

# 2021 NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH CONFERENCE

## “Building Resilience through Research in a Pandemic”

### November 18 & 19, 2021



## About the Conference

The Ministry of Health; Tobago House of Assembly; Faculty of Medical Sciences & Caribbean Centre for Health Systems Research and Development, The University of the West Indies; The University of Trinidad and Tobago; The University of the Southern Caribbean; and the Regional Health Authorities, are collaborating to host the country's second **National Health Research Conference**.

The Theme for the 2021 Conference is *“Building Resilience through Research in a Pandemic”*.

**Abstracts do not have to be consistent with the theme. Note that Quality Abstracts in ALL HEALTH AREAS can be submitted for presentation.**

(e.g. Public Health, Environmental Health, Biomedical Research, Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases, Nutrition, Health Economics, Social and Behavioural Health Sciences, etc.)

The Conference will culminate with an Awards and Prize Giving Ceremony. Awards will be given to recognize outstanding Trinidad and Tobago researchers. Prizes will also be awarded, based on the research presented at the Conference.

## Call for Abstracts

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts for presentation at the 2021 National Health Research Conference.

**Deadline for Receipt of Abstracts: June 30, 2021**



# The Abstract

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The Abstract (from Objectives to Conclusion) must be no more than **250 WORDS** and must be formatted as follows: (See Sample Abstract on Page 3)

- a) **Title:** In bold type. Title case. No abbreviations.
- b) **Authors:** Begin on a new line two spaces below title. Use italics. List: Initials of first names followed by surnames. Do not use full stops after initials. Omit degrees, titles and numbers.
- c) **Institution/Department:** Begin on a new line below Authors. Use italics. List: Department, Institution where work originated
- d) **Email Address:** Include in the next line.
- e) **Text:** Arrange under the following sub-headings:
  - I. **Objective**  
State the main objective/research question/hypothesis of the study.
  - II. **Design and Methods**  
Briefly describe the design of the study and how it was conducted, indicating study population, sampling, procedures, measurements.
  - III. **Results**  
Present only the main results with an indication of variability (e.g. SD) and precision of comparisons (e.g. 95% confidence intervals), where appropriate.
  - IV. **Conclusions:**  
Limit to only those directly supported by the results. Be as clear and specific as possible about the “take home” messages.

# Submission

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Email Abstract to: [researchconferencett@gmail.com](mailto:researchconferencett@gmail.com)

All submitted abstracts must have received ethics approval from the relevant Internal Review Board or Research Ethics Committee.

Receipt of submissions will be acknowledged. If you do not receive acknowledgement within three (3) days of submission, please contact:

Ms Nikisha Headley or Ms Alissa Moore  
Caribbean Centre for Health Systems Research and Development  
The University of the West Indies  
Tel: 662-2002 ext. 85486  
[researchconferencett@gmail.com](mailto:researchconferencett@gmail.com)

# Caribbean Medical Journal Supplement

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Selected abstracts will be published in a special Supplement of the Caribbean Medical Journal\*. Authors are required to submit a transmittal letter that states that all authors have approved the publication of the abstract, edited if necessary. The email, address and contact number of the corresponding author **MUST** be included.

*\*to be confirmed*

# Contact Information

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If you need additional information or clarification, please contact us at:

[researchconferencett@gmail.com](mailto:researchconferencett@gmail.com)

Tel: 662-2002 ext. 85486

# Sample Abstract

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## An Assessment of the Preparedness of Primary Health Care Facilities in Trinidad and Tobago for COVID-19: Preliminary Findings

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### **Objective**

To assess the capacity of Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities for the management of COVID-19 in the following domains: human resources; information, education, communication; surveillance; triage & early recognition; diagnosis; isolation; case management; infection control and prevention; and logistics.

### **Design and Methods**

Assessments of the facilities were conducted using an international online COVID-19 PHC Health Facility Assessment tool, designed to measure the preparedness and availability of resources for the management of COVID-19 infections. Senior healthcare representatives, for each facility, completed the tool. Stata v.15 was used to generate descriptive statistics.

### **Results**

To date, data have been collected for 77 facilities and preliminary analysis suggests:

- $\geq 70\%$  of facilities reported most of the assessment criteria had been fully operational/actioned for the following domains: human resources; information, education and communication; surveillance; and triage & early recognition.
- 77% of the facilities reported the presence of a diagnosis protocol. However, 7-51% reported availability (in sufficient supply) of equipment and supplies for sample collection and storage.
- $< 40\%$  of the facilities reported fully operational procedures for visitor restriction and the maintenance of records of persons entering isolation rooms.
- Facilities reported a sufficient supply of oxygen cylinders (58%), pulse oximeters (44%) and oxygen systems (40%), medical masks (36%), surgical scrubs (23%), and long cuffed gloves (14%). A laboratory where samples should be sent was identified by 68% of facilities.

### **Conclusion**

While the capacity to manage COVID-19 in PHC facilities seems adequate for some domains, some areas can be strengthened.