENEC/OXFORD VACCINE UPDATE

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained. The following persons joined the meeting: -

PS, Health, Mr Foster Rogers
 Chief Medical Officer, Dr Aisha Andrewin
 Health Planner, Ms Rochelle Rogers
 Commissioner of Police, Mr David Lynch

Update on the COVID-19 cluster investigation and current situation

As of May 19, Anguilla has recorded a total of 109 confirmed cases with 107 recoveries and 2 active cases from the cluster. In total there are 78 locally detected cases of COVID-19 all associated with the cluster first identified on April 21.

Cluster Cases Overview

The following summary pertains to the 78 cases detected locally:

The cases identified consist of 68 adults and 10 children ranging in age from 7 months to 77 years and 76 are considered recovered at this time, including the 3 males that were hospitalized previously. They are 34 females and 44 males. The majority of cases are in

persons aged 30 - 59 years old - 50 cases (64%); under 30 years - 19 cases (24%) and 60+ years - 9 cases (12%).

Thus far, a total of 17 persons have reported a diagnoses of underlying medical conditions that are risk factors for severe disease and death if infected by COVID-19:

- 11 with hypertension (including two of the hospitalized gentlemen)
- 1 with genetic thromboembolic disease
- 1 with diabetes
- 2 with hypertension and diabetes
- 2 with asthma

The cases within the cluster all share a common exposure which is linked to a place, person and/or setting in time. There is a wide distribution of cases across various villages in Anguilla, with the largest number of cases in South Hill.

Testing and Contact Tracing

Upon identification of the cluster, the Ministry of Health undertook an aggressive contact tracing effort which has led to COVID-19 testing of more than 1470 persons since April 22. The last positive cases were confirmed on May 10. Contact tracing appears to have been exhausted at this point. However, the interruption of further transmission should only be commented upon after two incubation cycles have passed on June 7, the date which is 4 weeks after the last positive case.

Vaccination Deployment Update

As of May 19, there were 9379 registered persons of which 8879 persons had received their first dose, representing 70% of the target population figure of 12,600 persons. Thus far, 4806 persons have received their second dose. The breakdown by occupation of first doses is as follows:

- 336 Healthcare workers
- 503 Civil, border protection and port staff
- 1706 Hospitality

- 1025 Retired
- 5329 Others

Using 2011 census age demographics, the breakdown of individuals who have received the vaccine by age, is as follows:

- 2663 persons age 18 - 34 (67% of target)
- 2663 persons age 35 - 49 (67% of target)
- 2322 persons age 50 - 64 (97% of target)
- 1220 persons age 65+ (102% of target)

Since the last report on May 13, there has been a precipitous decline in the number of first doses administered. This may be as a result of May 15 being perceived as the “last date” for vaccination. Additional outreach is planned to address this. Further work is ongoing to ensure that hospitality workers are categorised correctly.

Vaccine ID Cards

The first version of the software feature to conduct the printing has been submitted by the developer for consideration. Further development of the QR codes is required.

Police update on enforcement and policing plan

The Commissioner of Police updated Council on the enforcement operations of the RAPF.

The enforcement operations are going well, and the level of compliance is good. The simpler the rules are, the easier they are to enforce. The RAPF staffing level is good and the public are assisting by complying with the Regulations. Approximately 20 case files have been prepared in order to proceed with the prosecution process once the courts are open. Review is ongoing and there may be an additional 40 – 60 cases to progress to prosecution, some warnings may be given, but for most cases it is anticipated that prosecution will be justified.

COVID-19 De-escalation of Measures

The Ministry of Health continue to stress the importance of the gradual relaxation of containment measures to limit the further spread of COVID-19. The Ministry supports the extension of the relevant Regulations with the stated recommendations towards a guided and safe re-opening of sectors, especially considering that less than 1 full incubation cycle has passed since the last positive COVID-19 cases related to the cluster were recorded. The Ministry supports the implementation of Step 3 and partial implementation of Step 4 of the De-escalation of measures which permits:

- The re-opening of the border to returning residents on 21st May and to visitors on May 25th.
- The resumption of the next tier of essential services; daycare and childminding facilities and school for 4 - 6th form, to complete SBA requirements.

Further, the Ministry proposed additional measures to be included at this step, which Council considered.

