



**GOVERNMENT OF THE BAHAMAS
MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
18th February, 2020**

**COVID-19 FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV)
Update #8**

The Ministry of Health wishes to advise the public that to date, there remains no suspected or reported cases of COVID-19 in The Bahamas. Currently, there are more than seventy thousand (70,000) cases reported in China, with at least one thousand eight hundred (1,800) deaths. The virus has spread to at least twenty-seven (27) countries.

The public is further advised that all individuals who were being quarantined have been released after completing the required monitoring, and are exhibiting no symptoms of the virus. There have been no additional arrivals requiring quarantine measures, which remain set at fourteen (14) days for residents returning with a history of travel to China in the past twenty (20) days.

The Ministry of Health preparedness activities continue and are as follows: ongoing surveillance at ports of entry, weekly update meetings with relevant stakeholder groups, educational and media sessions, multimedia information distribution platforms, training of front line health workers in Infection Prevention and Control policies and procedures, as well as, ensuring that laboratory diagnostic capacity for COVID-19 is established in country.

The Ministry of Health will continue to monitor the development of COVID-19, and provide ongoing updates to the public.

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