



National Health Insurance

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NHI NEWSLETTER

1st January, 2022

9th Edition

Good bye 2021: Welcome 2022

Despite the many challenges and changes, the year 2021 came with opportunities for everyone around the world. Our precious country Belize has not been an exception, we have seen it and lived it. With COVID now being a part of our lives we move forward this year with hope, positivity and courage as we continue on this journey.

We want to take the opportunity to thank all our NHI providers for your commitment, dedication and a job well done. We look forward for another successful year working together as a team to pursue our vision for the future.

For NHI, we have started the new year with a



This year will be an exciting year as we continue pursuing the national roll-out of the program. Currently, NHI has created contracts for new providers in Corozal, along with training for administrators and head doctors.

In addition, this month the NHI team will be working toward establishing this year's strategic plan and direction for the year. This will be a two day working session with all relevant stakeholders.

NHI welcomes Dr. Deysi Mendez



We are excited to welcome Dr. Deysi Mendez to the NHI team in her role as Technical Advisor. Her 5 years of experience as the Primary Care Manager at NHI motivated her to further her career in Public Health with an emphasis in Health Systems Management. Dr. Mendez has served as the Country Representative for the USAID|Capacity Project, Technical Advisor for Communicable Diseases, Vector Borne Diseases and Vaccine Preventable Diseases at the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization and as the Chief Executive Officer at the Ministry of Health and Wellness in Belize. Her technical expertise and experience in the health system will contribute in the achievement of quality, integrated services for the people we serve. She is surely a valuable asset to NHI.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Welcome 2022	1
NHI in Corozal	2
Strategic planning	3
SSB donation	4
MOHW update	4
Omicron	5
Healthy living	6

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Welcome 2022
- NHI support services in Corozal
- NHI Strategic planning
- SSB donation
- What is Omicron variant

NHI SUPPORT SERVICES IN THE NORTH

In an effort to improve efficiency, quality of services and increase access to basic health services, NHI has introduced the private/public sectors mix of providers in the Corozal District. Private Sector will cover specific support services and primary care services of the Chunox Primary Care Provider (PCP) and Sarteneja Satellite Clinic.

Chunox PCP has been tendered out to private provider in a formal bidding process. The successful applicant of the bid was the Northern Medical Plaza group. They will be providing care to the geographic area designated as the Chunox catchment area, including Sarteneja. Initially, a registration drive will be undertaken for the first two months after which they will officially start to provide services.

Mammography services for the screening for Breast cancer will be available for all NHI registered members in the Corozal district. Northern Medical Plaza is the approved NHI provider.

Laboratory services will be provided by Trustlife Clinical Laboratory and will cover San Narcisso PCP and Presbyterian Medical Clinic registered members. ProHealth Clinical Laboratory will provide services for the Corozal PCP registered members. Each provider will be responsible to advertise and ensure coverage. The services include a lab panel for Diabetes and Hypertension, as well as Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA), a test for the screening of Prostate Cancer. If you are a registered member of any of these clinics, please ensure that you are referred to the lab provider assigned to your clinic .

Medications for diabetics and hypertensives will now be provided through NHI for registered members by referrals of prescriptions from attending doctor to in-house pharmacy.

Ultrasound services primarily for prenatal care will also be provided by Northern Medical Plaza for registered members by referrals from PCPs. Services will be advertised at each clinic as soon as it is available.

In addition, BFLA Laboratory has been contracted to provide the processing of PAP smears for all NHI registered persons in Corozal District. Pap Smear services will be provided at the San Narcisso, Presbyterian Medical Clinic, Corozal and Chunox PCPs.



NHI STRATEGIC PLAN 2022

Driven by our mission “**NHI, an enabler of quality health and wellness for ALL**”, NHI team along with relevant stakeholders engaged on a two day planning session to establish an operational plan for this year based on our four strategic themes. Each strategic theme is defined by a statement of intent that describes where NHI is going and succinctly convey a sense of what NHI wants to achieve.

Present were: Prime Minister Hon. John Briceno; Minister of Health and Wellness Hon. Kevin Bernard; CEO of Ministry of Health and Wellness Dr. Julio Sabido; CEO Ministry of Finance Mrs. Narda Garcia; CEO of Social Security Mrs. Deborah Ruiz; Union members Mr. Dean Flowers, Mr. Marvin Mora; Representative of the Opposition Dr. Angel Campos and the NHI team: Dr. Marco Mendez, Dr. Ramon Figueroa, Dr. Deysi Mendez, Dr. Natalia Rodriguez, Ms. Ruth Jaramillo, Ms. Cristina Ake, Ms. Agnes Flowers, Mr. Emroy Castillo, Mr. Jose Colli and Mr. Jevon Cooke.

