

Managing in the Pandemic: Best Practices

PLANNING, TEAMWORK & OPPORTUNITIES

The Bajan Covid-19 Experience

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Introduction & Overview

- Background
- National Action
- Decisive Action
- Humanitarian Action
- Cautious Reopening & Planning
- Where are we now
- Future

National Action – Proactive Planning (Before, During & After)



- Covid-19 Task Force – formed in early 2020
- COVID-19 National Preparedness Plan
- Covid-19 Health Crisis with Social and Economic Consequences
- COVID Czar appointed
- Throne speech – Government working with social partners (labour & employers) to design innovative solutions to protect tourism workers

Decisive Actions

- Island wide shut down after acceleration in cases & Public Health Emergency declared
- Quarantine measures & curfews introduced
- Under the National Insurance Scheme – laid off persons granted 26 weeks of unemployment benefits
- Amendments made to Severance Payment Act – period before a person can file extended from 13 consecutive weeks to 22 consecutive weeks for persons laid off between March 1 and April 30, 2020
- New agenda as set out in Throne Speech on reopening of Parliament 15 September 2020



ADIA Perla says “Thank you, Barbados”
(Image from Barbados Today)

Humanitarian Action

- Repatriation flights for passengers & crew on homeporting and Barbados registered vessels
- Opportunities for ground transportation sector & airport concessions
- Cushioning impact of revenue loss for airport
- Barbados’ image, goodwill and reputation
- Provisioning of cruise ships

Cautious Reopening & Planning

- **Health and safety Protocols Developed & Revised Often**
- **Barbados Welcome Stamp:**
 - Promoted by the PM – appearances on CNN, BBC, CBC Canada
 - Barbados as a first mover, 1400 applications in first 6 weeks, at least 400 persons on island
- **Barbados Uh Come From** initiative
- Opportunities to develop Barbados as a centre for private aircraft services and a southern aviation hub for cross Atlantic travel and cargo

Cautious Reopening & Planning

- **Development of new strategies for tourism**
 - National Training Initiative – Government retraining and retooling programme under the BERT Plan
 - Tourism Recovery Task Force
 - Barbados Employment and Sustainable Transformation (BEST) Plan – Tourism enterprises are being encouraged to refurbish at this time (focus on water conservation & harvesting)
 - Promotion of virtual tourism product by the Ministry

Where Are We Now ?

- Zero Community Spread
- Protection at Borders with Travel Protocols
- Resumption of flights, with limited schedules – more flights and airlines resuming during October
- Reopening of businesses, some with reduced operating hours
- Low hotel occupancy rates (expected to improve as flights increase)

The Future

- Still shrouded in much uncertainty
- Pre-COVID-19 traffic levels not forecasted before 2023/2024 (ACI)
- New business norms
- Vaccine that is easily mass-produced could result in more optimistic/ brighter future
- THERE WILL BE RECOVERY

**Thank
you!**

