



**Ministry of Health
& Wellness**
Cayman Islands Government



Public Health Spotlight

Communicable and Non-Communicable
Diseases

2 June 2022

COVID-19 - Epidemiological Week 21

22 - 28 May 2022

International Situation

The number of new cases and deaths continue to generally decrease worldwide, however it would be premature to consider the COVID-19 pandemic to be over.

Cayman Islands Local Trends

All indicators have shown decreases this week as a downward trend has begun here in the Cayman Islands. The total number of new cases has dropped by 32 percent from 833 to 566. The daily average of new positives fell to 81 from 119, a reduction of 24 percent. The test positivity rate stood at 24.9 percent in Epi. Week 21, compared to 31 percent in the previous week. Case rate was also lowered from 1,201 to 816.

Hospital Admissions

Five new admissions to the two local hospitals were registered during Epi. Week 21, the same as the previous week. A total of ten patients required inpatient treatment (five less than the previous week). Of the five new admissions, two were specifically caused by COVID-19 morbidity.

Vaccination

During Epi. Week 21, a total of 129 children received the paediatric COVID-19 vaccine (58 first doses and 71 second doses), bringing the total of vaccines given to children over these last 2 weeks to 186.

Key Message

There have been encouraging signs of decline in the current wave of infection. The next few weeks will be crucial to confirm the declining trend.

COVID-19 - Epidemiological Week 21

Statistics

Table 1: COVID-19 case numbers (22 - 28 May)

Data as of 30-05-22

	Total
Total cases to date (Fig 1)	25,886
Total number of PCR positives last 30 days (Fig. 2)	3,228
Total number of PCR tests conducted	2,279
Total number of new ¹ positives	566
Daily average of new positives	81
Test positivity rate ² (Fig. 3)	24.9%
Case Rate ³	816

¹ Newly confirmed cases (PCR) reported to Public Health between 00:00 to 23:59 on 22 May 2022 –28 May 2022.

² Number of new positive PCR results over total number of PCR tests done (new positive PCR results/total number of PCRs conducted)*100

³Case Rate = proportion of persons who tested positive over population standardized to 100K population (New cases/total population)*100,000

