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MINUTES OF THE 72nd MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 13th JANUARY 2022 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 22/09

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 the Minutes of the 71st Meeting of Executive Council held on Thursday 6th January, 2022.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

EX MIN 22/10

COVID-19 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:

PS Health, Mr Foster Rogers
CMO, Dr Aisha Andrewin
Dir CDU, Mrs Twyla Richardson-Bradshaw

Epidemiology***Global overview***

For the past week (3 - 9 January 2022), globally, the number of new cases has increased markedly, while the number of new deaths remains similar to the previous week. This past week, across the six regions, over 15 million new cases were reported, this is a 55% increase as compared to the previous week and over 43,000 new deaths were reported. As of January 9, over 304 million confirmed cases and over 5.4 million deaths have been reported.

All regions reported an increase in the incidence of weekly cases with the exception of the African Region, which reported an 11% decrease. The regions reporting the highest weekly case incidence rates per 100,000 population continue to be the European Region (765.8 new cases per 100,000 population) and the Region of the Americas (597.9 new cases per 100,000 population). Both regions also reported the highest weekly incidence in deaths of 2.2 and 1.4

per 100,000 population, respectively, while <1 new death per 100,000 was reported in all other regions.

The highest numbers of new cases were reported in the United States of America (4,610,359 new cases; a 73% increase), France (1,597,203 new cases; a 46% increase), the United Kingdom (1,217,258 new cases; a 10% increase), Italy (1,014,358 new cases; a 57% increase), and India (638,872 new cases; a 524% increase).

Update on the Emergence of Variant of Concern Omicron (B.1.1.529)

The current global epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 is characterized by the emergence of the Omicron variant, declining prevalence of the Delta variant, and very low level circulation of the Alpha, Beta and Gamma variants. Following the identification of travel related Omicron cases, many countries are now reporting clusters as well as community transmission of this VOC.

This variant has been shown to have a shorter doubling time compared to previous variants, with transmission occurring amongst those who are vaccinated or with a history of prior SARS-CoV-2 infection; there is increasing evidence that this variant is able to evade immunity.

In terms of disease severity, there is growing evidence that Omicron is less severe than other variants. Despite the higher number of cases during the 'Omicron-dominant' period, hospital admission rates were lower.

Caribbean Region

Since the previous report on January 3, an additional 258,542 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 35 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region's total confirmed cases to 2,528,904 in 35 countries/territories (including the 26 CARPHA Member States). The new total represents a 11.4% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 29,846 deaths recorded in the Caribbean Region as of January 10, 2022.

Anguilla

As of January 12, 2022 the total number of confirmed cases since the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020 is 1942 with 1836 recoveries, 6 deaths and 163 active cases. Three adults (2 unvaccinated females and 1 vaccinated male) and a child are currently admitted to the Isolation Unit.

The Omicron variant was detected in four out of nine samples sent to CARPHA on January 3. These samples were taken between December 19 and 26. There were three imported cases from the USA and USVI, including two returning residents and the fourth case was a resident with no history of recent travel. All persons are fully vaccinated and had mild infections. For the other five samples, which included the sixth COVID-19 death, the Delta variant was identified.

Since the reopening of schools, six children have tested positive, the breakdown is as follows: AAARPS - 2 children in Grades 2 and 3; Valley - 2 children in Kindergarten and Grade 1; Orelia Kelly - 1 child in Grade 2; VVPS - 1 child in Kindergarten. Contact tracing and investigation are underway.

Vaccination Deployment Update

Vaccine Uptake

As of January 12, 2022, 10,157 first doses and 9,289 second doses have been administered. In an estimated population of 15,500 total persons, this would represent 66% of the population having received the first dose and 60% of the population having received two doses.

The breakdown by age of persons having received a first dose is as follows:

- 443 persons age 12 - 17
- 3037 persons age 18 - 34
- 2894 persons age 35 - 49
- 2488 persons age 50 - 64
- 1323 persons age 65+

The occupational breakdown of first doses is as follows:

- 355 Healthcare workers
- 546 Civil and Border Protection
- 1826 Hospitality
- 1104 Retired
- 6376 Others

Distribution (Pfizer)

As of January 12, 2259 doses of Pfizer have been administered, this includes 1607 booster doses and 443 first doses for 12 - 17 year olds. This represents roughly 33% of the estimated 12 – 17 year old population.

Vaccination distribution continues with walk-ins at Welches Polyclinic on Thursdays and Fridays, and by appointment on Friday afternoons at the Western Polyclinic.

