



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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# AG and Family Members Test Positive for COVID-19

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Sir John E. St. Luce with His Excellency, Sir Rodney Williams, during his investiture in 2018

# AG and Family Members Test Positive for COVID-19

Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin has confirmed he, and ten members of his family have tested positive for COVID-19.

The spread of the virus is believed to have taken place at the family's Christmas dinner.

In response to a request for confirmation, Minister Benjamin said they are "all doing fine, should be fully recovered in a few days."

he person who may have infected the others was not identified, however information suggests a female family member in attendance complained of feeling unwell. She further revealed that her spouse and child had above normal temperatures.

The Benjamin family apparently brushed the information aside and went on to dine and socialise together.

It was not until long after the event ended that some family members began complaining of feeling unwell.

As a result, COVID tests were carried

out leading to 11 positive results, including that of the attorney general. One person is reportedly hospitalised, but there are no serious complications.



Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin

While everyone is recuperating in quarantine, Minister Benjamin is appealing to

the population to be extra careful in the midst of the pandemic.

"Observe all protocols and do not relax compliance, even among your family members," the AG urged. "Watch temperatures and be cautious about what may appear to be a simple cough or cold."

Mr. Benjamin is urging members of the public to make good use of self-test equipment when the government begins distribution of the kits.

For his part, the attorney general attributes the fact that he has had no complications since contracting the virus to being fully vaccinated and receiving a booster.

"All persons should seek to be fully vaccinated to protect themselves, their families, friends and society as a whole. Together with the other established protocols, vaccination offers the best option and protection. I know this for a fact," Minister Benjamin concluded.

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**2022** HAPPY NEW YEAR  
**PLANS ?**



**A GOAL WITHOUT A PLAN IS JUST A DREAM**



**LET'S PLAN FOR**




# Latest COVID-19 dashboard numbers cause for concern

The Ministry of Health, Wellness and Environment finally released the last statistics of 2021 on 4th January 2022, and the numbers do not paint an encouraging picture of the present COVID-19 situation in the country.

As of 31st December, 2021 at 6pm there were 203 confirmed new cases of COVID-19 in Antigua and Barbuda. 7 people were hospitalised, 284 in isolation and 291 active cases.

There were 4,076 recovered cases and 119 deaths.

Since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, the country has recorded 4,486 confirmed cases.

The vaccination statistics as of 31st December, 2021 indicated that 3,307 people were partially vaccinated while 59,054 have been fully vaccinated.

At the beginning of the pandemic, medical experts said that for every infected person anywhere from 6 to 15 additional people were infected but undiagnosed.

If this holds true, then the number of cases and extent of the spread of this latest wave of infections could become significantly higher in the coming weeks.

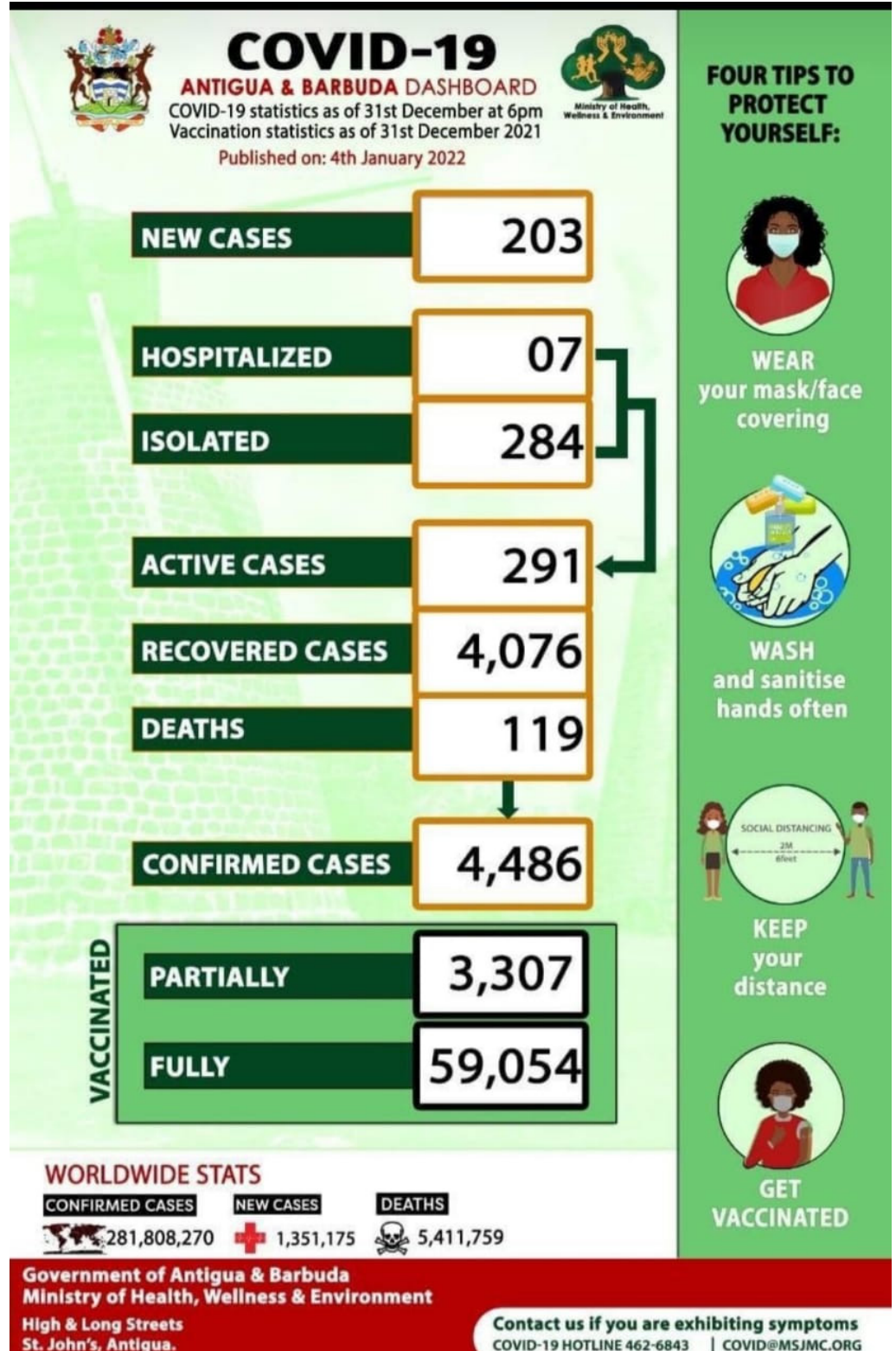
On Sunday during the annual National Service of Thanksgiving and Prayer, Prime Minister Gaston Browne made an impassioned plea for members of the public who have not accepted one of the available vaccines to do so for the sake of their loved ones.