Figure 1: Total COVID-19 cases since March 2020

Data as of 30-05-22

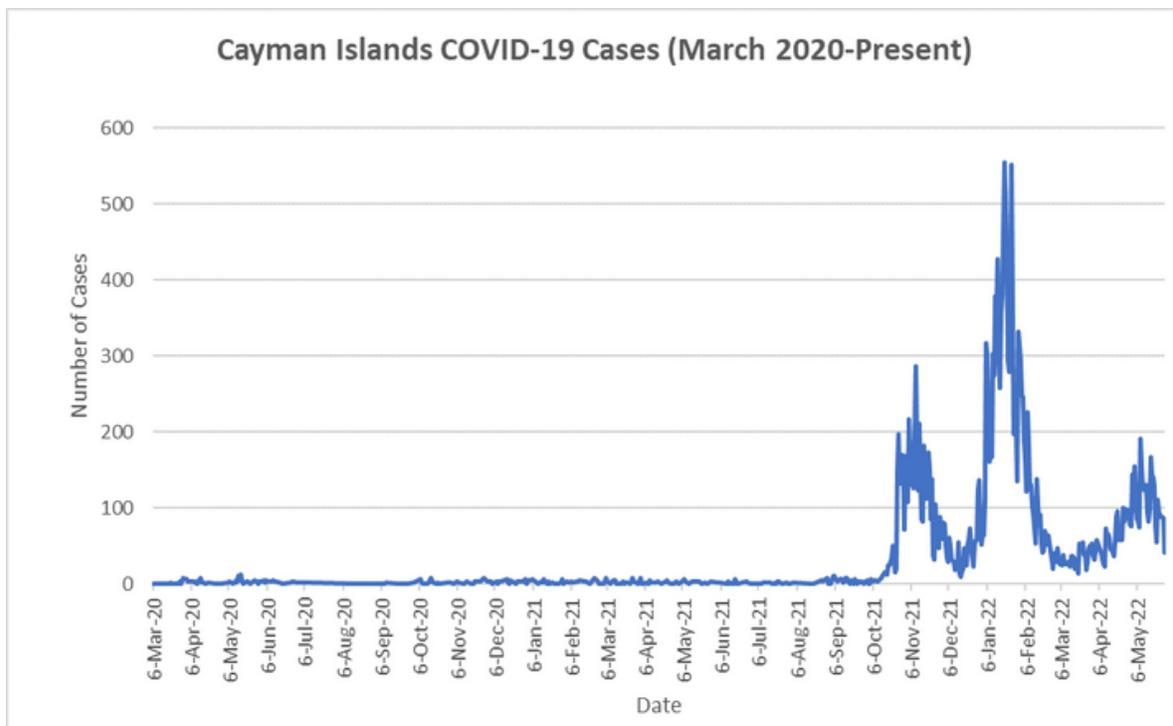


Figure 2: Number of COVID-19 cases in April - May 2022

Data as of 30-05-22

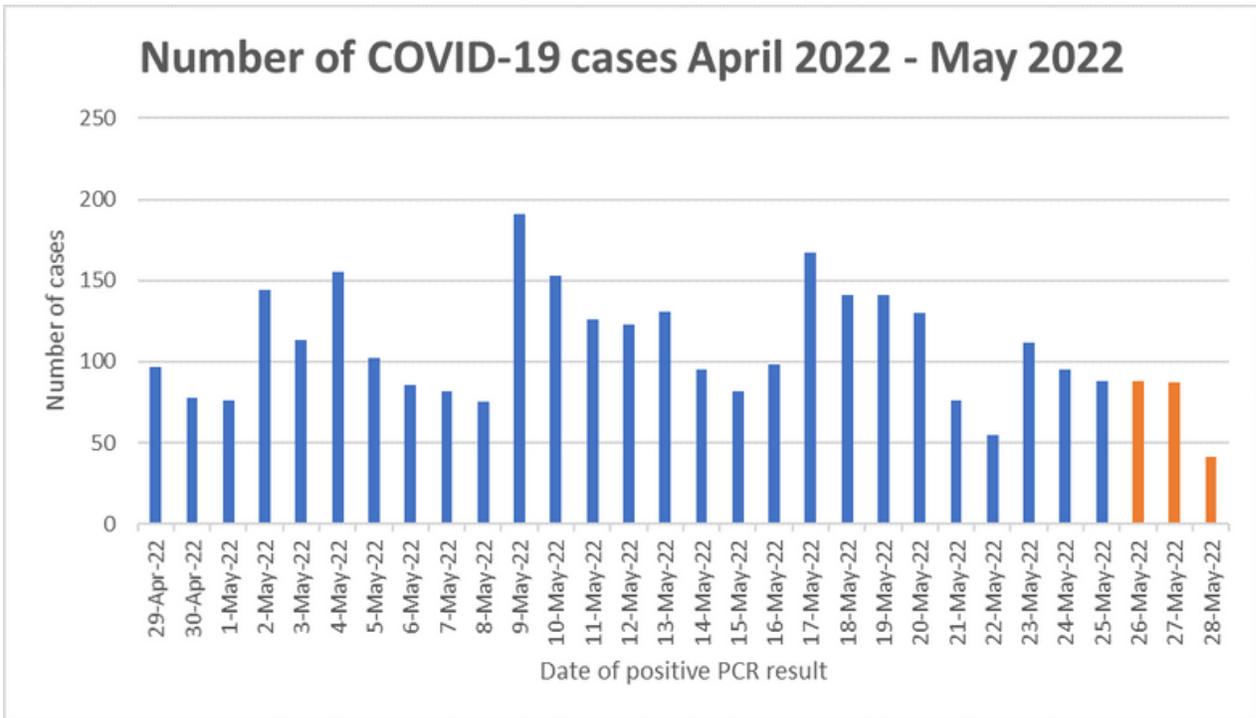


Figure 2: Data as of 30-05-2022. Orange bars indicate PCR results are pending thus figures may change.

