

Sunday May 16, 2021

EXCITING RETURN TO SANDALS BARBADOS

SANDALS Royal and Sandals Barbados reopened last Friday.

The country's largest hotel resort welcomed its first returning couple just after 3 p.m., and as they exited their Rolls Royce transfer they were greeted with a glass of champagne from a smiling General Manager Ramel Sobrino accompanied by cheers from members of staff from the various departments.

"Today is a happy day not only for the Sandals family but more significantly we appreciate the value of tourism to the country and we are proud to play our part. We have always been firm believers in the Barbados market and today is just the beginning of what we hope will be a successful return to tourism on the island," said Sobrino.

It was also a welcomed return for the team members of the resort whom Sobrino thanked profusely as he acknowledged that they came in weeks earlier to have the hotel ready for the reopening.

Sandals will be adding an additional 66 luxury suites from July 1 to their existing room count of 552. There will also be a focus on health tourism with the addition of two new wellness-inspired eateries, The Greenhouse Restaurant and Heart & Sol café.



General Manager of Sandals Barbados Ramel Sobrino extends his arms to greet Mrs. Hansen as she exits her Rolls Royce transfer from the airport to the newly reopened Luxury Resort located in Dover.

Countries warned: Strengthen surveillance against COVID-19

A GROUP of medical experts have recommended maintaining all public health measures where the coronavirus is circulating, regardless of the variants, and strengthening both epidemiological and genomic surveillance to

reduce the spread of the virus and possible mutations.

This advice came during a webinar for journalists hosted by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation to discuss vari-

ants of SARS-CoV-2 and their impact on transmissibility, severity of the disease, and effectiveness of vaccines.

Dr. Jairo Mendez Rico, PAHO's Advisor on Emerging Viral Diseases said that mutations are

expected in the virus evolution and adaptation process. He explained that when these variants have a potential impact or risk for public health, they are considered variants of concern (VOC). The four variants of concern that

have been detected in the Americas include those that originated in the United Kingdom (B.1.1.7), South Africa (B.1.351), Brazil (P.1), and India (B.1.617).

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