For those who have been vaccinated, he encouraged them to get a booster if they qualify to protect themselves against all variants of the COVID-19 virus, including Omicron which he hinted is already in circula-

tion among the population.

While experts say the Omicron variant is less likely to result in severe disease or death, it is far more

infectious than previous iterations which could, in turn, put health care systems at risk of becoming overwhelmed.



# Sir John E. St. Luce Finance and Convention Centre officially opened

The controversial building constructed to house the headquarters of Antigua and

necessary reminders to those to come of the contributions of their predecessors.

however his daughter, Abena St. Luce attended on his behalf.



Sir John St. Luce speaking with reporters at his home

“A country which doesn’t acknowledge its heroes, and those who provide exemplary, high quality service and contribution to its citizens, will leave no footprint for the next generation to follow.

Ms. St. Luce said she was overwhelmed by the many expressions of gratitude for her father’s contribution to his beloved Antigua and Barbuda. She also shared that her father was very humbled, grateful and very pleasantly surprised when he received the news that the former ADOMS building would be renamed in his honour.

“That is why today we think it’s very important for us to honour Sir John E. St. Luce, who by any measure is a faithful national who served his country exceptionally well, and contributed significantly to set it on a path of modern development,” said Weston.

Ms. St. Luce added that the timing of the surprise could not have been better as it “elevated his spirits” as the effects of the pandemic, along with mobility issues and failing health due to his age, had all taken their toll on the former finance minister.

He continued, “John St. Luce has left a legacy of service which all of us can emulate. He worked tirelessly in the vineyard of his country’s social and economic development.

In a message of hope delivered by his daughter, Sir John, 81, said: “We often say God loves Antigua and Barbuda, and it is true; God loves Antigua and Barbuda.

Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS) was declared open yesterday afternoon.

“We stand today as a people, as a nation to recognise his contribution, and to indicate our gratitude for his service.

It comes eight years after ground broke for the construction of the modern facility by former Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer.

The project was blighted by major delays over several years, cost overruns in the millions of dollars and a public spat between the current administration and former Project Manager Wendell Marshall over his competency and integrity.

Now with construction complete, the building will no longer serve as the headquarters for ADOMS. It will be known as the Sir John E. St. Luce Finance and Convention Centre in honour of the retired Antigua Labour Party MP, who during his illustrious political career served as minister of finance.

Offering remarks during the ceremony, Works Minister and Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Lennox Weston, detailed the illustrious career and accomplishments of Sir John and remarked that occasions such as the naming of the building for him, are



Sir John as a young minister of government

“By naming this building the John E. St. Luce Finance and Conference Center, we have created a physical symbol for this generation and the next to follow in the footsteps he has left imprinted on this land.”

“This pandemic, the challenges it has brought, though it feels never ending, though it causes moments of division, history has shown us all although we are small we are mighty.

“We are the sons and daughters of survivors. We are one people, and as one people we will rise through the storm. We will come out on the other side and we will continue to flourish.”

Sir John attended the University of London where he majored in economics and social sciences.

Upon his return home, in 1971, he was appointed to the Senate. He subsequently served as an elected member of parliament in the governments formed by Sir Vere Bird Sr. and Sir Lester Bird from 1976 until his retirement in 2004.

***His many portfolios as a member of the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda during this time included Minister of Agriculture, Home Affairs, Health, Public Works, Public Utilities and Communications and Finance.***

Due to poor health, Sir John was not in attendance at yesterday’s ceremony,

# Mary John Bailed on Electronic Crime Charge

Self-proclaimed social and community activist Mary John has been warned not to use her social media pages to commit any offence in contravention of the Electronic Crimes Act or her bail would be revoked.

John appeared in St. John's Magistrates' Court on Tuesday morning January 4 before Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh who revoked her station bail.

Instead, Walsh imposed a bail sum of \$10,000 with a cash deposit of \$2,500 and two sureties.

She has to report to the nearest police station every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday between the hours of 6am and 6pm.

Additionally, John has to surrender her travel documents and she returns to court on March 24 for her committal proceedings.

John is accused of spreading false messages via her social media page with the use of an electronic system.

The matter can be tried either in the Magistrates' Court or the High Court. However, the prosecution



has opted to proceed with the charge indictably, which means it

**Mary John**

will be sent to the High Court for trial before a judge only or a trial by judge and jury.

The penalty for this offence is \$250,000 or three years in prison or both if tried in the lower court. However, the penalty increases to \$500,000 or six years in prison or both if tried in the High Court.

John is accused of circulating false information about a young woman pertaining to the murder of Jane Finch, who was found dead in October last year in her Piccadilly home. The social activist accused the woman of committing the crime and posted her name and photograph, which made the rounds via social media platforms.

It turned out to be a case of mistaken identity.

John later removed the post, but by that time it had already gone viral.

The woman later reported the matter to the police and investigations were launched which led to John's arrest and charging.

John was the complainant in a similar matter in which she reported to the police that a man made certain remarks about her on social media. The man was fined \$500 after he pleaded guilty in that case. He had accused John of making certain comments about his family business, which caused them to lose customers.

# Tourism Minister says Antigua & Barbuda doing its best to limit COVID-19 transmission



Minister of Tourism Charles 'Max' Fernandez

With increased cruise tourist arrivals, Minister of Tourism Charles 'Max' Fernandez says authorities are doing all they can to help protect citizens from transmitting the coronavirus.

Despite the recent surge in COVID-19 numbers, Antigua and Barbuda's cruise arrivals have remained unaffected since cruise ships returned to the twin-island nation during the last quarter of 2021.

The January cruise arrival calendar released by the Antigua Cruise Port revealed a packed itinerary with 30th January being the only vacant day on the schedule.

On several days throughout the month, Antigua and Barbuda will host as many as six vessels across its several ports in St. John's, Falmouth and Barbuda. Only three vessels have cancelled their January calls to the island.

But Minister Fernandez is allaying fears that the increase in tourist arrivals will spark a large local outbreak of coronavirus.

Fernandez strongly believes authorities in Antigua and Barbuda have implemented the best available screening programmes, and other protocols, to safeguard against the transmission of the virus among the vibrant tourist sector and general population.

