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**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA**  
**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> APRIL 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

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. The following persons joined the meeting: -

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

**Update on the COVID-19 cluster investigation and current situation**

On April 21, a case of COVID-19 was confirmed in a symptomatic female who had been residing in Anguilla since October 2020 and she had no apparent direct links to any imported case of the virus. Based on the ongoing public health investigations illegal re-entry into Anguilla has emerged as the most probable source of the introduction of the virus, which is linked to this cluster. The exposure settings were identified and contact tracing and surveillance are ongoing. Testing and contact tracing were expanded to include the Orelia Kelly Primary School, the Valley Primary School and the Albena Lake-Hodge Comprehensive School, Campus B after three schoolchildren tested positive.

As at 25 April at 3.00 pm, a total of 48 persons linked to the cluster have tested positive out of a total of 722 persons tested. The screening on April 25 included 107 persons from the Education system, specifically, 94 schoolchildren and 13 teachers, all of whom tested negative. The total cases arising from the cluster to date include 44 adults and 4 children. At the time of writing, no persons have been hospitalized, all cases are under isolation and relevant contacts have been quarantined.

Ten samples will be sent to the University of the West Indies, via the CARPHA laboratory today, Monday April 26, for genomic sequencing to determine the strain of virus involved.

- The current situation is still classified as a cluster. It is an extensive cluster involving at least three (3) social networks. The police investigation is ongoing. An area of concern is the secondary infection in partners and children who would not have been at the locations where transmission is thought to have occurred. From a public health perspective, it has to be assumed that there are unidentified cases. There are persons who will not comply with contact tracing. There is no capacity to inspect the homes of all positive cases and as such the living conditions remain unknown.
- Due consideration should be given as to how the suspected nefarious nature of the activities may have impacted contact tracing, because persons are not coming forward or not being completely forthcoming.
- Contact tracing will end when the contacts are traced for all the positive cases in the cluster. Although this has been completed for most of the contacts, at the time of writing, there are about five cases, for which contact tracing is underway. Contact tracing will end only when there are no more positive cases detected among contacts of cases. Some persons who were not contact traced have come forward for testing voluntarily and such persons would not have been advised to quarantine.

### **Update on vaccination at the AFA Stadium**

As of April 25 at 8.00 pm, there were 7259 registered persons of which 6400 persons had received their first dose. This represents 57.6% of the target population figure of 12,600 persons (40% of the estimated general population). Thus far, 1629 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 for essential services. The vaccination team will utilize measures that

minimize the gathering of persons including the scheduling of appointments and considering drive-through vaccinations.

### **Introduction of additional measures to address and further contain the spread of COVID-19**

Based on the forgoing, the Ministry of Health recommends a number of amendments to the existing measures, which Council considered and made decisions on as outlined hereinafter.

### **Police update on the current enforcement position and policing plan**

The Commissioner of Police updated Council on the enforcement operations of the RAPF in response to the COVID-19 cluster.

RAPF surveillance is in place with patrol cars in operation and vehicle checkpoints in place across the island. In terms of inland security persons seem to be fairly compliant and restrictions are usually observed in the evenings, but there is still plenty of movement. The RAPF are looking to address resilience of the force in increasing these enforcement arrangements.

On public health investigations regarding likely breaches, the Commissioner noted that intelligence gathering is ongoing. Immigration and Customs are supporting investigations. Intelligence is being collated and prosecution is the aim, where evidence supports this.

Border security – RAPF are actively collaborating with Immigration and Customs to secure boat patrols. Joint sea patrols will be in place to intercept boats before they arrive here, boats will be turned back if they have no legitimate reason to be on our waters.

H.E. the Governor informed Council that the UK Government has confirmed financial assistance to fund the additional enforcement resource requirements to the response.

## Council:

- 1) thanked the Health team for their continued hard work;
- 2) noted that it may be beneficial for the health team to explain the process used in order to identify the likely source of the COVID-19 cluster, to enable the public to understand why one source is being determined as the probable cause;
- 3) approved the introduction of the recommended additional control measures to reduce the further spread of COVID-19, as follows:
  - a) increased measures for 10 days effective Monday 26 April 23:59 until May 6, 2021, limiting the operating hours for **ALL** essential businesses to 6.00am to 4.00pm, to curtail the movement of people; and
  - b) until at least May 6, 2021, people should exercise only within the boundaries of their own premises. If this is communal, safe social distancing should be observed;
- 4) approved the introductions with revision of the existing rules and regulations to ensure COVID-19 control measures can be implemented;
- 5) agreed that the Hon Deputy Governor, Ministries and PS Health will review what constitutes essential businesses, so that the permitted hours of operation and activities are clear for each industry;
- 6) noted that the following will remain under review:
  - a) the extension of the restrictions beyond May 6, 2021, as is necessary to cover a phase that coincides with two incubation periods, which is one month, from the last identified positive case from this specific cluster. The specific dates for the extension are not known at this time and will be determined after further evaluation and surveillance;

- b) the gradual relaxation of the measures for fully vaccinated persons, in line with the CDC recommendations; and
  - c) total relaxation of the measures after two incubation cycles have been completed, this is 1 month, after the last positive case from this specific cluster is detected;
- 7) agreed that the Hon Deputy Governor and the Commissioner of Police will work on a resourcing plan for the Customs and Immigration departments;
- 8) agreed that the Commissioner of Police will take forward enhanced enforcement and provide daily reports on enforcement activities. The RAPF do have the power of arrest for breach of the restrictions on movement, but this is not the primary enforcement mechanism. Public confidence in the manner in which reports of breaches are handled by the RAPF needs to be increased;
- 9) noted that the UKG will provide funding for the additional enforcement resource;
- 10) noted that the vaccination programme will continue;
- 11) noted that a declaration of a State of Emergency would be predicated by three main indicators: a rise in positive cases; a widening of contact tracing; and/or levels of civil disobedience in respecting the public health measures; and
- 12) 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 and the Commissioner of Police in attendance.

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

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**EX MEM 21/79 COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR FISHERMEN AND FARMERS**

Given the restrictions on movement of persons, the Ministry responsible for natural resources seeks Executive Council approval for proposed protocols to govern the movement of fishermen and farmers during the period of the restriction.

Council:

- 1) approved the protocol for fishermen, fishermen with a valid fishing licence who are already fitted with GPS tracking, will be allowed to operate between the hours of 6.00 am and 4.00 pm. Fishing can only take place from the north of Anguilla and fishermen must leave and return to the harbours they are registered to. The fishermen will be permitted to sell fish to the overseas market once the trade cargo services are operative;
- 2) noted that the responsibility for authorising the GPS fitter should be that of the Ministry, not the Commissioner of Police; and
- 3) approved the protocol for farmers proposed by the Ministry, save that the hours of operation shall be 6.00 am to 4.00 pm.

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

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