Council:

- 1) thanked the health team for their continued hard work and commended them for the work well done over the festive season;
- 2) noted the health teams indication that with the introduction of the Omicron variant, a surge in the number of cases is expected over the next couple of weeks. The more pertinent metric at this time should be the number of severe cases as indicated by hospitalizations and deaths. In addition, personal responsibility and management of personal risk should be emphasized;
- 3) noted that in relation to outbreaks within the workplace, the health team reviews and manages such incidences on a case by case basis, particularly as it relates to recommended isolation periods, identifying close contacts and the procedures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19;

- 4) noted the health teams recommendation that in order to facilitate in-school testing and support the school health nurses, other suitable support staff within the school setting should be trained to conduct COVID-19 testing;
- 5) agreed that the health team shall formulate a table detailing the pertinent information regarding the latest COVID-19 procedures (isolation periods, in-school testing etc.), so that this information is readily available for the public;
- 6) noted that with the current portal application system, in order to assess and manage applications in a timely manner a cutoff point on the day prior to entry into Anguilla is needed. To achieve greater efficiency and manage high numbers, taking into consideration the current reduced testing windows a fully automated, 24 hour, cloud based portal system is required and this is the primary objective. However, the PS Health and Hon Deputy Governor shall identify what resources are needed to manage the existing portal demand and address any other key matters, while the establishment of a fully automated system is pending and also identify the expected time it will take to achieve this;
- 7) noted the health teams indication that it is possible for some persons to test positive towards the end of the period of isolation. Council approved the Ministry's recommendations as it relates to maintaining the isolation periods and clearance for COVID-19 cases, as follows:
 - a) a seven-day isolation period with a rapid test at the end of the period for vaccinated COVID-19 cases and their contacts; and
 - b) a ten-day isolation period with a rapid test at the end of the period for unvaccinated COVID-19 cases and their contacts; and
- 8) agreed that in relation to the accepted pre-arrival tests, the 2 - 5 day testing window will no longer be adopted. Antigen tests must be taken within 2 days of arrival to Anguilla, and all

other accepted tests must be taken within 3 days of arrival to Anguilla (RT-PCR/NAA/RNA).

Council authorized the issue of the Action Sheet before confirmation of the Minutes.

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

EX MIN 22/11

EX MEM 22/06 APPLICATION FOR DUTY EXEMPTION FOR ANGUILLA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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

Council:

- 1) agreed that duty and tax exemptions should be granted to the Anguilla Football Association on the importation of mobile light towers;
- 2) agreed that the administrative fee under the Customs Administrative Cost Recovery Act should apply;
- 3) noted that the estimated duty and tax loss to the Government is EC\$37,938.35, less the 5% administrative fee; and
- 4) instructed the Ministry of Finance to prepare the required Resolutions of the House of Assembly, pursuant to section 77(1) of the Customs Act, R.S.A. c. C 169 and section 6A of the Interim Goods Tax Act, 2019.

Action: PS, FIN; PAS, FIN; HON, PREM

EX MIN 22/12

EX MEM 22/07 APPLICATION FOR DUTY AND TAX EXEMPTION FOR WELLNESS AVE

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

Council:

- 1) agreed that duty and tax exemptions should be granted to Wellness Ave on the importation of equipment for an occupational therapy clinic;
- 2) agreed that the administrative fee under the Customs Administrative Cost Recovery Act should apply;
- 3) noted that the estimated duty and tax loss to the Government is EC\$5,547.03 (excluding certain disposable items demarked "D", the total application value is EC\$5,726.60); and
- 4) instructed the Ministry of Finance to prepare the required Resolutions of the House of Assembly, pursuant to section 77(1) of the Customs Act, R.S.A. c. C 169 and section 6A of the Interim Goods Tax Act, 2019.

Action: PS, FIN; PAS, FIN; HON, PREM

EX MIN 22/13

EX MEM 22/08 APPLICATION FOR DUTY AND TAX EXEMPTION FOR HUGHES MEDICAL CENTRE

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

Council:

- 1) agreed that duty and tax exemptions should be granted to Hughes Medical Centre on the importation of equipment for

a medical centre, including an ultrasound machine, x-ray equipment and COVID-19 testing equipment;

- 2) noted that the acquisition of an MRI machine by a third party is pending, and therefore it is not necessary for Hughes Medical Centre to also import one;
- 3) agreed that the administrative fee under the Customs Administrative Cost Recovery Act should apply;
- 4) noted that the estimated duty and tax loss to the Government is EC\$193,691.13 (excluding the MRI machine and that the total application value is \$337,778.65); and
- 5) instructed the Ministry of Finance to prepare the required Resolutions of the House of Assembly, pursuant to section 77(1) of the Customs Act, R.S.A. c. C 169 and section 6A of the Interim Goods Tax Act, 2019.

Council noted that for duty and tax exemption submissions the Ministry of Finance shall include a running total of all exemptions given for the financial year.

Action: PS, FIN; PAS, FIN; HON, PREM