"I am convinced that what we are doing through the port health and the Ministry of Health is sufficient as can be expected to the optimum level in terms of protecting our people," Fernandez said.

"We within the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Health have set about to train all of our frontline tourism operators, our hotel employees, our taxi operators, everybody coming in touch with them, to protect them. So far we have seen no real contagion coming out from our guests and to Antiguans in the industry.

"What I believe is if we can keep the protocols in place such as face mask wearing and so on, that will protect us even further. There is just so much that you can do. You test today and have a negative test coming in, and probably the case load is not

high enough to register, two days it registers.

"But if you are staying in a certified location, whether it is Airbnb or a hotel and the protocols are followed there will be that added protection for our people," he added.

The tourism minister believes that returning nationals, not visitors to the island, continue to pose the greatest threat of transmitting the virus within the population.

"I think what is the biggest achilles heel, not just for us in Antigua but throughout the islands, is when our people come home some of them may be inadvertently asymptomatic and they ended up partying, hugging, moving into the community without a face mask, going to weddings, funerals, baptism and the likes you end up with a situation where that in turn creates a huge spread," Minister Fernandez said.

"So I think that all in all everything that can be done is being done and wherever there is an opportunity to improve I know that the Ministry of Health is on top of it.

"I can tell you that every week that we have had Cabinet since the pandemic we have gotten a report and have discussions with the technicians from the Ministry of Health. So at no point have we had just run or flown blindly.

"We have always been very cautious and I think that the numbers speak for themselves, in terms of the number of arriving passengers who have come into Antigua who have been positive and have created any kind of spread."

# Air Canada tweet refutes claims it is cancelling flights to Caribbean; but customers say that's not true

A now deleted tweet from the official Air Canada account on Monday caused rippling waves of confusion after the airline refuted widespread reports that it is cancelling flights to the Caribbean effective 30th January 2022.

Initially it was said that the suspension would last 90 days.

Earlier this week tourism authorities at home and across the region panicked over the news that the international carrier intended to suspend flights to the region and the resulting consequences for recovering tourism.

The airline's move is in response to the most recent wave of the COVID-19 virus.

Antigua and Barbuda's Tourism Minister, Charles 'Max' Fernandez commented Monday on local media that the announcement was "not good news" for the country.

His St. Kitts and Nevis counterpart, Lindsay Grant, echoed similar sentiments in a statement issued by that country's tourism authority.

The concern over the setback the Air Canada suspension will cause is justified as just before the new year, the Antigua and Barbuda Hotel and Tourism Association Vice Chairman, Alex Debrito, said while the winter season still holds hope for Antigua and Barbuda, a number of inbound booking cancellations are cause for concern as the summer approaches.

However, in a tweet responding to @loopnewscarib, from their official Twitter account, Air Canada started a storm when it said it was not suspending its flights adding that the information appeared to be based on a press release issued by the airline

in 2021.

Such a press release was in fact issued. Dated 29th January, 2021, the airline did suspend flights to some parts of the region from 31st January to 30th April that year.

Air Canada resumed flights to Antigua and Barbuda on 1st October, 2021.

Despite the claims on Twitter that flights have not been suspended, a quick check of the company's website revealed that bookings to and from the region are not being accepted. Additionally, a number of people holding bookings replied to the tweet challenging the airline with claims that bookings they held as far away as May 2022 were no longer visible.

Despite the Air Canada tweet, the information does in fact appear to be accurate as a number of countries in the region including Bermuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, Cuba and several others have all confirmed that the Canadian carrier will not be gracing

their skies for the foreseeable future.

With the rapid spread of the Omicron coronavirus variant sweeping the country, the Canadian federal government recently issued new travel advisories strongly cautioning its citizens against non-essential travel at this time.



## Forecast for the next 48 hours

	Tuesday		Wednesday			Thursday	
	Evening	Night	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Night	Morning
Forecast							
Temperature	25 °C	24 °C	26 °C	28 °C	25 °C	22 °C	27 °C
	A few showers. Partly cloudy.	Sprinkles. Mostly clear.	Sprinkles. Mostly sunny.	Mostly sunny.	Passing clouds.	Sprinkles. Mostly clear.	Sunny.
Feels Like	26 °C	25 °C	28 °C	29 °C	26 °C	22 °C	28 °C
Wind Speed	18 km/h	17 km/h	18 km/h	17 km/h	15 km/h	5 km/h	15 km/h
Wind Direction	ENE ↙	ENE ↙	ENE ↙	E ←	ENE ↙	WSW ↗	ESE ↘
Humidity	70%	67%	63%	63%	74%	87%	65%
Dew Point	19 °C	18 °C	19 °C	20 °C	20 °C	20 °C	19 °C
Visibility	5 km	19 km	19 km	18 km	5 km	19 km	19 km
Probability of Precipitation	43%	37%	27%	15%	23%	30%	10%
Amount of Rain	1.3 mm	0.4 mm	-	-	-	0.1 mm	-

\* Updated Tuesday, 4 January 2022 14:25:44 Saint John's time - Weather by CustomWeather, © 2022

# Is finding a ‘new normal’ in the workplace impossible?

By Bryan Lufkin

***It’s hard to know exactly what to expect from work in 2022, especially with recent developments. Experts predict what we may be up against.***

environment will evolve in 2022. This time last year, many people expected 2021 to bring a degree of stability, perhaps even the smooth rollout of hybrid work. The

***pen – but they could create division***

A call for shorter workweeks and condensed hours has been gaining traction around the globe, with companies and entire governments alike already exploring this alternative.

It’s necessary to shake up the structure of when we work, says Abigail Marks, professor of the future of work at Newcastle University Business School, UK. The 9-to-5, 40-hour workweek that emerged during the Industrial Revolution – the last time work changed so dramatically – is no longer sustainable, she says, due to the “increasing pace of work necessitated by video conferencing software and continued online presence”.

Marks adds: “Business and policy makers are keen to explore measures that may ‘mitigate’ the over-burdening of employees, whilst hoping to retain this increase in productivity. The solution that is constantly mentioned is the four-day working week.” And condensed hours may mean better mental health and work-life balance for many workers.

Though it looks like there is hope for the four-day workweek to gain steam in 2022, says Marks, measures like these aren’t a silver bullet for all employees.



We’re entering the third year of a global pandemic that’s brought unprecedented changes to work.