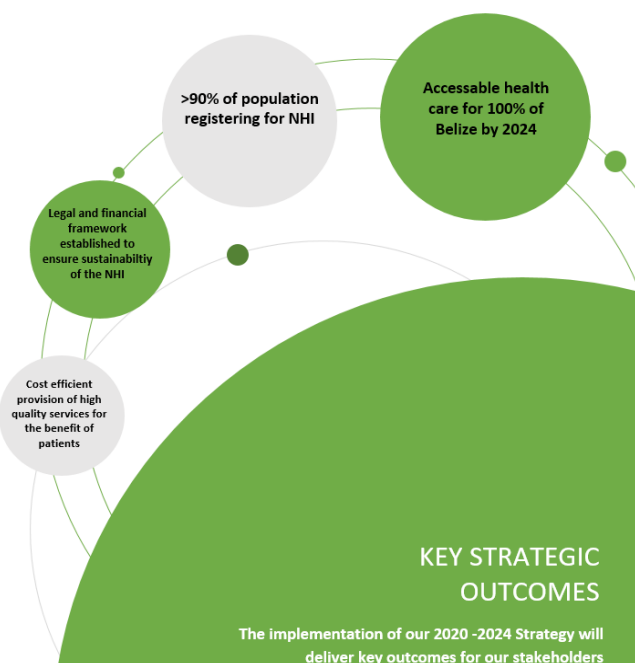
The discussion was CENTERED on the expansion of the program countrywide for the provision of quality primary health care services to the population. There was unanimous support for the expansion of the Scheme countrywide in a sustainable manner and with the inclusion of stakeholder consultations taking place. The conclusions and recommendations emanating from the two day session will assist the National Health Insurance plan the way forward and submit to Cabinet a proposal for final approval.



Within our strategic focus, are key strategic areas of operations. These areas are driven by strategic themes and address the elements identified in the current state assessment.

To achieve excellence in each of the strategic themes (Business Excellence, Business Development & Business Relationship), NHI must continuously improve several areas of its operations. Strategic objectives define the areas of continuous improvement that are required to achieve the strategic results from the strategic themes.

NHI'S STRATEGIC OUTCOMES



EXPANDED COVERAGE & FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

A viable financial mechanism operationalized to cover a defined PHC package to the remaining 70% of the population by 2024



STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

Countrywide public awareness of NHI as a health investment for the expansion of NHI



GOVERNANCE

The establishment of a legal framework for financial management of NHIF and guide the expansion of NHI countrywide



OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

NHI leveraging resources to reduce the cost of operations while improving quality of care and tracking health care / administrative costs

Corporate Targets

- 100% coverage of the population by 2024
 - % of population having access to essential medication
 - <20% decrease in public out of pocket expenditure for health care
-
- >90% countrywide public awareness of NHI
 - >90% of population registering for NHI
-
- Legal framework established by 2022
 - Increased accountability & transparency of fund administration through annual external audits conducted
 - Increased support and investment in health care (6% of GDP)
-
- <9 % administration cost ratio
 - >80% patient satisfaction with service provider after two years operation
 - Compliance with MOH standards in all NHI facilities based on licencing criteria

SSB DONATES MEDICATIONS TO KHHM



Social Security Board Donates Medications valued at \$150,000 to the Oncology Unit of Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital

