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MINUTES OF THE 104th MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 9.00 AM

- PRESENT: Acting Governor, Mr Perin Bradley
- The Honourable Premier and Minister for Finance, Economic
 Development & Investment and Health, Dr Ellis Webster
- Acting Deputy Governor, Mr Karim Hodge
- 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 Sustainability, Innovation and
 Environment, Mrs Quincia Gumbs-Marie
- Honourable Parliamentary Secretary, Mr Merrick Richardson
- The Honourable Attorney General, Mr Dwight Horsford
- Clerk to Executive Council, Mrs Angela Hughes
- IN ATTENDANCE: Financial Specialist, Mr Stephen Turnbull
- ABSENT: Her Excellency the Governor, Ms Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam
- The Honourable Minister for Infrastructure, Communications,
 Utilities, Housing and Tourism, Mr Haydn Hughes

EX MIN 22/298

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

Hon Parliamentary Secretary and Financial Specialist remained.

Council confirmed the Minutes of the 103rd Meeting of Executive Council held on Thursday 8th September, 2022 and the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Executive Council held on Monday 12th September, 2022.

Council noted the absence of H.E. the Governor who has travelled to London for the State Funeral of Her Majesty The Queen.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

EX MIN 22/300

EX MEMO 22/218 DRUG & ALCOHOL POLICY 2022

Hon Parliamentary Secretary and Financial Specialist remained.
The PS for Social Development joined the meeting.

The Hon Minister for Social Development and PS for Social Development briefed Council.

The Department of Education's Drug & Alcohol Policy was first considered by Executive Council on February 22, 2022 and the rationale for the policy was confirmed. Pursuant to ExCo Minute 22/57 the Attorney General's Chambers was instructed to review the policy taking into consideration: the constitutional underpinning of the proposal, including, any legal requirements as it relates to reporting unlawful activity, alignment with the Evidence Act, the permissibility of conferring police type powers and overall content in terms of withstanding lawfulness.

Following advice from the AG's Chambers the policy was revised slightly to reflect the provisions in the Child Justice legislation, the powers of Education Officials and the RAPF and to ensure that legal guardians are included.

Council:

- 1) noted that this policy seeks to assist students who may have drug and alcohol problems. Rather than taking a punitive approach, the policy focuses on treatment and rehabilitation;

- 2) noted that budgetary provision has been made for the purchasing of testing kits. The testing kits are approximately US\$150 for 25 tests. Based on the School Drug Counsellor's caseload it is estimated that 3 packs of testing kits would be required for the academic year, totaling US\$450;
- 3) noted the advice of the Hon Attorney General dated August 22, 2022;
- 4) noted that one of the main concerns raised was that educators were not in a position to decide whether or not to report the discovery of drugs or alcohol, this provision has now been amended in the Drug & Alcohol Policy. The provisions of the Child Justice Act shall be instructive and counsellors shall work in conjunction with the RAPF, in circumstances where minors in school are found in possession of drugs or alcohol;
- 5) noted that safeguarding requirements are in place, so departmental involvement shall continue where required. The policy formalises some pre-existing practices, rather than creating new responsibilities;
- 6) further noted that any tests administered to children are not to be treated as evidential and they shall be destroyed upon the child obtaining school leaving age; and
- 7) approved the Drug & Alcohol Policy.

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

Action: PS, SD; HON, MIN SD

EX MIN 22/301

COVID-19 UPDATE

Hon Parliamentary Secretary and Financial Specialist remained.

Globally, the number of weekly cases decreased by 12% during the week August 29 to September 4, compared to the previous week, with just under 4.2 million new cases reported. The number of new weekly deaths decreased by 5% compared to that of the previous week, with over 13,700 fatalities reported.

As of September 12, 2022, over 605 million confirmed cases and over 6.4 million deaths have been reported globally.

Caribbean Region

Since the previous report on September 5, 2022, an additional 24,511 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 27 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region's total confirmed cases to 4,216,157 in 35 countries/territories (including the 26 CARPHA Member States). The new total represents a 0.3% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 35,445 deaths recorded in the Caribbean Region as of September 12, 2022.

Anguilla

As of September 12, Anguilla has confirmed 3,856 cases of COVID-19 of which 3,841 persons have recovered and 12 have died. There are currently 3 active cases. No one is admitted to the Isolation Unit.

Vaccination Deployment Update

As of September 9, 2022, a total of 10,850 first doses, 10,337 second doses and 2,952 first booster doses have been administered. In an estimated population of 15,500 total persons, this would represent 70% of the total population having received the first dose, 67% of the total population having received two doses and 19% having received a first booster dose. In addition, 80% of the total eligible population (13,560) have received one dose, 75% have received two doses and 26% have received a first booster. The breakdown by age of persons having received a first dose, is as follows:

- 360 persons age 5 - 11
- 587 persons age 12 - 17
- 2997 persons age 18 - 34
- 2918 persons age 35 - 49
- 2586 persons age 50 - 64
- 1406 persons age 65+

The occupational breakdown of first doses is as follows:

- 355 Healthcare workers
- 548 Civil and Border Protection

- 1850 Hospitality
- 1094 Retired
- 7004 Other

Distribution (Pfizer)

As of September 9, 5,508 total doses of Pfizer have been administered including 1,270 first doses, 1,064 second doses, 2,945 first booster doses and 229 second booster doses. This includes 586 first doses for 12 - 17 year olds; approximately 48% of the estimated 12 – 17 year old population and 441 (36%) second doses. This includes 357 (25%) first doses and 330 (23%) second doses for children aged 5 - 11 years old.

Monkey Pox (MPX) Update

Since 1 January 2022, cases of monkey pox have been reported to WHO from 102 Member States across all 6 WHO regions. As of September 12, 2022, a total of 57,605 laboratory confirmed cases (and 460 probable cases), including 22 deaths, have been reported to WHO. Since 13 May 2022, a high proportion of these cases have been reported from countries without previously documented monkey pox transmission. This is the first time that cases and sustained chains of transmission have been reported in countries without direct or immediate epidemiological links to areas of West or Central Africa.

WHO assesses the global risk as Moderate. Regionally, WHO assesses the risk in the European Region as High and as Moderate in the African Region, Region of the Americas, Eastern Mediterranean Region and the South-East Asia Region. The risk in the Western Pacific Region is assessed as Low-Moderate.

Further to the receipt of diagnostics to establish monkey pox testing in Anguilla through technical support from the Pan American Health Organization, virtual trainings for the laboratory staff have been organized for this week and commenced Monday, September 12.

Council:

- 1) noted the update on MPX in the region. The Ministry will continue to monitor the COVID-19 and MPX outbreaks;
- 2) in the immediate/short term:

- a) the current focus will be continued collaboration with the HAA to establish national testing capacity for MPX; and
 - b) the Ministry does not recommend the procurement of monkey pox vaccinations via the PAHO revolving fund at this time, as it is cost prohibitive. There are currently no cases and the suspected cases thus far have tested negative. The Ministry is also involved in technical discussions with UKHSA regarding vaccinations.
- 3) the CMO and Ministry of Health are following up with UKHSA counterparts on the oral antiviral medication for the management of COVID-19 illness;
- 4) noted the recommendation that all Regulations be allowed to expire on September 30, except for the Regulation concerning border control, which requires vessels entering into Anguilla waters to report to the RAPF, which shall be fully addressed in the brief to Council; and
- 5) noted that St. Kitts has issued a notification concerning the presence of hand, foot and mouth disease in the territory. Accordingly, persons should take note and the Ministry should proactively prepare, in the event that any cases should occur in Anguilla.

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

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