Despite many employers’ hopes, a full-time return to office-based work is looking highly unrealistic as the omicron variant pushes back return-to-office plans once again for millions of workers. And, given the way the current labour market shifted power to employees, pre-pandemic work structures are likely to become a relic.

Yet for all that seems certain, there is still so much we don’t know about how our working

emergence of new variants of the virus blocked this – and may well continue to do so in the months ahead.

Amid constantly shifting circumstances, it’s hard to pin down where we might find ourselves in 12 months’ time. But experts who study employment and the workplace have identified a few trends that are already giving shape to the way we’ll be working in the coming year, and may just be a window onto the future of office life.

***Shorter workweeks may hap-***



cont. from page 9  
Instead, she cautions the shift to a shorter workweek could only benefit certain workers. “The four-day week may privilege a limited group of white-collar workers, have no benefit to many low paid and low-skilled workers who will not have the contractual security nor the financial support to work a four-day week,” says Marks. Think, for instance, of IT or hourly service workers who might not be able to reduce their hours.

Marks is among the experts who say it will be a challenge in 2022 to navigate the gulf between those who can take advantage of flexibility versus those who can’t – especially as calls for increased flexibility and shorter hours only get louder. “This year, we could end up with further divisions in society,” she adds. “The highly sought-after employees, such as data scientists and those with government support, including high-ranking civil servants, [might have] reduced hours – and the rest of us still being overburdened by work.”

***Bespoke perks could become the main attraction***

“Remember the labour shortages and hiring difficulties of 2021? They will follow us into 2022,” says Alison Sullivan, senior manager of corporate communications at jobs site Glassdoor. “That’s because the factors that drove these shortages will still be here – a pandemic, retirees and parents staying home and growing customer demand businesses must keep up with.”

This means employers may need

to take a different tack for hiring workers – and keeping them in seat – than they did in the past.

Anthony Klotz, an associate professor of management at Texas A&M University, US, who coined the term ‘Great Resignation’, says job personalisation could be the key to worker satisfaction – and retention – this year. “In 2022, we will see employers catering more to employees’ needs and desires in order to engage their current workers and attract top performers from other firms,” says Klotz.

It’s not only good business sense – flexibility and accommodation is becoming a perk workers expect from their employers. “This imbalance in worker demand and supply means employees and job seekers have elevated power to ask for more,” says Glassdoor’s Sullivan.

As a result, companies will roll out more “personalised tactics for managing employees”, says Klotz. “Instead of one-size-fits-all development programmes, companies have begun investing time and resources into co-crafting bespoke career paths with individual workers.” Sullivan also cites increased wages, student loan assistance and expanded parental leave as potential benefits employers may add to attract top talent in 2022.

Another important personalisation could be prioritising a worker’s individual mental health. After all, amid burnout and boreout, more workers are saying enough is enough, and quitting their jobs (or at least thinking about quitting). “Even bastions of hustle culture

such as Wall Street are getting in on the act and introducing sab-baticals,” says Klotz.

**Workers won’t be heading back to the same offices**

When some workers finally do return to the office – whether in 2022 or down the road – many will find the layout and function to be completely different. Nicholas Bloom, a professor of economics at Stanford University, US, says companies will reconfigure spaces this year to meet the needs of a newly hybrid workforce, and accounting for how people actually want to work when they’re together in person: collaboratively.

Bloom, who has studied the future of the office for years, says the transition back to in-office days has so far been awkward and clumsy. He says he’s heard “horror stories” from workers whose companies have called them back into the office – for instance, sitting in half-empty offices on the same Zoom calls they would at home (and listening to colleagues do the same).

**In other words, the pre-pandemic office doesn’t work the way employees in 2022 need it to.**

Since some companies that have rolled out hybrid models bring in certain teams into the office on the same day each week, Bloom says coordination is going to be the name of the game this year, and more offices will make permanent layout changes to facilitate this.

# VACANCY – ELECTRICITY PLANT ENGINEER

## BARBUDA POWER STATION

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority is now seeking applications from suitably qualified persons for the above position within the Electricity Business Unit:

**Overview:** The Green Barbuda Power Plant will be commissioned in Barbuda shortly. The Plant Engineer will be based in Barbuda and responsible for managing all aspects of the operation and maintenance of this Solar Hybrid Power Plant.

**Key tasks include, but are not limited to, the following:**

- Providing day-to-day oversight of the technical and administrative functions of the plant.
- Ensuring the plant meets the required availability, reliability, efficiency & safety targets.
- Managing the maintenance program including breakdown, preventative and predictive maintenance.
- Maintaining adequate inventory levels of fuel, spare parts, tools and equipment.

**Suitable candidates for the Electricity Plant Engineer role should possess the following:**

- A Minimum of a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering from a recognized tertiary institution.
- A minimum of ten (10) years' experience in supervising the operation and maintenance of a Power Plant.
- Experience in Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Systems within a Power Plant or similar operation.
- Experience in the operation and maintenance of a Solar Plant.
- Demonstrated knowledge of Electrical and Mechanical Generation principles.
- Knowledge and working experience with Battery Systems within a Solar Plant would be an asset.

**Additionally, the role requires candidates to have:**

- Strong communication, analytical, critical thinking, strategic and report writing skills.
- The ability to provide guidance and supervision to a large team. This includes identifying training needs, motivating & inspiring the team to meet unit goals and objectives while managing performance in accordance with the set guidelines of the Authority.
- The ability to effectively prepare management documents including budget estimates and monthly reports
- The ability to multitask and work under pressure to set deadlines.
- The ability to work flexible hours, if required, including weekends and holidays
- The physical and mental ability to withstand the rigors of the role.

Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

The Human Resources Manager  
Antigua Public Utilities Authority  
P.O. Box 416  
Independence Ave. & High Street  
St. Johns, Antigua

or Email: [hr@apua.ag](mailto:hr@apua.ag)

Deadline for application is **Monday 10th January, 2022**

\*\* Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged \*\*

“APUA is an equal opportunity Employer”

# UK support lessens COVID-19 impact in Montserrat



**Photo caption: Premier of Montserrat, Joseph Easton Farrell**

Montserrat's premier, Joseph Easton Farrell, says the budgetary support the island received from the United Kingdom as a British Overseas Territory (BOT) has enabled the island to mitigate the hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic slightly better than many other Caribbean countries.

The World Health Organization's declaration on March 11, 2020 that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak had become a pandemic, triggered a worldwide lockdown of economies which decimated tourism industries globally.