Figure 3: Test Positivity Rate (22 - 28 May 2022)

Data as of 30-05-22

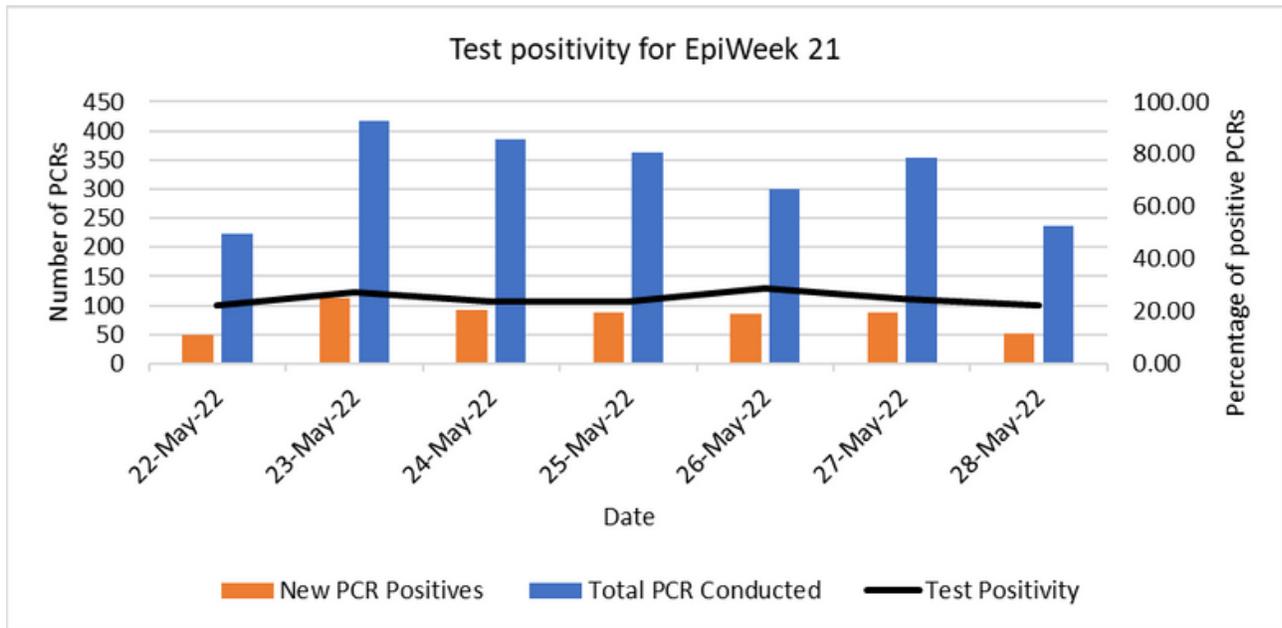


Figure 3: Data as at 30-05-2022

Data refers to the percentage of patients who tested positive via PCR in the prior 7-days.

Table 2: COVID-19 hospitalisations (22 - 28 May 2022)

Data as of 30-05-22

	Total
Total inpatients for reporting period	10
Percentage of admissions vaccinated(boosted)	80%(40%)
New admissions	5 (*2/5 in hospital for COVID)
Number on supplemental oxygen	2
Number ventilated	0
Number in intensive care	0
Number of new deaths	0
Total COVID-19 inpatients since March 2020 to 28 May 2022	288
Total COVID-19 deaths since March 2020 to 28 May 2022	28
Number of COVID-19 inpatients 10 and older (8 Sep 21 – 28 May 2022) (Fig. 5)	244
Number of COVID-19 inpatients below age 10 (8 Sep 21 to 28 May 2022) (Fig. 5)	21

Two out of the five new admissions to hospital was for COVID-19 morbidity related issues; 3/5 tested positive to PCR for COVID-19 as a result of routine in-patient screening

Figure 4: Current hospitalisations (since 8 September 2021 to 28 May 2022)

