



**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
NATIONAL OPERATIONS CENTRE
NATIONAL EBOLA PREVENTION INFORMATION AND RESPONSE TEAM**
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PUBLIC ADVISORY

NEPIRT PREPARATIONS AND INFORMATION CAMPAIGN FORGES AHEAD

Port of Spain, February 13, 2015: *The National Ebola Prevention, Information and Response Team (NEPIRT) continues to forge ahead to ensure that Trinidad and Tobago is adequately prepared to handle the Ebola Virus Disease. There are no cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Trinidad and Tobago and the country remains at low risk for the EVD.*

The multi-sectoral Cabinet-appointed Team, led by Vice Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier General Anthony W J Phillips-Spencer, comprises representatives from Government Ministries and other public sector Divisions and Agencies, International and Regional Organizations (WHO, PAHO, CARPHA and IMPACS), labour organizations, private sector organizations and non-governmental and civil society organizations.

In addition to the site assessments conducted at the airports and seaports in 2014, the NEPIRT has now completed its first round of tabletop exercises at the Piarco International Airport and the Port of Port of Spain Terminal. These exercises included persons from both the private and public sectors, including Pan American Health Organization, Ministry of Health, National Operations Centre, Ministry of National Security, Ministry of Local Government, Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, Global Medical Response of Trinidad and Tobago, Public Servants' Association, American Airlines, JetBlue Airlines and other stakeholders. These tabletop exercises provided multiple opportunities for information-sharing, capacity-building discussions, collaboration and improved coordination in the event of the occurrence of an index case in Trinidad and Tobago.

The NEPIRT has intensified its Public Awareness and Community Sensitization campaigns with a specific focus on ensuring that persons clearly understand the risks related to Ebola. Therefore, with the Ministry of Health, NEPIRT has completed Sensitizations with group representatives of many stakeholders, including: Caura Valley Village Council, Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC), Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, Chaguaramas Development Authority, Yachties Service Association of Trinidad and Tobago,

Ministry of National Security including Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force, Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard (including Air Guard), Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, Trinidad and Tobago Fire Services, Trinidad and Tobago Customs and Immigration Divisions, Ministry of Local Government and many others.

In addition, infographics in the form of wallet cards, flyers, posters and pull up banners have been developed, disseminated and displayed for maximum impact throughout airports, seaports and key traffic/mass transit areas throughout the country. To this end, local ministries and private organizations have also been engaged in mass distribution; this is an additional support to the existing '511' (ODPM) and '211' (TEMA) hotlines where EVD calls are handled; and the online websites of the Ministry of Health www.health.gov.tt , Government Information Services Limited www.news.gov.tt as well as their, and the NEPIRT's, Facebook pages at "Ministry of Health of Trinidad and Tobago" and "Stop Ebola TT" respectively.

The NEPIRT was established by Cabinet and is committed to the protection of all citizens and visitors in Trinidad and Tobago from the Ebola Virus Disease and to the swift recovery from any incidence or spread of EVD should that occur. There are no cases of EVD in Trinidad and Tobago and the country remains at a low risk for the EVD.

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