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MINUTES OF THE 40th MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 22nd APRIL 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 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
- ABSENT: The Honourable Minister for Home Affairs, Immigration, Labour,
Human Rights, Constitutional Affairs, Information and Broadcasting,
Lands and Physical Planning, Mr Kenneth Hodge

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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. The following persons joined the meeting: -

PS, Health, Mr Foster Rogers
Chief Medical Officer, Dr Aisha Andrewin

Epidemiology

As at April 20, Anguilla had 30 confirmed cases with one active imported case on island. On April 21, a case of COVID-19 was confirmed in a symptomatic female who has been residing in Anguilla since October 2020. She had no apparent direct links to any imported case of the virus and her symptoms started on around April 19. She relayed an encounter at a public beach bar on April 16 with a local resident who was reportedly unwell (with symptoms compatible with COVID-19). That individual and his girlfriend subsequently also tested positive on the evening of April 21. Contact tracing is ongoing.

Based on the foregoing, as per the WHO's classification system, this is classified as a "cluster". Anguilla was previously categorized as having "sporadic" cases. The Ministry has made recommendations in the first instance, to ascertain whether transmission has progressed beyond the cluster level and to contain further spread e.g. into Level 4 community transmission.

Escalation of Measures in response to identified cluster of COVID-19 cases

The notification of the cluster of cases requires aggressive containment measures to reduce the further spread of COVID-19 in Anguilla, in line with Stage 3 of the Escalation of Measures Plan. The Ministry of Health recommends the immediate implementation of the following measures, for a two-week period April 22 to May 6 2021:

- Stay at home orders for all non-essential workers and non-

essential services, with exceptions being made only to seek medical care including vaccinations, food and physical activity

- Prohibition of public and social gatherings including the closure of schools, churches, nightclubs and bars
- Restaurants and other food establishments are restricted to take-out only services only
- Re-introduction of mandatory social distancing measures in spaces that are allowed to remain open, including capacity limits and recommended mask wearing in spaces where physical distancing is not possible
- Closure of ports to all incoming passengers with outgoing movements permitted
- Restriction on visitors to residential facilities e.g. elderly care homes, prison and Zenaida haven

Vaccination Update

As of April 21 at 4.00 pm there were 7084 persons registered of which 6,156 persons had received their first dose. This represents 49% of the target population figure of 12,600 persons. Thus far, 1132 persons have received their second dose.

The vaccination of the population is critical and there should be an exemption from the stay at home orders for persons seeking to be vaccinated. However, the vaccination site will still be required to observe social distancing protocols and all other measures applicable for essential services. The vaccination team will utilize measures that minimize the gathering of persons, including the scheduling of appointments and possibly drive-through vaccinations.

COVID Exit Planning Update

The aforementioned underscores the critical nature of mandatory vaccination for frontline workers who are in direct contact with

visitors. Persons may only be exempted for valid medical reasons. The Ministry recommends that unvaccinated persons in jobs with indirect to no contact with visitors, must undergo weekly mandatory RT-PCR testing at their own expense, and the urgent implementation of regulations requiring frontline workers to receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Council:

- 1) thanked the Health team for their continued hard work;
- 2) approved the introduction of the recommended control measures to reduce the further spread of COVID-19;
- 3) approved the reintroduction of the amended Public Health (Temporary Restrictions on movement of people and public gatherings) Regulations, subject to amendment, to include the closure of all schools in this Regulation;
- 4) approved the reintroduction of the amended Public Health (COVID-19 Temporary Closure of Ports) Regulations, subject to amendment, to allow the departure of persons. The existing Public Health (COVID-19 Regulation of Ports) will need to be reviewed;
- 5) reviewed the existing COVID-19 related Regulations which expire on April 30 and agreed that the following Regulations should be extended, for the period 1 May 2021 to 6 May 2021:
 - a) Public Health (COVID-19 Monitoring of Approved Businesses) Regulations, 2021;
 - b) Public Health (Quarantine)(COVID-19) Regulations, 2021;
 - c) Emergency Powers (COVID-19 Border Control) Regulations and Proclamation, 2021; and
 - d) Quarantine (COVID-19)(Arriving Passengers Health Clearance) Rules 2021; and

- 6) noted that robust contact tracing relies heavily upon the candour of the parties concerned who test positive for COVID-19;
- 7) further noted that an aggressive approach is required over the next 14 days to contain the spread of the virus;
- 8) agreed that as there is limited testing capacity resources have to be focused on community testing and cannot be diverted to testing at ports, accordingly all ports will be closed to arriving passengers;
- 9) agreed that visitor bubble activities must cease and visitors must stay in place at their accommodation;
- 10) agreed that capacity for vaccinations needs to be increased and consideration will be given as to how this can be achieved whilst maintaining social distancing;
- 11) noted the implementation of any public health measures requires the approval of Executive Council before they are communicated out; and
- 12) further agreed that a joint statement by the Hon Premier and H.E. the Governor shall be issued and this shall be followed by a Press Conference held by the Government of Anguilla with Health team leads in attendance. Timely updates by the Health team will continue.

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