Data as of 30-05-22

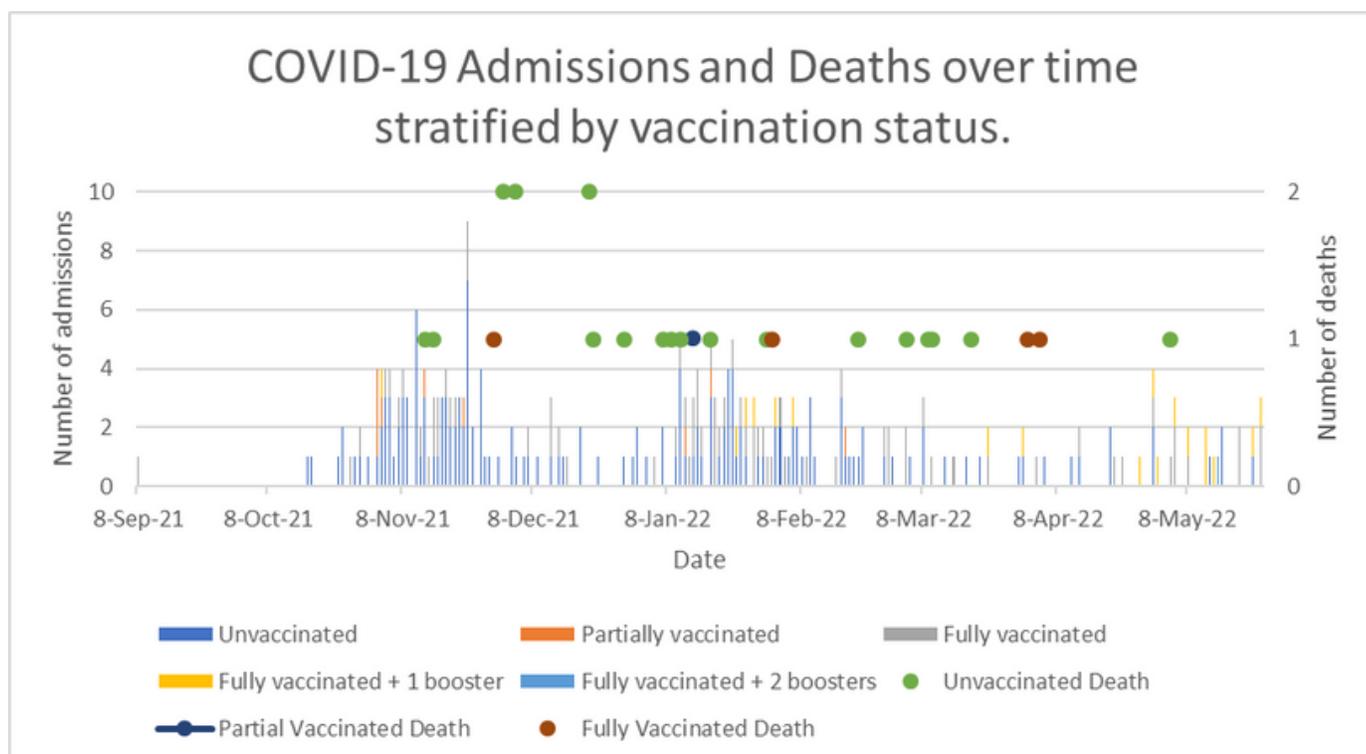
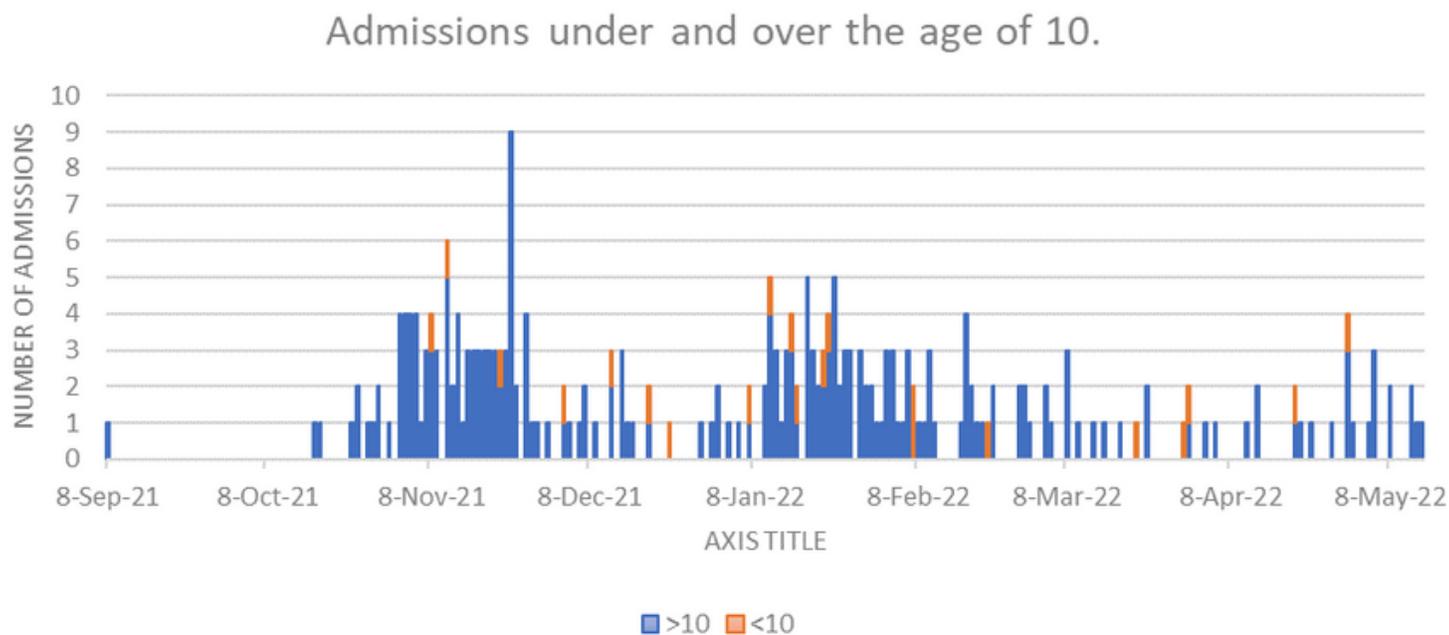