In an appearance on Pointe on de Streets on Pointe FM on Tuesday, Farrell said the British government's allocation of EC\$86 million ( £23.6 million) or 60 percent of Montserrat's annual budget, was instrumental in lessening the impact of the pandemic on the 39-square-mile territory.

Farrell said the budgetary support provided by the British government enables Montserrat to be less dependent on the tourism industry, unlike many other Caribbean countries whose economies are heavily reliant on it.

"We actually managed it fairly well. 2021 was not bad for us in terms of Covid, neither our economy, despite the impact that Covid had on the other areas of the region and the world. We feared fairly well, in that, because we do not depend solely on tourism. We are receiving grant in aid because we are a British colony since the volcanic crisis started in 1995," Farrell said.

"We have in fact feared pretty well because 60 percent of our recurrent budget is financed by the UK, and that in itself, is an added plus for us.

"Unlike many countries such as my fellow countrymen from across the region

whose economies solely depend on the tourist trade, and the impact that corona had on the travel industry, created problems for most of my colleagues around the region. We were impacted, but not as severely impacted," he added.

Premier Farrell says the British government has also given Montserrat a £3.5 million stimulus and COVID-19 vaccines in addition to its annual budgetary allocation during the pandemic.

Premier Farrell, who successfully led the Movement for Change and Prosperity (MCAP) to victory in Montserrat's 18 November 2019 general election, said his government entered into a £30-million-pound programme with the United Kingdom to facilitate several capital projects, which have been instrumental in providing jobs for its citizens during the pandemic.

"In terms of creating employment I keep on saying to the UK and other people, the re-current budget doesn't provide employment, capital projects do that. In 2019 the UK signed a 30-million-pound capital project agreement with Montserrat," Farrell said.

"It includes the resurfacing of the John A. Osbourne Airport, building of a new control tower, the establishment of a new sub-sea fibre cable, a new hot-mix plant, a new hospital and some other small items are in that project.

"The good thing about us, despite the fact that we had the pandemic from 2020, as a government we were able to implement some of those projects which created some jobs and alleviate some of the hardships that the people of Montserrat would have been suffering.

"Some of those projects require people coming in from outside so you were able to rent apartments, rent houses, rent cars and of course the supermarkets benefitted and the restaurants benefitted so even though we were going through this crisis we were able to implement some of these projects."

# Haitian president suspected assassin Palacios detained in Miami



**Photo caption: Mario Antonio Palacios - Contributed photo**

**Jamaica Gleaner** - Reports have emerged that Mario Antonio Palacios, one of the key suspects in the assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse, has been detained in Miami.

United States news outlet the Miami Herald is reporting that Palacios was taken into US custody after being arrested Tuesday morning by Homeland Security agents upon arrival in Panama.

Palacios was scheduled to have his first appearance in federal court on Tuesday afternoon when he was arraigned.

He is the first person allegedly involved in the assassination of the Haitian president to be formally charged with a crime.

The charges were drafted by Homeland Security Investigations and the FBI.

Sources familiar with the investigation said he faces charges of conspiracy to provide material support resulting in the death of a foreign leader, and conspiracy to kidnap and kill a foreign leader.

Palacios was deported from Jamaica

to his home country Colombia on Monday afternoon.

It was reported that he was detained while transiting through Panama to go to Colombia. His deportation from Jamaica came after he was held in custody since October when he served five days for illegally entering Jamaica.

Haitian investigators were told, according to a leaked report seen by The Gleaner, that the former Colombian military officer was part of a six-man team, code-named 'Delta', which was tasked with breaching the president's private quarters in the

wee hours on July 7 last year.

He was also identified as one of four men seen inside Moïse's room.

The 53-year-old president was said to have been found with gunshot wounds all over his body and several broken limbs.

His wife was also injured in the attack. She has since recovered.

## NOTICE

TO: Your Worship  
St. Johns Magistrate Court  
Gray's Farm  
St. Johns  
Antigua.

TO: The Commissioner of Police  
Police Headquarters  
American Road  
St. Johns  
Antigua.

Dear Sir/Madame,

Re; Notice-Application for Tavern Licence

I, Sabrina Tonge of Grays Farm, with registered business situate at Christian Street St. Johns Antigua and Barbuda DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Gray's Farm, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday 6th January, 2022 next ensuring for a Liquor Licensing Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises know as "Ballas Paradise Bar & Grill" situated at Christian Steet in the parish of St. Johns,

Dated the 25th day of November, 2021

# Law lecturer says legal challenges may result if COVID-19 patients not allowed to vote in Barbados elections

Barbados Today - Persons denied their right to vote in the January 19 polls because they are COVID-19 positive may have legal recourse under election laws and the Constitution, a university law lecturer and Democratic Labour Party (DLP) candidate has indicated.



Dr Ronnie Yearwood, who is flying the DLP's flag in St James South, told Barbados TODAY that he was left "worried", "dumbfounded" and "aghast" by suggestions from election officials that COVID-19-infected residents would not be allowed to cast their ballot.

Dr Yearwood, who lectures at the

University of the West Indies (UWI) and specialises in constitutional law and other relevant areas, has been supported in principle by veteran pollster Peter Wickham.

"It's not just one or two people. We're talking about thousands of people who will not be eligible to vote and, in reality, that can make the difference in a constituency between winning a seat or losing a seat. We know in Barbados, seats have been won by ten votes, 15 votes, so you've got thousands of potential electors who cannot vote across varying constituencies and you are affecting the nature of democracy. It's as simple as that," Dr Yearwood declared.

"I think this amounts to disenfranchisement. The reality is, if you know you're staging an election during a pandemic, it's quite obvious you've got your variants, you would think that you would've made provisions to allow persons with COVID-19 to vote.

"Whether that is creating polling stations at the isolation centres or creating some form of an electronic or mail-in voting system, but no alterations were made to the electoral law to provide for this," he added.

At a meeting of media managers on Sunday, the Chairman of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission (EBC), Leslie Haynes Q.C. reiterated that persons who are diagnosed with COVID-19 cannot vote. He said that position was taken based on legal advice.

When asked on Monday for her position on the matter, Prime Minister Mia Mottley told Barbados TODAY she was awaiting word from the Ministry of Health and Wellness. But according to the academic turned political hopeful, the onus would have been on Government, prior to calling an election, to make much-needed changes to the country's election laws, to ensure the vote is free, fair and transparent.