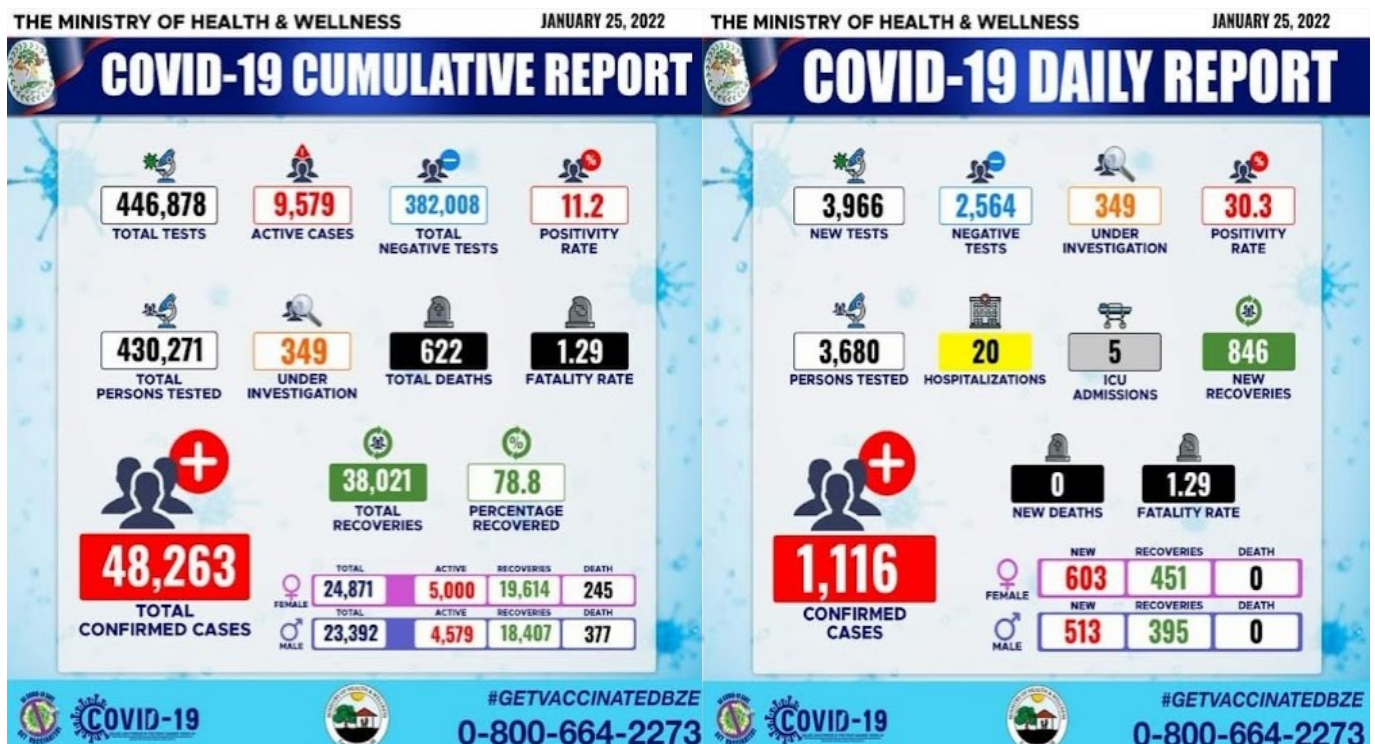
The Social Security Board through the support of the National Health Insurance (NHI) was instrumental in the acquisition of over 30,000 units of chemotherapy and hormone therapy medications valued at approximately \$150,000. This donation was made to the Oncology Unit at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital.

The distribution of cancer medications and supplies have been donated to the Oncology Unit to further advance the ongoing clinical care and chemotherapy treatments available for patients with breast, colon, cervical, lung and prostate cancer.

The National Health Insurance handed over the donation to Mrs. Chandra Cansino, Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Andre Sosa, Chairman, and Dr. Ramon Yacab, Medical Oncologist, who accepted on behalf of Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital.