Figure 5: Admissions stratified by age (since 08-09-2021)

Data as of 30-05-22



*First COVID-19 patient was in March 2020 but represented on Figure 5 as September 2021 for graphical reasons

Table 3: COVID-19 vaccines administered (22-28 May 2022)

Data as of 30-05-22

Dose Number	Count
1	77
2	104
3	81
4	143
Total	405

Table 4: CUMULATIVE COVID-19 VACCINE STATS (21 May 2022)

Data as of 30-05-22

Based on Total Population of 69,350 (Fig. 6)			
Dose Number	Count	Percentage of Total Population	Percentage of vaccine coverage of population over 5
1	61,119	88.1	94.4
2	59,292	85.5	91.6
3	23,403	33.7	36.1
4	1,164	1.7	1.8

Table 5: Vaccine stats for Paediatric Vaccine and Third Doses

Data as of 30-05-22

3rd dose coverage for population >20 (Fig.7).	42.4%
Number of children (5-11) immunized with the paediatric vaccine*	658

Figure 6: Vaccine Coverage total population

Data as of 30-05-22

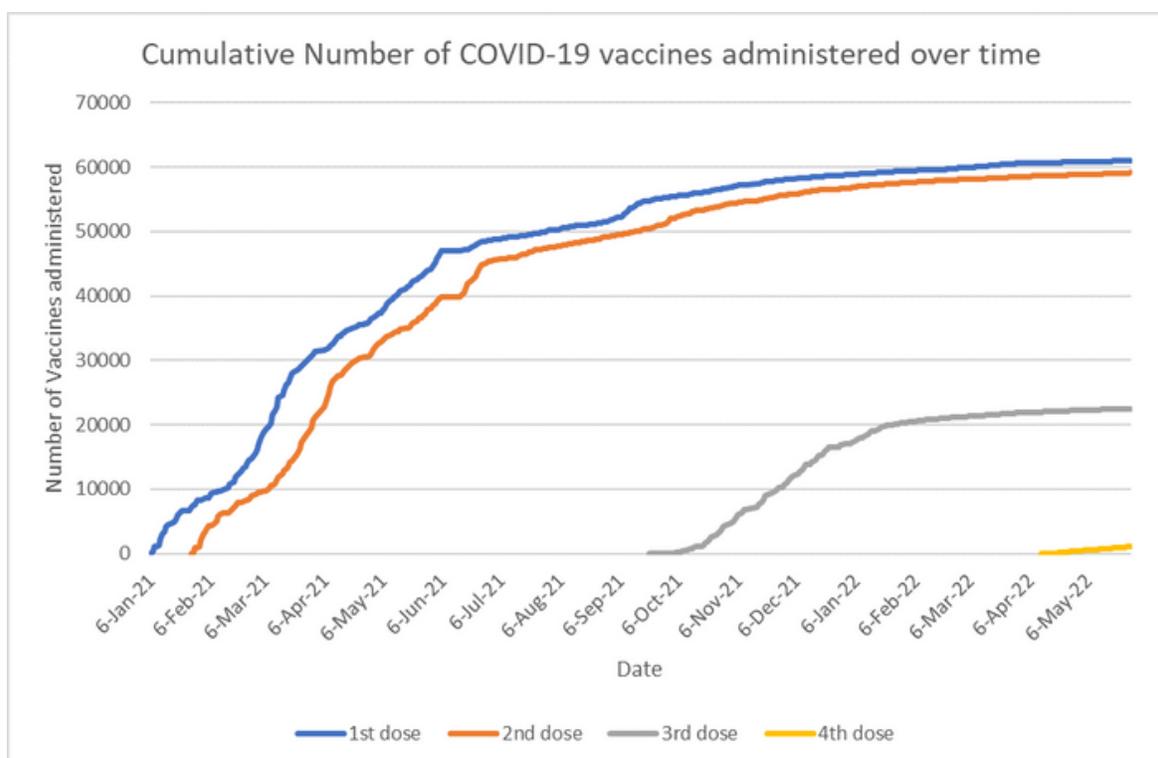
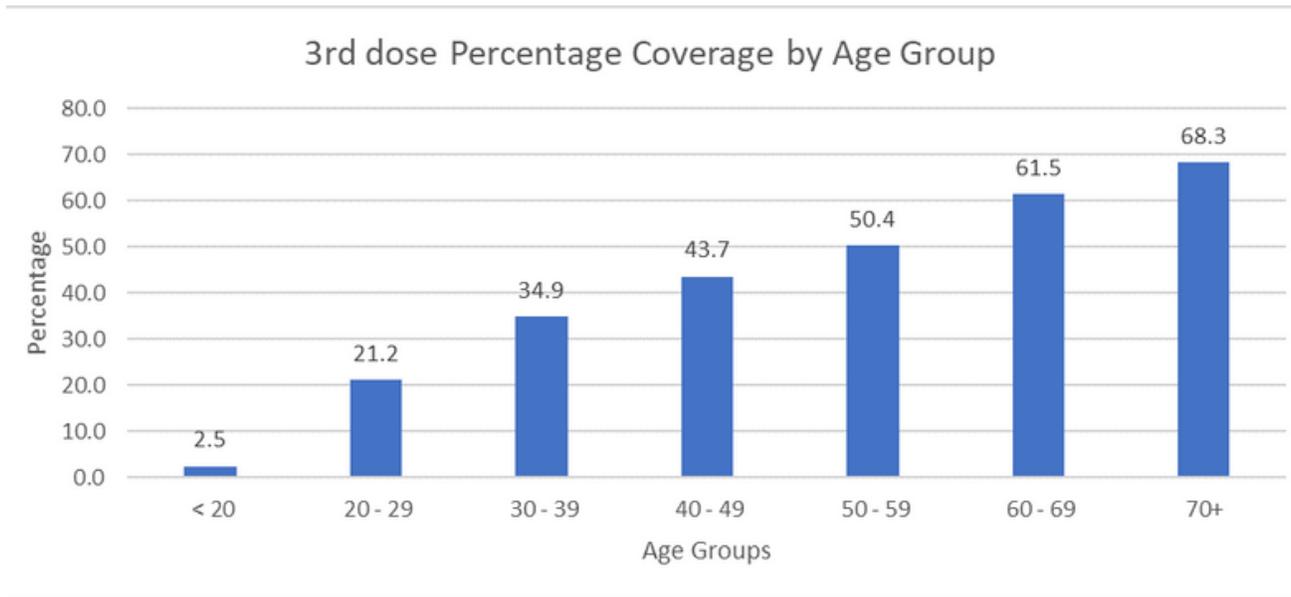