Council:

- 1) thanked the Health team and the Commissioner of Police for their continued hard work;
- 2) noted that mobile vaccination has largely been exhausted now, the health team had been out in the community and most people, who have limited mobility and are desirous of being vaccinated have received their vaccine;
- 3) noted that there are adequate red bands in stock, which are sufficient to cater for the number of persons expected to arrive in the upcoming months;
- 4) noted that looking forward, events for fully vaccinated persons may be possible, however, the resources of the health team are already stretched across providing the existing services and cannot accommodate a short window of testing for unvaccinated persons (24 – 48 hours prior to an event) in order to facilitate entry to mass gatherings;

- 5) noted that it is anticipated that the Regulations will change in line with the exit strategy so that on July 1, there will be no requirement to quarantine for 7 days, the Regulations will be framed in order to address the category of persons who are already situated in Anguilla at the time that the change is expected to happen and the rules that will apply to them from July 1;
- 6) noted that the decisions to remove the requirement for COVID-19 testing on arrival, for fully vaccinated persons, from July 1 and for requiring unvaccinated returning residents to quarantine for 10 days are based on best scientific guidance, managing the risks, maximising the available resources and moving towards the removal of all restrictions by October 1. As part of the relaxed entry requirements persons must have their own health insurance in place, Government will not be responsible for any related costs. However, proof of insurance will not be required for the purposes of entry and this will be clarified;
- 7) agreed that the Anguilla Statistics Department will be asked to provide an update on the estimated population figure for Anguilla in 2021. The ASD should also indicate the status of the Census pilot for 2021. An up to date estimate is important to properly inform considerations in respect of the public health position on vaccinations. It is also used as an indicator in the assessment of travel lists;
- 8) agreed that each Permanent Secretary must review the COVID-19 Regulations, and summarise the Regulations as it applies to their respective stakeholders and sectors, so that information can be issued in a user friendly format to their stakeholders and sectors. The ATB graphics are a good starting reference point;
- 9) agreed that Anguilla could proceed to Step 3 fully and Step 4 partially in the table of measures and that presently there will be no change in the measures to allow all businesses to open. The health team's aim is to monitor movement and not the institutions, allowing more businesses to open means that there are less restrictions on the movement of persons from different communities who may be living in challenging conditions;

10) approved the extension of the Public Health (Temporary Restrictions on Movement of People and Public Gatherings) Regulations 2021, for a 1-week period from May 21 to May 27, subject to amendment, to include the related provisions for Step 3 of the de-escalation measures and the additional measures proposed, as follows:

- (i) additional services are to be included in the essential places list; courier/collection services and retail sales for personal care and hygiene products only, no services are included;
- (ii) restricted hours are revised to 8pm to 5am, and the operating hours of the selected businesses will be 5am to 7pm. However, from May 25 for restaurants certified to provide services to the activity bubble, the operating hours are 5am to 10pm; with certified taxis able to operate until 11pm for the sole purpose of returning short stay visitors from bubble restaurants to their accommodations; and
- (iii) the number of fully vaccinated persons permitted to gather in any setting is increased to a maximum of 25 persons, subject to being able to maintain social distancing requirements of 3 ft between persons;

11) approved the extension of the Public Health (Regulation of Ports) Regulations 2021, for a 1-week period from May 21 to May 27, subject to amendment, to include the related provisions for Step 3 and 4 of the de-escalation measures, which permit residents to return on May 21 and visitors on May 25; and

12) reviewed the existing COVID-19 related Regulations which expire on May 20 and approved the extension of the following from 21 May 2021 until 27 May 2021:

- (i) Public Health (COVID-19 Monitoring of Approved Businesses) Regulations;
- (ii) Public Health (Quarantine) (COVID-19) Regulations; and

(iii) Quarantine (COVID-19) (Arriving Passengers Health Clearance)

Action: PS, HLTH; PS, FIN; PS, EDCITENR; BD; ACC, GEN; HON, DG; HON, AG; MINS OF GOV'T

EX MIN 21/171

EX MEM 21/92 APPLICATION FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE BY INVESTMENT FOR THE PRINCIPAL APPLICANT, HIS SPOUSE AND CHILD

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained.

The Hon Minister for EDCITENR briefed Council on the application for the grant of permanent residence, which meets the legislative requirements. A minor discrepancy with the historical addresses provided was observed, but there are no major concerns.

Council:

- 1) considered and reviewed the application in respect of a Permit of Permanent Residence in accordance with the provisions of the Anguilla Economic Residence Act and the Anguilla Economic Residence Regulations;
- 2) agreed to grant the Permit of Permanent Residence to the principal applicant, his spouse and child;
- 3) agreed that the Ministry shall inform the Review Committee - RBI and the Select Anguilla Agency of Council's decision; and
- 4) instructed the Ministry that the Applicant shall be notified of the decision taken and shall fulfil any requirements within 60 days, if necessary.

Action: PS, EDCITENR; HON, MIN EDCITENR
