



Department of Health & Wellness

*Communications on this subject
should be addressed to:
Permanent Secretary*

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Press Release

SAINT LUCIA RECORDS CASE NUMBER 15

As of April 9, 2020, the World Health Organization reported a total of 1,436,198 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally with a total of 85,522 deaths. There are now 454,710 confirmed cases in the region of the Americas. The affected region includes Dominican Republic (1956), Haiti (27), Barbados (63), Jamaica (63), Cuba (457), Dominica (15), Grenada (12), Trinidad and Tobago (107), Guyana (33), Antigua and Barbuda (19), Bahamas (36), Saint Vincent and Grenadines (8), Martinique (152), US Virgin Islands (45), Cayman Islands (45).

On Friday, April 10, 2020 Saint Lucia confirmed one additional case of COVID-19 bringing our national total to fifteen. A total of 24 samples were tested with one positive and twenty three negatives. This new positive case of COVID-19 is an 18 year old male who is a close contact of a previously confirmed case. He was initially placed in home quarantine and upon developing symptoms was taken in for testing and isolated. Contact tracing for this case is on-going.

Currently, Saint Lucia has a total of 32 persons in quarantine and 19 in isolation. All COVID-19 cases currently in isolation continue to do well and respond well to treatment. None have complicated or required respiratory support. We continue to record zero deaths. Four of our previously confirmed cases have recovered clinically and through laboratory diagnosis and have been discharged from the isolation facility.

Respiratory clinics nationally continue to function well, receiving a number of persons on a daily basis who present with flu-like symptoms. Samples are taken at these clinics for persons

who are assessed and to clinically determine whether they meet the criteria for testing for COVID-19. The respiratory clinics have proven to be effective in streamlining patients for testing and care as may be required. This is complemented with active surveillance in communities to identify potential cases of COVID-19 and to bring persons in for testing.

On April 9, 2020 the Ministry of Health & Wellness in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister launched a website which serves as a dedicated COVID-19 virtual repository. This website aims to provide the public with information on COVID-19 and recent updates on the national response. The site can be accessed on www.covid19response.lc.

The Ministry of Health continues to advise the public to focus on the maintenance of standard recommendations to prevent the spread of the COVID infection. These include:

- regular hand washing with soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitizer where soap and water is not available.
- cover mouth and nose with disposable tissues or clothing when coughing and sneezing.
- avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing.
- seek medical attention and share your travel history with your health care provider if you have symptoms suggestive of respiratory illness either during or after travel.

The Department of Health and Wellness will continue providing regular updates on COVID-19.

For more information please contact the Office of the Chief Medical Officer or the Epidemiology Unit, at 468-5309/468-5317 respectively