



NHI NEWSLETTER

1st March, 2020

Volume 6

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Special points of Interest

- In loving memory
- NHI Update
- COVID data
- Vaccination rollout
- Easter at home

IN LOVING MEMORY OF DOCTORS WE LOST TO COVID-19



Dr. Kevin Guerra
Dr. Kenneth Guerra



We recognize their contribution to the medical field. Their dedication and response to call as frontline doctors during this pandemic.

We will forever be grateful!!!



TRIBUTE TO DR. BALDOMINO BARBOZA

Tribute to Dr. Barboza



Dr. Baldomino Barboza was a great historian. We will always recall his many shared memories and stories of his childhood growing up in the Corozal District in an area called Pembroke Hall which is present day Libertad. Others included his high school days in Belize City, medical school in Guatemala and Costa Rica, early days of practice, the evolvement of medicine in Belize and the Belize medical and Dental Association. In addition, he was an advocate for the recognition and advancement of the Mestizo Mayan culture in Belize and an avid lover of sports and all cultures.

Dr. Barboza served as the first internist in the northern region for 25 years, where he held the post of District Medical Officer up to his retirement from the public sector. He established programs for diabetics and hypertensive to upgrade the quality of these services. He went on to work at the Northern Medical Plaza, where he remained up to his death. He was a practicing medical physician for 40 years, who gave selflessly to his community and responded to the call as a frontline doctor during this pandemic. Over the last 10 years, Dr. Barboza represented the Belize Medical and Dental Association (BMDA) as a member of the National Health Insurance Committee (NHIC). During these years, he contributed to major policy decisions and of most recent the development of NHI's first strategic plan.

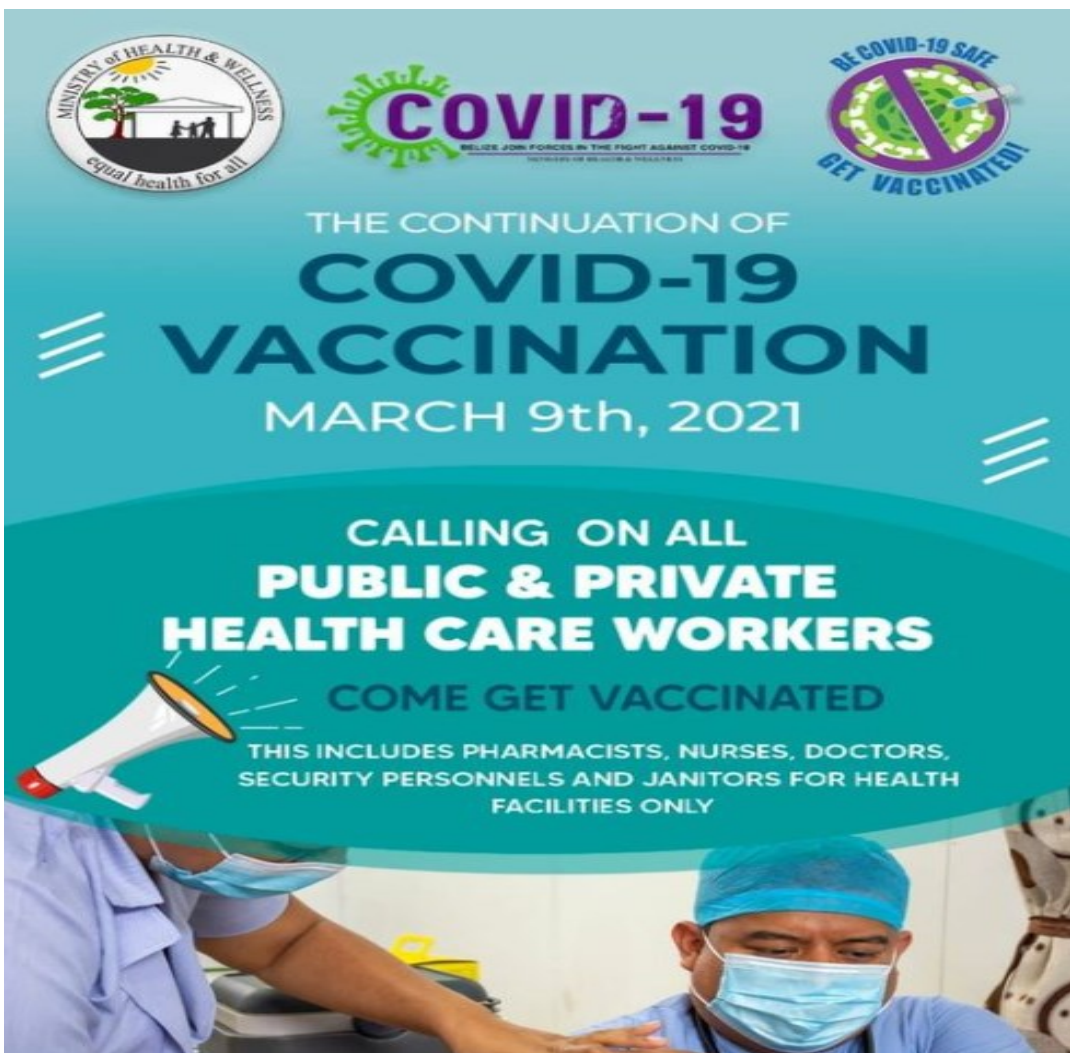
On behalf of the National Health Insurance Committee, the management and staff of the National Health Insurance we extend deepest sympathies to the family of Dr. Baldomino Barboza. His dedication, wisdom, and sense of humor will be greatly missed by all.