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# Gov't threatens to withhold payment to striking workers in Suriname

PARAMARIBO, Suriname, CMC – The Public Works Employees' Organization (WOOW) has condemned the decision of the Government not to pay workers who have been staying off the job since April last year.

“Since he took office, we have written numerous letters to the minister asking for a target date on which matters can be resolved, but nothing is happening,” said union president Michael Sallons.

Since last year April, the employees have been turning up for work but would leave before midday.

Public Works Minister, Riad Nurmohamed, has criticised the action of the workers, threatening to withhold payment for the period when they are not at work.

In letters personally addressed to the

workers and signed by the Deputy Director of Administrative Services,



Public Works Minister, Riad Nurmohamed - Contributed photo

the workers have been told that paying wages for the strike period is the responsibility of the union that has called out the employees.

The authorities said that their action is in conformity with Article 28 of the

Personnel Act. But the union insists that it has been calling for a re-evaluation of all public workers.

“Since the introduction of the Fiso (Function Information System of the Government) a lot has changed and different requirements apply. There must be a revaluation,” said Sallons.

He said that there are many problems related to the work environment, adding “for example, you can't see your fingers when you go to the toilet, it's that dark.”

Sallons said while no date has been set for “which things must be in order” the union is leaving it to Nurmohamed “to give us a target date because for some matters he depends on other ministries.”



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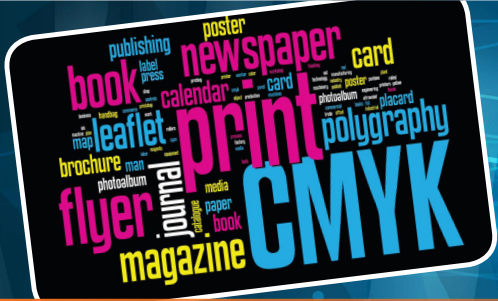
### SUPER LEAGUE

Quarter-final 1	January 26	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
Quarter-final 4	January 27	Coolidge Cricket Grounds
Quarter-final 3	January 28	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
Quarter-final 2	January 29	Coolidge Cricket Grounds
Loser QF 2 v Loser QF 3	January 30	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
Loser QF 1 v Loser QF 4	January 31	Coolidge Cricket Grounds
<b>Semi-final 1</b>	February 1	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
<b>Semi-final 2</b>	February 2	Coolidge Cricket Grounds
5th / 6th Play-off	February 3	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
7th / 8th Play-off	February 3	Coolidge Cricket Grounds
3rd / 4th Play-off	February 4	Coolidge Cricket Grounds
<b>Final</b>	February 5	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

\*QF = Quarter Final

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# New coronavirus variant 'IHU' identified in France; Researchers Say Omicron Easily Avoids Immune System

VOA - As the world continues to struggle with the rapid spread of the omicron variant of the coronavirus and the still-lingering delta variant, scientists in France said they have discovered a new variant that contains multiple mutations.

Experts at the IHU Mediterranee Infection in Marseille say they discovered the new variant back in December in 12 patients living near Marseille, with the first patient testing positive after travelling to the central African nation of Cameroon.

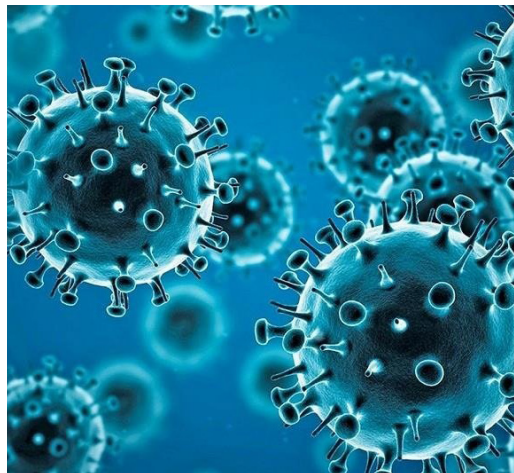
The French scientists said they have identified 46 mutations in the new variant, dubbed B.1.640.2, that could make it more resistant to vaccines and more infectious than the original virus.

The results were posted on the online health sciences outlet medRxiv, which publishes studies that have not been peer-reviewed or published in an academic journal. B.1.640.2 has not been detected in other countries or been labelled a "variant of concern" by the World Health Organization.

Meanwhile, a new study out of Denmark reveals omicron is better at avoiding a person's immunity even if they are vaccinated against COVID-19. Researchers at the University of Copenhagen studied 12,000 households and discovered that omicron was between 2.7 to 3.7 times more infectious than delta among vaccinated Danes.

The study, which has not been peer-reviewed, also found that unvaccinated individuals are more likely to transmit the coronavirus than those who had been fully vaccinated and received a booster shot. Vaccine effectiveness against symptoms was reduced to around 40% against symptoms and to 80%

against severe disease when dealing with omicron, while booster shots



improved those numbers to 86%

against symptoms and 98% against severe disease.

"Our findings confirm that the rapid spread of the Omicron variant primarily can be ascribed to the immune evasiveness rather than an inherent increase in the basic transmissibility," the researchers wrote.

The United States posted 1,082,549 new COVID-19 infections Monday, setting a new global one-day record, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center. The numbers are nearly double that of the previous record of about 590,000 set just last week, driven mostly by the omicron variant.

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# Tear gas fired at Sudan protests as thousands rally against army

AlJazeera - Sudanese security forces fired tear gas at anti-coup protesters in Khartoum chanting slogans against the military days after the resignation of the country's civilian premier, witnesses said.

Protesters on Tuesday shouted "No, no to military rule" and called for the disbandment of Sudan's ruling council headed by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, who led an October 25 coup that derailed a transition to civilian rule.

Thousands of protesters gathered across Sudan, including in Khartoum and its twin city of Omdurman, as well as the eastern city of Port Sudan and the South Darfur capital of Nyala.

Demonstrators in east Khartoum "burned car tyres and built rock barricades on the streets," witness Sawsan Salah told the AFP news agency.

Other protesters urged the military "to go back to the barracks".

Al Jazeera's Mohamed Vall, reporting from Omdurman, said protesters are "marching calmly and chanting against the military rule".



Photo caption: Hamdok has warned that the continuing political deadlock could become a full-blown crisis and damage the country's already battered economy [File: Ebaid Ahmed via Reuters]

In southern Khartoum and in Bahri, thousands of protesters gathered and tried to march towards the presidential palace, Vall said, but they were "met with tear gas".

Earlier on Tuesday, Sudanese security forces beefed up security in and around Khartoum as protesters called for mass rallies in a bid to keep up pressure on the military following the resignation of civilian Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok.

