

CARICOM worried about access to vaccines

AS the world grapples with the challenge of controlling the COVID-19 pandemic, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is deeply concerned at the current prospect of inequitable access to vaccines to address the

pandemic, especially for frontline workers and vulnerable populations.

According to the CARICOM Secretariat, the reality is that small states will find it difficult to compete in the marketplace to ensure equitable access for

vaccines.

“Given the transmissibility of the virus, all countries are vulnerable and should work together”.

In a statement, the Secretariat declared that the Caribbean Community therefore calls for a global summit in the con-

text of the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) ACT-A Facilitation Council to discuss equitable access and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines.

The CARICOM Secretariat further explained that the inextricable link

economically, socially, and by virtue of travel with our neighbours and the wider international community, makes it imperative for CARICOM Member States to be afforded access to vaccines as a matter of urgent priority.

“This action will be mu-

tually beneficial in breaking the transmission of the virus. Notwithstanding that appeal, the Community will explore all available options to access vaccines in order to protect its population from the ravages of the pandemic”. (TL)

WHO head: Pull together during ‘defining moment’

VACCINATION from Back Page

Dr. Ghebreyesus said the Committee called for upgrading national sequencing capacity so that as the virus changes, countries can effectively monitor and respond to new challenges.

He further insisted that this is a “defining moment” in the pandemic

and expressed that he was pleased that the emergency committee put a major emphasis on rolling out COVID-19 vaccines equitably.

“Health workers are exhausted, health systems are stretched and we’re seeing supplies of oxygen run dangerously low in some countries. Now is the time we must pull together as common

humanity and roll out vaccines to health workers and those at highest risk. This is key to saving lives, protecting health systems and driving a fair recovery,” he said.

(TL)

AT RIGHT: World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.



Sandals elevates its ‘Travel with Confidence’ programme

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica – Sandals Resorts International has announced it is offering complimentary COVID-19 testing beginning January 26th to all registered guests across its Sandals and Beaches Resorts on-resort prior to their departure.

This announcement comes on the heels of the new Centres for Disease Control (CDC) policy requiring international travellers to present a negative COVID-19 test prior to their return to the United States.

Tests will be conducted by certified medical professionals with guests’ convenience top of mind with appointments being offered with minimal distraction to the overall vacation experience.

Tests will be done at least 72 hours before guests’ departure, and test results will be avail-

able within 24 hours. Hotel offering complimentary COVID-19 testing to guests on-resort prior to departure

For nearly 40 years, Sandals has continuously implemented and strengthened health and safety protocols to ensure guests are able to travel with confidence and enjoy their Caribbean vacation worry-free. This new on-resort testing is an expansion of the Sandals Platinum Protocols of Cleanliness, which already builds on Sandals existing industry-leading practices to guarantee cleanliness standards and heightened health and safety measures that address changing consumer expectations amidst COVID-19.

“Through the expansion of our Platinum Protocols of Cleanliness, we are continuing to ensure our guests’ health

and safety are our number one priority. We are dedicated to providing peace of mind for all our guests as we follow the latest developments in real-time, to safeguard their experience, so that they can always travel to our resorts with confidence,” stated Adam Stewart, Executive Chairman of Sandals Resorts International.

‘Medical stations at all resorts’

In the unfortunate event that a guest should test positive for COVID-19 prior to departure, all resorts are equipped with medical stations staffed daily with a registered nurse and 24/7 on-call medical personnel.

In line with all CDC and World Health

Organisation (WHO) best practices, Sandals ensures strict adherence and seamless implementation of a sophisticated approach to prevent the spread of all illnesses.

Through the Travel Protection Insurance that Sandals offers, guests are covered for an extension of their stay to quarantine and to receive any necessary medical treatment for up to 14 nights at no extra cost. Additional benefits of the plan include coverage of medical expenses and maximum benefits of up to \$100 000 per guest.

Sandals is dedicated to providing peace of mind for all guests, says Adam Stewart, Executive Chairman of Sandals Resorts International.