*Message to health
workers*

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to ALL FRONTLINE personnel for their sacrifice and commitment to health care! WE salute you!.



NHI Update

The Covid 19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the socio-economic fabric of every country, and health services have had to completely re-organize in order to be able to handle the surge of cases coming to the facilities. Belize was no exception. The National Health Insurance scheme over the past year, has partnered with the Ministry of Health and made available the Health care providers contracted by NHI as a support in the fight against the pandemic. One of the effects has been the neglect of other important services for the population, such as Cardiovascular and NCD's in general. Now that the cases have diminished significantly, NHI in conjunction with MOHW, now believes that it is important to begin the process of re-normalization of services to focus more on the neglected services.

To this end, in February, field visits were organized in Corozal and Belize South Side to do a baseline assessment, particularly focusing on Human Resources and management. The field visits served as an important eye opener. While everyone seems to perceive the significant burden that is placed on frontline workers, it is not the same when you hear the stories coming from them, the experiences they went through, and the mental and physical stress they have had to endure! And most of them are still afflicted by the accumulated emotional trauma of seeing neighbors, family members, friends, being wheeled into Covid wards and dying right in front of them, and the feeling of helplessness that engulfs them. Many of the frontline workers themselves became infected and some suffered the long lasting effects, became Covid-long haulers themselves! The visit certainly gave the team a fresh perspective on the traumatic journey that front line personnel must course through in this pandemic. Fortunately, at the time of the visit, wards were empty, and very few cases were coming to the hospital. The work being done at National level was having a very positive effect. Given the gradual relaxation of restrictions (opening of the free zone), it was agreed that the re-normalization process would begin until after April, 2021, hoping that there is not a subsequent surge of cases (Municipal elections as well on the 3rd of March).

A full report and a set of recommendations were issued and circulated with MOHW administration and local clinic administration. Most had to do with having to complete full roster of staff required under NHI contractual agreement, formalizing contracting documents as some do not have any, and adjustment of salaries and benefits for staff.