# California twins born 15 minutes apart in two different years



**Aylin and her twin brother Alfredo won't have to share a birthday BBC - A set of fraternal twins born in California have achieved an extremely rare feat - their birthdays fall in different years.**

BBC - A set of fraternal twins born in California have achieved an extremely rare feat - their birthdays fall in different years.

Alfredo Antonio Trujillo was born at

23:45 local time (07:45 GMT) on New Year's Eve of 2021.

His sister Aylin Yolanda Trujillo arrived just 15 minutes later, at the

stroke of midnight on 1 January 2022.

Their mother Fatima Madrigal said it's "crazy" to her that her twins will have different birthdays.

And she said in a statement she was "surprised and happy" her newborn daughter arrived at midnight, making her the first baby to be born at the local hospital in 2022.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, twin births occur 120,000 times per year in the US, about 3% of all births.

Natividad Medical Center - the Salinas hospital that delivered the babies - estimates the likelihood that twins are born in different years is about one in two million.

# VACANCY – WATER PLANNING ENGINEER

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority is now seeking applications from suitably qualified persons for the above position within the Planning, Standards, Maintenance & Construction (PSMC) Department:

**OVERVIEW** This role actively engages in engineering works and provides direction, coordination and oversight within the PSMC Water Planning Section. This includes producing engineering solutions and supervising and scheduling a variety of water utility engineering tasks using Computer Aided Designs (CAD) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to assist with water infrastructural development in Antigua & Barbuda. The role is also responsible for forecasting distribution demands, liaising with contractors and developers on water requirements and responding to public enquiries and requests.

**Key tasks include, but are not limited to, the following:**

- Observing developmental trends, contacting and communicating with private and public developers, contractors and relevant authorities.
- Identifying, coordinating and planning water source development.
- Producing detailed and finished drawings for water facilities from preliminary sketches and field notes.
- Researching, updating and digitizing water facility records and data.
- Upgrading engineering plans & records, conducting investigations and collecting data.
- Preparing engineering designs, costing and scheduling projects.
- Maintaining up to date information and trends related to GIS and CAD software for water systems design and modelling.

**Suitable candidates for the Water Planning Engineer should possess the following:**

- A Bachelors' degree or equivalent in Civil/Agricultural Engineering, Geography or Environmental Engineering along with certification in GIS.
- A Masters' degree in any of the above mentioned fields would be an asset.
- A minimum of three (3) years' experience in coordinating water distribution development, CAD drafting & design, and demonstrated leadership skills.

**Additionally, the role requires candidates to have:**

- Strong communication, analytical, critical thinking, strategic and report writing skills.
- The ability to provide guidance and supervision to a large team. This includes identifying training needs, motivating & inspiring the team to meet unit goals and objectives while managing performance in accordance with the set guidelines of the Authority.
- The ability to effectively prepare management documents including budget estimates and monthly reports
- The ability to multitask and work under pressure to set deadlines.
- The ability to work flexible hours, if required, including weekends and holidays
- The physical and mental ability to withstand the rigors of the role.

Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

The Human Resources Manager  
 Antigua Public Utilities Authority  
 P.O. Box 416  
 Independence Ave. & High Street  
 St. Johns, Antigua

or Email: [hr@apua.ag](mailto:hr@apua.ag)

Deadline for application is **Monday 10th January, 2022**

\*\* Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged \*\*

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# Malan to become Ireland's men head coach



## Heinrich Malan

Heinrich Malan has been named as Ireland head coach. The 40-year-old South African signed an initial three-year deal that will see him succeed Graham Ford, who stepped down in December after four years at the helm.

Malan is the current head coach of the Auckland Aces having previously worked as New Zealand's assistant coach and fielding lead.

He is set to take up his new role in March subject to work permit approval.

"It's very humbling and a huge honour," Malan said.

'We have an exciting squad that

has demonstrated that they have the ability to compete with the best players around the world. It is an exciting challenge and something that we, as a family, are really looking forward to."

Ireland are currently preparing for their three-match ODI series against West Indies which is set to begin on Saturday in Jamaica.

Under Ford's leadership the side achieved some memorable results, most notably one-day wins over England and South Africa, and also made their debut as a Test team in 2018.

However, his four-year reign ended in disappointment as the side failed to make it out of the group stages of the T20 World Cup in

the UAE having won just one of their three matches.

"My coaching philosophy has certainly evolved over time and I am very keen to get to know this group of players and staff to collaboratively shape our environment through the way we want to operate on a daily basis," said Malan, who played first class cricket in South Africa between 2005 and 2009 as a right-handed batter and a medium-fast bowler.

"The 'wheel' in Irish cricket is turning nicely for the stage it is at, but this point in time is a great opportunity to review what - and how - we are operating to not only grow the wheel, but make that wheel turn quicker."

# USA Cricket announces U/19s tour to SVG



Geetika Kodali, centre, will captain the first ever USA Women's Under 19 team to undertake an overseas tour. (Photo courtesy USA Cricket)

USA Cricket are incredibly pleased to announce a historic inaugural international tour for the USA Women's Under-19s team as they are set to travel to the Caribbean next month to play against Windward Islands U19 Women's team in a series of four Twenty20 matches.

The Windward Islands comprise the islands of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, St Lucia and Dominica.

In partnership with both the Windward Islands Cricket Board (WICB) and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) Cricket Association, this tour is part of the wider long-term strategic partnership that USA Cricket has with Cricket West Indies (CWI), our nearest Full Member Nation of the ICC.

This tour is the culmination of a huge year for the women and girls game in the United States, with the newly launched domestic pathway, the Sistar Mortgage Women's National Championships (Senior Women's and Under-19) alongside the successful ICC T20 World Cup Americas Qualifier in Mexico and the recently-abandoned ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier in Zimbabwe.

The Windward Islands tour is another demonstration of the progress

made on our USA Cricket Foundational Plan's strategic focus on women and girls.

USA Cricket Board Member and Women and Girls Committee Chair, Nadia Gruny said, "We are pleased to partner with the Windward Islands Cricket Board (WICB) and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Cricket Association to create a T20 series that would be mutually beneficial to both our under 19 teams.

"In line with our recently launched plan to shape the future for Women & Girls in American cricket to create increased competitive international match opportunities, this tour will present a fantastic opportunity for some of the young talent who have stood out on our new domestic pathway this year to get international exposure and a competitive level of cricket in the Caribbean.

