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MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 4th MAY 2021 AT 10.00 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
- ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Permanent Secretary for Health, Mr M Foster Rogers
Chief Medical Officer, Dr Aisha Andrewin

Health Planner, Ms Rochelle Rogers
Commissioner of Police, Mr David Lynch

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COVID-19 & ASTRAZENECA/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.

Update on the COVID-19 cluster investigation and current situation

As of May 3 Anguilla has recorded a total of 96 confirmed cases with 32 recoveries. There are 65 cases of COVID-19 all associated with the cluster which was first identified on April 21. 64 cases were detected locally and 1 case was detected in the UK, which was an Anguillian resident who left Anguilla on April 19 and was confirmed positive for COVID-19 on April 21.

Cluster Cases Overview

The following summary pertains to the 64 cases detected locally:

The cases identified consist of 57 adults and 7 children ranging in age from 7 months to 77 years. They are 23 females and 41 males, who are isolated in either home or government quarantine. Three males aged 42, 56 and 43 have been hospitalized for varying degrees of respiratory distress. The majority of cases are in persons aged 30 - 58 years old (41 cases); under 30 years (14 cases) and 60+ years (9 cases).

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 1453 persons since April 22, 2021. Thus far, no additional cases have been recorded since April 29. It is important to observe what happens within the 2-week incubation period from the last positive case. However, contact tracing is ongoing and will end when no

more additional positives are confirmed from the cluster. The majority of cases and their quarantined contacts from the cluster are due for Day 14 testing between May 6 - 7.

Testing Update

PHE rapid Antigen screening kits were used for testing. PHE and the FCDO sent 460 kits, the Ministry received 300 kits and the remainder were left at the hospital for the purposes of screening. The Ministry has approximately 300 remaining tests and an additional 3600 Cepheid tests.

Update on the effectiveness of the Public Health (Temporary Restriction on Movement of People and Public Gatherings) Regulations 2021 and the next steps after May 6

Based on the foregoing, the Ministry of Health recommends a number of amendments to the existing measures, for Council's consideration.

COVID-19 De-escalation of Measures

The Ministry of Health continues to stress the importance of the containment measures to limit the further spread of COVID-19. The Ministry supports the extension of the relevant legislation with certain recommendations towards a guided and safe re-opening of sectors.

Police update on enforcement and policing plan

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

In terms of inland security persons seem to be largely very compliant and there are few breaches in comparison to the number of persons in quarantine. One arrest of an intoxicated person was made yesterday. For the RAPF officers who are tasked with applying the law day to day it is important that the Regulations are accessible and user-friendly.

Progress of the vaccine rollout at the AFA Stadium and JRW Park, vaccine campaign and registration status

Vaccination Deployment Update

As of May 3, there were 7701 registered persons, of which 6982 persons had received their first dose, representing 55% of the target population figure of 12,600 persons. Thus far, 2811 persons have received their second dose, and this is expected to rise. The breakdown of first doses by occupation is as follows:

- 296 Healthcare workers
- 430 Civil, border protection and port staff
- 1342 Hospitality
- 902 Retired
- 4027 Others

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

- 1880 persons age 18 - 34 (47% of target)
- 2094 persons age 35 - 49 (52% of target)
- 1936 persons age 50 - 64 (81 % of target)
- 1076 persons age 65+ (90% of target)

Since April 21, there has been a significant rise in the number of first doses administered, especially in younger age groups.

Council:

- 1) thanked the Health team for their continued hard work;
- 2) noted that positive cases and their contacts will be tested before exiting quarantine. Positive persons in the community are largely reporting mild symptoms, but in some cases a rapid decline can be seen at approximately day 7 of infection;
- 3) noted that of the three men admitted to hospital, none can be classed as fully vaccinated: one had not received any doses

and the other two had only very recently had one dose, around the same time as exposure to COVID-19. Accordingly, none had received 2 doses of the vaccine, with the expiration of 21 days thereafter and this will be restated publicly;

- 4) noted that in future if there are COVID-19 outbreaks, a higher percentage of vaccination in the community will offer some protection against COVID-19. However, the epidemiological situation at the time will govern the Ministry's advice and course of action and a future pause with restrictive measures or the closure of Anguilla's borders cannot be ruled out. Observing the trends in the period of two incubation cycles from the last positive case and vaccination are key;
- 5) noted the COVID-19 de-escalation plan presented and discussed the merits and disadvantages. The Ministry's intention was to create a balance between commerce and incentive to vaccinate. The Ministry's position is that masks should not be mandated unless there is a scientific reason to do so. Consideration has to be given as to how measures proposed will be enforced and adequately managed;
- 6) noted that if the vaccination targets are not met at a particular phase of the Exit Plan, then a decision will be made at the time on the basis of the percentage of vaccination obtained;
- 7) noted that the vaccination cards are in hand and a plan to implement is being worked up. Information concerning reliable methods of proving full vaccination will be forthcoming;
- 8) noted that the statistics regarding the percentage of the Anguilla Public Service that are vaccinated will be collated for future review by Council;
- 9) noted that Anguilla's borders are unlikely to re-open before May 21, and the Ministry's recommendation that Anguillians be permitted to enter Anguilla as of May 21 and visitors as of June 4. The portal shall be readied for operation, once a decision is made regarding opening Anguilla's borders for arrivals;

- 10) noted the Ministry's indication that to open Anguilla's borders in early May would be difficult without additional resources. Existing resources are currently stretched across testing persons to exit quarantine or self-isolation, concentrating on two incubation cycles (each incubation cycle is 14 days) from the last positive case, as the virus may still be circulating. 3 out of the 10 beds available for COVID-19 treatment are being used and it is unknown whether more resources may be required to support care. Exceptions to the Regulations are discouraged;
- 11) noted that the PS for Education and the Chief Education Officer are offering guidance on the best way forward with respect to the proposed dates for re-opening schools, given that the ALHCS is usually bringing scheduled lessons to a close, by early June in readiness for exams;
- 12) noted that the penalties for breach of the Regulations cannot exceed EC\$5K unless the Public Health Act is amended;
- 13) agreed that the Health team shall refine and finalise the phased de-escalation plan, for presentation to Council on May 6. Where possible the restrictive measures in place will be relaxed, particularly as it relates to vaccinated persons. The following is envisaged at this stage: a mask mandate to remain in place in certain specific scenarios; outdoor exercise for 90 minutes may potentially be resumed on May 7; the opening of the borders for vaccinated persons on May 21 (with 7-day stay in place); and full re-opening on July 1, as per the Exit Plan. Clarity will be provided on the position for mobile food vans, mechanics and garages, which are captured within the existing Regulations;
- 14) agreed that the COVID-19 Regulations shall be amended to provide the Hon Deputy Governor with a discretion to determine which services and departments are essential. Accordingly, clarity on the re-opening of Government departments and services will be forthcoming;
- 15) agreed that the Ministry must detail what resources are needed to safely open Anguilla's borders; and

16) agreed that a joint statement by the Hon Premier and H.E. the Governor shall be issued today confirming the broad way forward, with details to follow on May 6, after Council has formalized the position.

Council agreed to make a substantive determination on the de-escalation measures at the next meeting of Executive Council on Thursday 6 May.

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