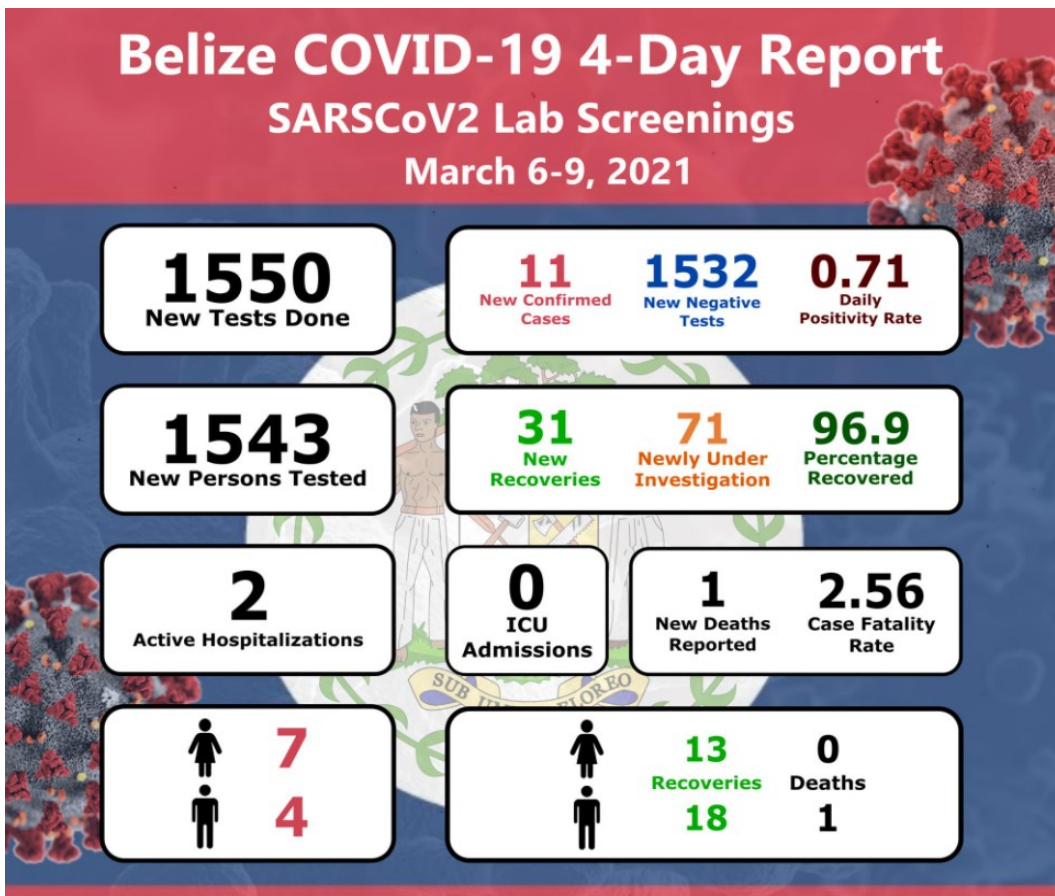
The South Side clinics also had their challenges. All clinics had to build sheds and shelters to minimize the spread of the virus. All clinics have in place a triage system with a flu area.

This month NHI will be travelling to the Southern district to visit all NHI clinics.

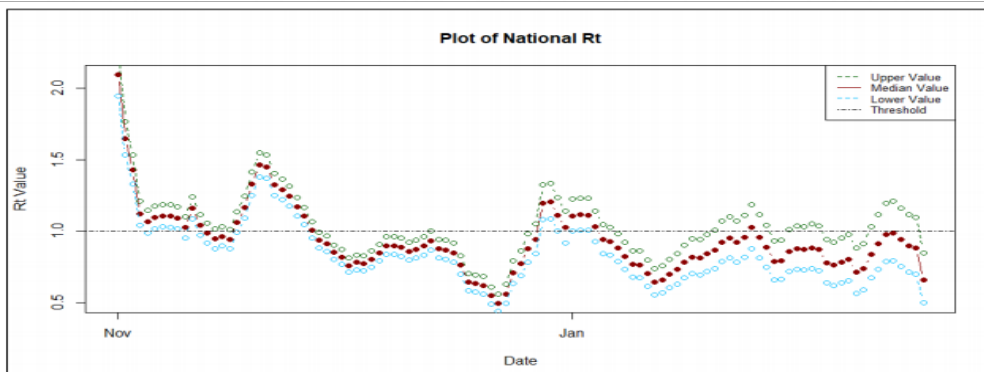
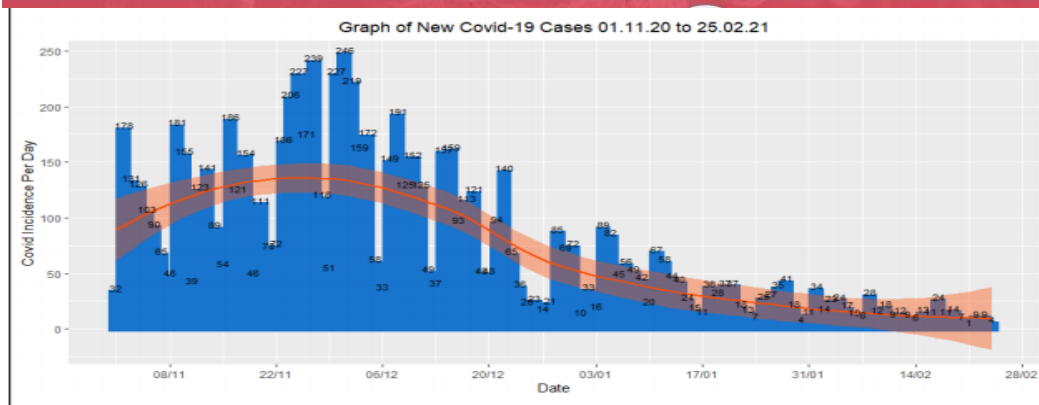
SOME PICTURES OF NHI VISITS



