



## Collective Prevention Services

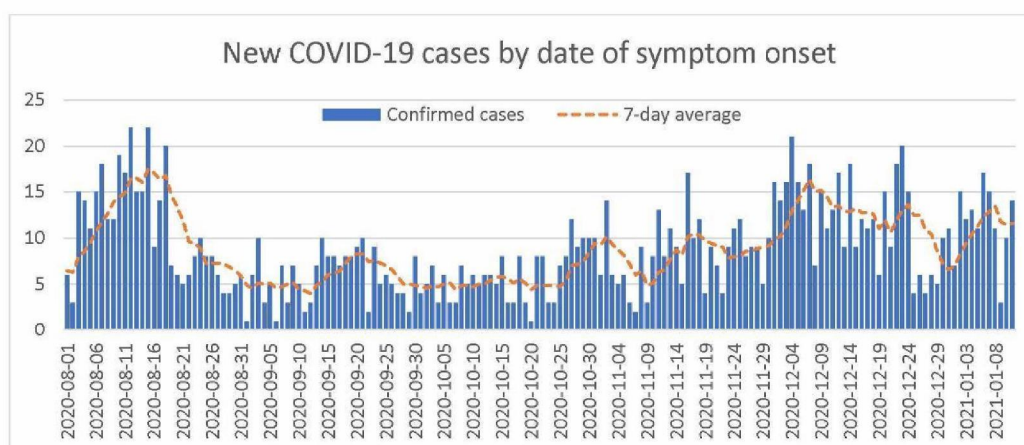
### COVID-19 Response Overview

Monday January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

#### Epidemiological Situation of COVID-19

As of Monday January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at noon, CPS has registered a total of **1,656** confirmed COVID-19 cases. Sint Maarten is seeing on average around **10 to 15 new cases per day**. There has been an increase in cases since the new year. If this upward trend continuous, CPS would recommend the implementation of additional public health measures.

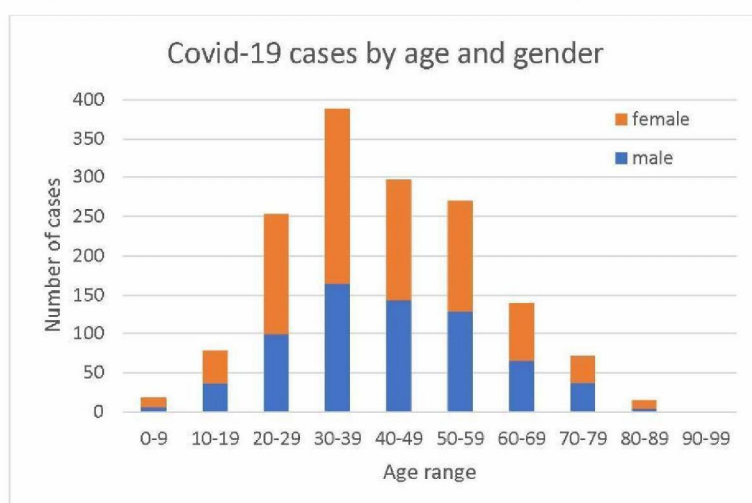
**Figure 1.** Trend of COVID-19 cases from August 1, 2020 onwards



#### Demographics of COVID-19

Sint Maarten's COVID-19 cases occur across all age groups with most cases occurring between 30 and 39 years of age (Figure 3). More females (55%) than males (45%) have contracted COVID-19.

**Figure 3.** Age and gender distribution of COVID-19 cases from July 1, 2020 onwards





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### Active clusters

CPS is currently monitoring **five (5) active clusters**; one in the hospital, one at a service delivery company, one at the police, one at a church choir, and one in a government department. Source and contact tracing is ongoing.

### Schools

Since October 2020, there have been **48 Covid-19 positive cases** across 16 schools. Of these, 32 cases were among school-going students aged 0-18 years and 16 cases were among school staff. The source of infection is usually someone in the household. To date, CPS has found no transmission of COVID-19 between school-going students, from school-going students to school staff members or vice versa. No clusters of cases have been identified in schools.

### COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Testing

CPS has started the implementation of rapid antigen tests for qualitative detection of COVID-19. On December 22, 2020, a first pilot was conducted to assess logistics of offering people the rapid antigen test at CPS' testing drive-through at Point Blanche. In the next phase, the performance of the rapid antigen test will be validated by running the test side by side with a PCR test, the gold standard, on at least 600 people.

Since January 11, 2021, anyone with COVID-19 related symptoms or who has been in close contact with a known COVID-19 case can visit CPS' test street without the need for an appointment. The test street is open daily from 9.30-11.30 AM. Persons who consent will be tested with both PCR and the rapid antigen test to evaluate the performance of the latter for a limited period of time.

### COVID-19 Vaccination

CPS and the Department of Public Health have been preparing for the COVID-19 vaccine. Based on meetings held with the Ministry VWS, it is estimated that Sint Maarten will receive vaccines starting in mid-February. A delegation from the RIVM is currently in Sint Maarten until the 21<sup>st</sup> of January to discuss vaccine storage, cold chain management and training.

CPS and Public Health are in the process of finalizing the COVID-19 Implementation Plan which includes human resource needs to administer the vaccination among the population. In addition, an advice was sent forward outlining priority groups to receive initial vaccines. Once this priority group has been confirmed, CPS and Public Health will continue to work with media partners to develop additional key public messaging. As an initial produce, a fact sheet has already been disseminated to the public to communicate information on candidate vaccines.