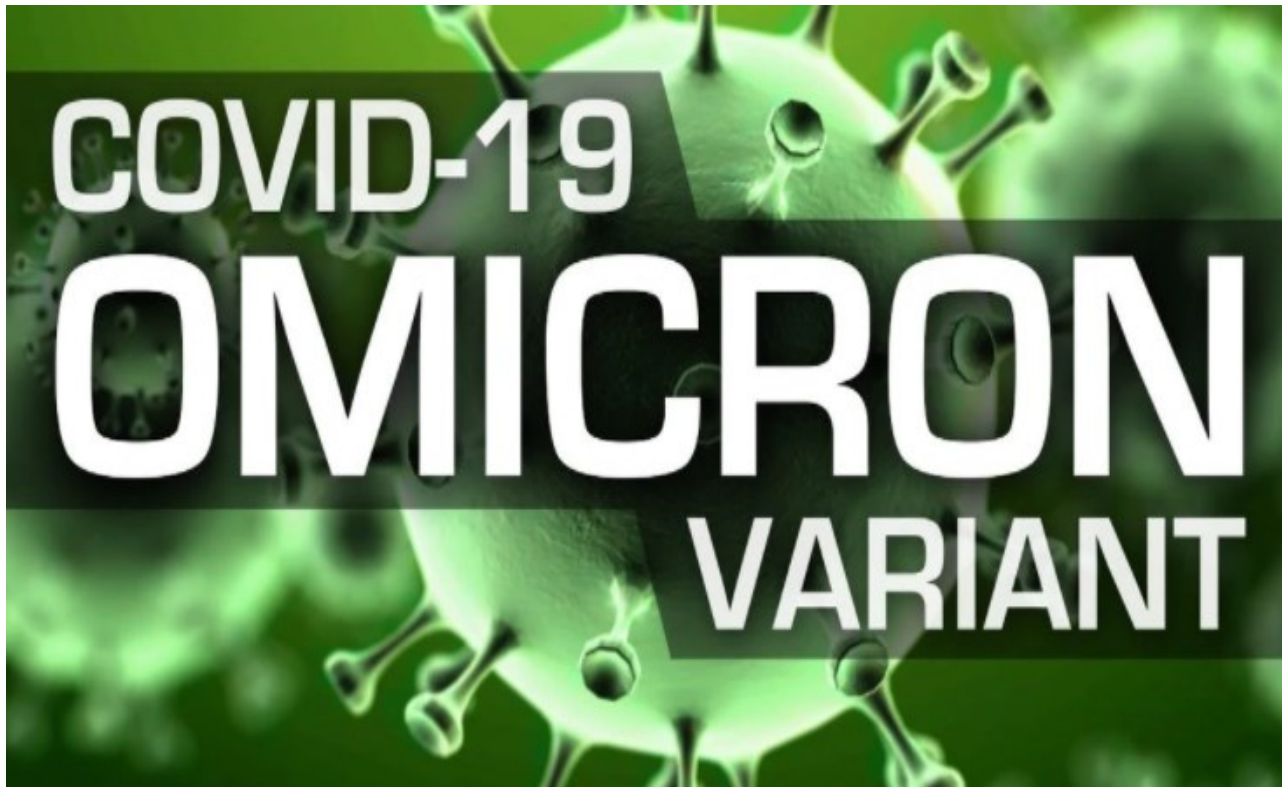
The Social Security Board and Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital remain committed to the mutual goal of improved health outcomes in Belize.

MOHW UPDATES



WHAT IS THE OMICRON VARIANT?

Scientists first recognized Omicron thanks to its distinctive combination of more than 50 mutations. Some of them were carried by earlier variants such as Alpha and Beta, and previous experiments had demonstrated that they could enable a coronavirus to spread quickly. Other mutations were known to help coronaviruses evade antibodies produced by vaccines.



Based on those mutations, along with a worrying rise in Omicron cases in South Africa, the World Health Organization designated Omicron a “variant of concern” on Nov. 26, warning that the global risks posed by it were “very high.” Since then, the variant has been identified in more than 110 countries. At the beginning of December, a California resident who returned home from South Africa was identified as the first American infected with Omicron. By Dec. 25, the Centers for Disease Control estimated that it made up 58 percent of all new infections in the United States. Omicron is quickly surging to dominance in many parts of the world, living up to the potential that scientists recognized when it was first discovered.

Omicron spreads two to three times faster than the delta variant. The earliest evidence for Omicron’s swift spread came from South Africa, where Omicron rapidly grew to dominance in one province after another. In other countries, researchers have been able to catch Omicron earlier in its upswing, and the picture is the same: Omicron cases are doubling every two to four days — a much faster rate than Delta.

Scientists don’t yet know what makes Omicron so good at spreading, but a few clues have emerged from preliminary research. A team of British scientists found that Omicron is particularly good at infecting cells in the nose, for example. When people breathe out through their noses, they can release new viruses. Omicron is also adept at dodging antibodies produced by vaccines and previous infections.

Some symptom differences have emerged from preliminary data. For instance, one possible difference is that Omicron may be less likely than earlier variants to cause a loss of taste and smell.

Data released last week from South Africa’s largest private health insurer, for instance, suggest that South Africans with Omicron often develop a scratchy or sore throat along with nasal congestion, a dry cough and muscle pain, especially low back pain. But these are all symptoms of Delta and of the original coronavirus, too. It’s likely that the symptoms of Omicron will resemble Delta’s more than they differ.

**National Health Insurance
Contact information**

#1 Lily Street
Belmopan
Cayo District

Phone:
822-1810
822-2163 ext. 1307
Email:
NHIinfor@socialsecurity.org.bz
aflowers@socialsecurity.org.bz



LEADING A HEALTHY
LIFESTYLE STARTS
WITH CREATING
HEALTHY HABITS FOR
YOURSELF

Vaccines
Save Lives.



NEW YEAR RESOLUTION



GET VACCINATED

Vaccines



Save Lives