COVID 19 COUNTRY CASES



Latest COVID stats



R_t represents the average number of new persons infected for each confirmed positive at a time. The latest data indicates that the national R_0 is 0.66 new infections per Covid-19 positive person (CI 0.50 – 0.85).

Vaccination rollout

COVID-19 VACCINATION ROLLOUT

THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE INTRODUCTION PLAN IS TO REDUCE THE MORTALITY RATE DUE TO COVID-19.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH COVID-19 INFECTION PRESENTING SEVERE ILLNESS
- REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH COVID-19 INFECTION REQUIRING HOSPITALIZATIONS
- TO ACHIEVE COVID-19 VACCINATION COVERAGE OF 95% AMONG PERSONS 18 YEARS AND OLDER

MOJA KWA MOJA 882

PHASES

THE VACCINE WILL BE ROLLED OUT BY THE FOLLOWING PHASES:

PHASE	Sub-Phase	Target Group
PHASE 1	1A	HEALTH CARE WORKERS
	1B	PERSONS 60 YEARS & OLDER
	1C	PERSONS WITH SPECIAL CONDITIONS (THOSE WITH CANCER, HIV & REQUIRING DIALYSIS)
PHASE 2	2A	TEACHERS, POLICE OFFICERS
	2B	NATIONAL ASSEMBLY & JUDICIARY, CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION
	2C	TOURISM SECTOR
PHASE 3	3A	BDF, COAST GUARD, FIRE SERVICE
	3B	PERSONS WITH CO-MORBIDITIES
	3C	RED CROSS, UTILITY WORKERS (WATER, LIGHT, CABLE, BANKS, TELEPHONE)
PHASE 4	4A	ALL OTHER PUBLIC SERVANTS
	4B	TRANSPORTATION WORKERS (PUBLIC & PRIVATE)
PHASE 5	5	PERSONS 18 - 59 YEARS

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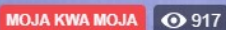
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0-800-664-2273 @belizehealth @ministryofhealthandwellness #getvaccinatedbz

VACCINATION STRATEGIES



COURTESY OF:
GOB PRESS OFFICE



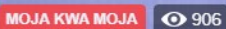
WORKPLACE

MOBILE CLINICS

PUBLIC VENUES

HOME BASED VACCINATION

VACCINATION SITES



COURTESY OF:
GOB PRESS OFFICE



ENTRANCE



SCREENING/TEMPERATURE



DATA ENTRY



EXIT PREMISES

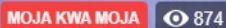


OBSERVATION ROOM



VACCINATION

AFTER VACCINATION



COURTESY OF:
GOB PRESS OFFIC

I AM SAFE!

I GOT VACCINATED

For more information on what to do after your vaccination call 1-800-854-2273

COVID-19

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Vaccination Rollout

National Health Insurance
Contact information

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Spread the
Word,
Not the Disease.
**GET
VACCINATED.**



Why Get Vaccinated?

To Protect Yourself, Your Coworkers, Your Patients, Your Family, and Your Community

- Building defenses against COVID-19 in this facility and in your community is a team effort. And **you** are a key part of that defense.
- Getting the COVID-19 vaccine adds **one more layer of protection** for you, your coworkers, patients, and family.



Here are ways you can **build people's confidence** in the new COVID-19 vaccines in your facility, your community, and at home:

- ✓ **Get vaccinated** and enroll in the **v-safe** text messaging program to help CDC monitor vaccine safety.
- ✓ **Tell others why** you are getting vaccinated and encourage them to get vaccinated.
- ✓ **Learn how to have conversations** about COVID-19 vaccine with coworkers, family, and friends.

TIPS ON CELEBRATING EASTER FROM HOME

1. Hold a virtual Easter gathering with family members
2. Do an indoor Easter egg hunt
3. Cook a traditional meal
4. Watch your favorite Easter movie
5. Play games
6. Attend virtual church service



**THIS EASTER
STAY HOME
SAVE LIVES**