"On behalf of the board, I thank the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Government for the support of the development of women's cricket in the region and everyone involved in helping to make this tour a reality in such a challenging time. Congratulations to all of the girls selected and we look forward to a successful tour."

WICB President, Dr. Kishore Shallow said, "This exciting tour represents

a shared vision of both USA Cricket and WICB to offer more development opportunities for female cricketers. We are grateful for the initiative and cooperation of USA Cricket to execute what I anticipate to be a fantastic series of competitive cricket."

USA Cricket Operations Director, Richard Done added, "USA Cricket is excited by the potential of our Under 19 group and the impact they are already having on our USA Women's Team, most recently in Mexico and then in Zimbabwe.

"With women's cricket a clear focus of the USA Cricket Foundational Plan, the future for women's cricket in the USA is bright, and this tour will allow our next group of talented girls a chance to experience and learn more about travelling and playing internationally."

The selected U/19 squad does not include several of the U/19 players who participated in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier (WCQ) in Zimbabwe.

The WCQ was abandoned due to the identification of Omicron, the new Covid variant and growing travel restrictions on passengers coming from Southern Africa countries, including Zimbabwe.

Team USA Women's U19 Squad: Geetika Kodali (captain), Laasya Mullapudi (Vice Captain), Anika Kumar, Bhumika Bhadriraju, Chetna Pagyadala, Disha Dhingra, Jivana Aras, Mitali Patwardhan (wk), Pooja Ganesh (wk), Ritu Singh, Sai Tanmayi Eyyunni, Snigdha Paul, Trisha Bhima, Tya Gonsalves and Yashaditi Teki.

**U19 Head Coach: Asif Mujtaba**

**Match Schedule:**

**Monday January 24 – 1st T20 @ 9:00am EST**

**Tuesday January 25 – 2nd T20 @ 12:30pm EST**

**Wednesday January 26 – Rest**

**Thursday January 27 – 3rd T20 @ 9:00am EST**

# Liverpool wants to postpone Carabao Cup match at Arsenal



Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp missed Sunday's English Premier League draw at Chelsea following a suspected test. (Getty Images)

BBC - Liverpool have made a formal request to postpone tomorrow's Carabao Cup semi-final first leg at Arsenal because of an increase in Covid-19 cases at the club.

The Reds cancelled first-team training yesterday. Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp missed Sunday's English Premier League draw at Chelsea following a suspected test.

Players Alisson, Joel Matip and Roberto Firmino also missed the game while three members of staff tested positive.

The Reds' squad has been further stretched by the departure of Mo-

hamed Salah, Sadio Mane and Naby Keita for the Africa Cup of Nations.

The request has been made to the English Football League (EFL) with the match at Emirates Stadium scheduled to take place at 19:45 GMT tomorrow.

A Liverpool statement said: "Among the considerations which led to today's application to the EFL is the need for travelling supporters to be given as much notice as possible of any potential postponement.

"With no prospect of the current situation improving ahead of Thursday's fixture and the potential for it to wors-

en, the club considers it both prudent and reasonable to ask for the fixture to be rescheduled.

"Liverpool FC will offer a further update on the application process, as well as the resumption of training, in due course."

An EFL spokesperson said Liverpool's request "will now be considered in accordance with the competition rules as set out at the start of the season alongside information submitted by the club."

The EFL added: "We will look to confirm the League's position as soon as possible once the circumstances have been fully reviewed."

Liverpool are due to host Shrewsbury Town in the FA Cup third round on Sunday (14:00) before the second leg against Arsenal at home on 13 January.

Chelsea host Tottenham in the other Carabao Cup semi-final today (19:45 GMT).

The latest round of Premier League testing showed a first week-by-week decrease in positive Covid tests for eight weeks.

There were 94 new cases among Premier League players and staff from a total of 14,250 tests in the seven days up to and including 2 January - down from a record 103 cases over the previous seven days.

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## Coach says 2021 a successful year for Antigua junior golf programme



Antiguan golfer Sabienea Winston completed her freshman year for the Golden Tornadoes at the Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, in 2021.  
(Picture courtesy Geneva College)

Coach Marlon 'Boozie' George says 2021 has been a fruitful year for the Striving for Success junior golf programme.

Speaking on Pointe FM's Sports Overflow on Monday night, coach George said the junior golf programme for young boys and girls working toward playing university or professional golf, attained several achievements last year.

He said the performance of Sabienea Winston, who completed her freshman year for the Golden Tornadoes at the Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, was a major success.

"Yes 2021 was a really good year for us because we had a lot of success. We had Sabienea playing her first year of golf in college as a freshman and she did very well. She made history at one point when she led her team to record their lowest ever score in the school's history," George said.

"We had our young boys and young girls playing golf and we also got several scholarship offers for the girls and also for the boys. And just the other day, another of our golfers, young Taj Barnes, we got a call from a US college that is interested in him so we had to send off his bio with some videos to them," he added.

Last September, Winston recorded a score of 78, to help her team to an overall score of 361, breaking Geneva College's lowest score record in its young golf programme's three-year history.

Winston, who is one of several Antiguan golfers who have received athletic scholarships to Geneva College, claimed three PAC Women's Golf Rookie of the Week awards during her debut season for the Golden Tornadoes.

She won the awards for her outstanding performances on September 7 and 28 and October 5, 2021.

George said the Striving for Success Golf programme, which is conducted at Cedar Valley Golf Club, was able to host a clinic that was conducted by US professional golfer James Nicholas while he was on vacation in Antigua last year.

George says Nicholas, who competes on the Korn Ferry Tour, which is the second largest American professional golf circuit, will be partnering with Striving for Success in hosting a clinic for young Antiguan golfers when he returns for his vacation later this year.

"Also we had James Nicholas, who is a Korn Ferry Tour player. He missed playing on the PGA two by two shots and he is now playing on the Korn Ferry Tour. He came out to Cedar Valley on 27 December last year and conducted a clinic for our juniors," George said.

"That went really well and Nicholas is now interested in working with us going forward. Nicholas had reached out to us a few weeks earlier on Instagram and he so decided he wanted to come to Antigua and do a clinic for us.

"We had a really good clinic and the kids were excited because the kids from the school programme joined up with the kids from my programme for that clinic. It was really uplifting and the golfers learned a lot so we had a really good clinic.

"Nicholas now wants the clinic to be an annual event, which we are really excited about. Also we are in talks with getting two of our juniors into a summer tour golfing academy for two months this summer."