

On 17 March 2020, the Netherlands IHR National Focal Point reported to the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) the cases of COVID-19 in Aruba.

One of the **cases (1)** is a 64-year-old male, United States citizen with travel history to Egypt from 19 to 28 February 2020 and travelled to California, United States from 28 February to 8 March 2020. The case arrived in Aruba on 8th March 2020 and had onset of symptoms on the 28 February with dry cough (with no additional symptoms). On March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 he was feeling unwell and fainted during work. An ambulance was called for him, but he recuperated fast and he denied care.

On 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020 his tests resulted negative and was flown back home on March 15<sup>th</sup> with an air ambulance.

The other **case (2)** is a 41-year-old male, resident of Aruba, with travel history to New York, United States, from 4 to 8 March 2020. The case arrived in Aruba from New York on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Onset of symptoms on the 10th of March with "algehele malaise". Later, on March 11<sup>th</sup> fever, chills and dry cough on the 12<sup>th</sup>. On March 12<sup>th</sup> the case sought medical attention with his house doctor. The case was reported by his house doctor as a suspected case of Corona due to his travel history and symptoms. He was tested on the same day (March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020). And resulted positive. Case 2 presented no more symptoms after March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020. He is scheduled to test on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020.

The **3<sup>rd</sup> case** is a 5 months pregnant, 39 old female (partner of case 2). Resident of Aruba working as a house doctor. Travelled with case 2 to New York, US. Returned to Aruba on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Onset of symptoms March 14<sup>th</sup>. Mild symptoms reported that were headache, no fever (37.5°C) and "algehele malaise", and was tested on 15<sup>th</sup> march and resulted positive.

**Case 4** is a 49 old male, citizen of Colorado, United States. There is no previous travel history. A tourist that arrived in Aruba on March 12<sup>th</sup>. He visited the Emergency Department of the Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital on March 13<sup>th</sup> due to coughing, shortness of breath and fever. He was tested at the Emergency Department.

**Case 5** is a resident of Aruba. 51-year-old male. Visited New York, United States for 4 days from 4 – 8 March 2020. Onset of symptoms was on March 17<sup>th</sup>. He works at the Reina Beatrix Airport. He reported sick with cough, shortness of breath and malaise at the medical center where he was tested.

All cases are in a stable clinical condition and will remain in respiratory isolation at home with strict daily monitoring by the Public Health Authorities of Aruba.

Nasopharyngeal samples were collected and tested at the national reference laboratory Fundacion Servicio Laboratorio Medico Aruba (FSLMA) for respiratory virus and for SARS-CoV-2 virus (RT-PCR), which confirmed SARS-CoV-2 virus.

As to date and time, **March 21<sup>st</sup>, 12 pm**, 65 locals have been contacted in the process of contact tracing and quarantined. 583 recently incoming local travelers have been mandated to apply self-quarantine. In total, 154 persons have been tested, resulting in 5 positive and 149 negative results.

#### **Public Health Response**

The health authorities of Aruba are implementing public health measures, to prevent and control the spread of the disease. All close contacts were put in 14 day of quarantine since last contact with the index case with instruction and information on respiratory quarantine and monitoring by the Public Health Authorities. Public Health measures implemented in order to contain COVID-19 cases include:

- Contact Tracing of the cases,
- All contacts were put in 14 day of quarantine since last contact with the index case with instruction and information,
- Mandatory 14 day quarantine for all travelers entering Aruba,
- Complete closing of the border for all travelers from all countries as per March 20<sup>th</sup> 2020,
- National curfew, set for 9PM starting March 21<sup>st</sup> 2020.

**Case 6** is a 36 year old male, resident of Aruba with previous travel history to USA, Miami on March 10<sup>th</sup>. He works at a local bank (CMB) with onset of symptoms on March 13<sup>th</sup> 2020 with fever and cough. He was tested on March 20<sup>th</sup> with positive result.

**Case 7** is a 33 year old female, resident of Aruba with previous travel history to USA, NY on March 17<sup>th</sup>. She works at a Hotel (Ritz Carlton) with onset of symptoms on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2020 with dry cough. She was tested on March 19<sup>th</sup> with positive result.

**Case 8** is a 31 year old female, resident of Aruba with no previous travel history. She works at a Hotel (Barcelo) with onset of symptoms on March 17<sup>th</sup> 2020 with dry cough and shortness of breath (algehele malaise, pijn hele lichaam). She was tested on March 20<sup>th</sup> with positive result.

**Case 9** is a 23 year old female, resident of Aruba with no previous travel history. She works at a Hotel (Hilton) with onset of symptoms on March 13<sup>th</sup> 2020 with fever and dry cough. She was tested on March 21<sup>st</sup> and received positive result on March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020.

**Case 10** is a 33 year old female, resident of Aruba with no previous travel history. She works in the government with onset of symptoms on March 21<sup>th</sup> 2020 with fever and dry cough. She was tested on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 with positive results.

**Case 11** is a 42 year old female, resident of Aruba with previous travel history to Bonaire from March 13-15 2020. She is a nurse and works in the psychiatric Facility, Respaldo with onset of

symptoms on March 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 with fever and dry cough. She was tested on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 with positive results.

**Case 12** is a 31 year old female, resident of Aruba without previous travel history. She is a sales girl working at a bookstore and Hotel (Holiday Inn) with onset of symptoms on March 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 with fever, cough and sore throat. She was tested on March 23<sup>th</sup> 2020 with positive results.

**Case 13** is a 62 year old male, resident of Aruba with previous travel history on a Cruise Ship. He is a mechanic at JR Autocenter (Noord) with onset of symptoms on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2020 with fever, dry cough and headache. He was tested on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 with positive results.

**Case 14** is a 28 year old male, resident of Aruba without previous travel history. He is a Zaalarts working at a Horacio Oduber Hospital with onset of symptoms on March 22<sup>th</sup> 2020 with no sense of smell or sense of taste. He was tested on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 with positive results.

**Case 15** is a 52 year old female, resident of Aruba with previous travel history to USA, NY. He is a cleaning lady working at a clothing store (Zara) with onset of symptoms on March 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 with fever, dry cough and shortness of breath. She was tested on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 with positive results.

**Case 16** is a 38 year old female, resident of Aruba without previous travel history. She is a cook helper at the Palm Island with onset of symptoms on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2020 with fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, headache, diarrhea and vomiting. She was tested on March 23<sup>th</sup> 2020 with positive results.

**Case 17** is a 24 year old male, resident of Aruba without previous travel history. He is a waiter at Benihana with onset of symptoms on March 19<sup>th</sup> 2020 with fever, cough, dry cough and headache. He was tested on March 22<sup>th</sup> 2020 with positive results.

**Case 18** is a 52 year old female, resident of Aruba with previous travel history to Colombia. He is in sales at Ferm Caribbean Trading with onset of symptoms on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2020 with fever, cough and sore throat. She was tested on March 25<sup>th</sup> 2020 with positive results.