Figure 7: Booster (3rd dose) Vaccine Coverage per Age Groups

Data as of 30-05-22



Monkeypox

Overview

Since 13 May 2022, cases of monkeypox have been reported to WHO from 12 Member States that are not endemic for monkeypox virus, across three WHO regions. Epidemiological investigations are ongoing, however, reported cases thus far have no established travel links to endemic areas. Based on currently available information, cases have mainly but not exclusively been identified amongst men who have sex with men (MSM) seeking care in primary care and sexual health clinics.

Cayman Islands

The Public Health Department is currently investigating a case of a young patient with rash and fever that medical officials have diagnosed as chickenpox.

As part of this process officials will send a sample from the patient to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), out of an abundance of caution, to be investigated for the monkeypox virus. Monkeypox, which has recently been confirmed as circulating in countries where it is not endemic, has symptoms similar to chickenpox.

Commenting that CARPHA will process the sample within one to two weeks, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Autilia Newton, noted that as chickenpox is an infectious disease Public Health had promptly isolated the patient and completed contact tracing.

Read the full release [here](#)

Symptoms

Monkeypox begins with fever, headache, muscle aches, and exhaustion. The incubation period (time from infection to symptoms) for monkeypox is usually 7–14 days but can range from 5–21 days.

The illness begins with:

- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Backache
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Chills
- Exhaustion

Within 1 to 3 days (sometimes longer) after the appearance of fever, the patient develops a rash, often beginning on the face then spreading to other parts of the body.

Lesions progress through the following stages before falling off:

- Macules
- Papules
- Vesicles
- Pustules
- Scabs

Monkeypox



a) early vesicle,
3mm diameter



b) small pustule,
2mm diameter



c) umbilicated pustule,
3-4mm diameter



d) ulcerated lesion,
5mm diameter



e) crusting of a mature
lesion



f) partially removed
scab

World No Tobacco Day - 31 May

In commemoration of World No-Tobacco Day 2022, and the inaugural visit of the Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO) to the Cayman Islands, the regional health body has pledged to fund the Cayman Islands' first smoking cessation "quit-line".

The Cayman Islands Public Health department has led a highly successful smoking cessation programme, with a pass rate of eighty-six per cent or higher, and helped over 70 persons overcome nicotine addiction, since 2014. The in-depth programme includes biometric testing to assess baseline health levels, group/individual counselling and pharmaceutical aid.

The programme has not been delivered in its traditional format since the start of the pandemic, however patients are still given support from the attending physician and pharmacist. As tobacco dependence remains a major public health threat, and to remain in alignment with the World Health Organisation's requirements for the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), a quit-line was proposed to provide 24/7 support to persons who have decided to give up tobacco consumption.

"We have come to have a greater appreciation for preventative health measures due to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Helping persons to quit tobacco consumption now, and making it more difficult for persons to begin consumption, provides for a healthier future and increased stability for our healthcare system", said Minister for Health and Wellness Hon. Sabrina Turner. "I am duly grateful to PAHO for their investment, and trust that the people of the Cayman Islands will maximise this resource as we work to become a beacon of wellness within the region".

The quit-line is expected to launch within the next 18 months. For more information, please contact Public Health Promotions Coordinator Ms. Therese Prehay at therese.prehay@hsa.ky.