

ON THE GROUND DAILY, COMMUNITY POLICING OFFICERS PARTNER WITH NEOC TO DISTRIBUTE MASKS



RCIPS Community Policing Officers have distributed nearly 24,000 reusable cloth masks across the Cayman Islands as of yesterday (Thursday, 21 May). The move is part of a special National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) mask distribution project.

The frontline RCIPS officers have fanned out in all three Islands, handing out some 21,500 on Grand Cayman, 2,300 on Cayman Brac and 87 on Little Cayman. A further 41,000 are still to be distributed.

While distribution of masks only began last week, Director

of Hazard Management Cayman Islands Danielle Coleman explains that the NEOC started the project some time ago.

Project combines procurement, negotiating and logistics

"When it became clear that we would be moving towards everyone needing to wear a mask in public places, an immediate challenge was how we would source and then distribute reusable masks to all persons across the Cayman Islands.

The Support Services cluster which combines procurement, negotiating and logistics skills as well as private sector contacts took the lead on this project and were able to source the required amount at a reasonable price", Ms Coleman says.

100,000 masks procured

Support Services ultimately procured a total of 100,000 masks, half from Jamaica and half from American corporation Hanes, at a total cost of USD150,000. The DART Group helped procure the masks from the US, which had not originally been intended to be sold outside the country.

Those purchased from Jamaica are in use by various public safety agencies including the Police and the Jamaica Defense Force. Meanwhile the Hanes masks have been approved by both the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control in the United States.



Partnership of Support Services Cluster and RCIPS

To ensure nationwide distribution Support Services partnered with the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service. As of late last week this resulted in teams of Community Police Officers and Community Safety Officers going door-to-door across the three Islands.

Inspector Courtney Myles, who heads the Community Policing Department of the RCIPS, comments that the masks have already reached nearly all the population on Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. Meanwhile about 25 percent of the Grand Cayman total has been delivered.

"We thought this was the perfect project for our community team. We are on the ground daily, and as such we know people and their circumstances at the neighbourhood level. Our capability to go door to door also means that we can properly map and manage the distribution process in a way that is fair to all." Inspector Myles remarks.

Flyers with instructions for the care and proper use of the reusable cloth masks are also being provided to ensure maximum effectiveness.

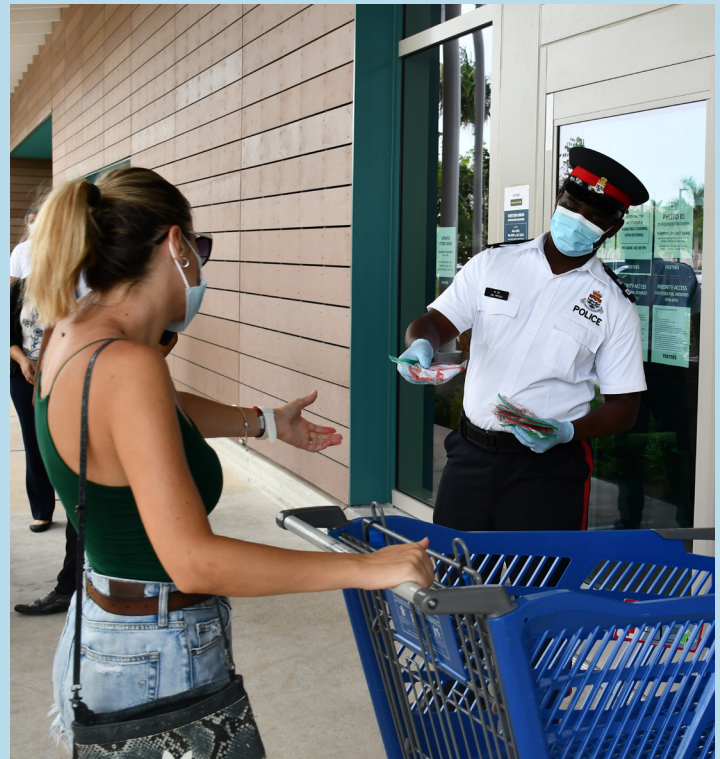
Frontline & customer facing agencies getting masks too

Masks are also being provided to frontline personnel within public safety and customer facing agencies such as RCIPS, Prison Service, Customs and Border Control, Airports Authority and Water Authority.

With local businesses such as supermarkets now requiring persons to wear face-coverings to gain access, Community Police Officers have also been on site at all locations with a limited supply of disposable masks to give anyone who comes without one.

Will be included in Civil Service & SAGs return-to-work PPE kits.

They will also be included in the return-to-work personal protective equipment kits for all Cayman Islands Government entities, as well as Statutory Authorities and Government Companies, in preparation for phased reactivation of the public service.



New mask wearing requirements

New public health regulations require all persons in the Cayman Islands, over the age of two years old, to wear a face covering when indoors in a public place and unable to maintain a distance of six feet from other persons.

Chief Medical Officer Dr John Lee thanked NEOC including the Support Services Team and the RCIPS for working to ensure that all persons in the Cayman Islands are able to comply with the legislation as quickly as possible.

Additional information about how to wear masks and what kinds of masks are safe to wear is available from www.explore.gov.ky/coronavirus.



FRONTLINE FIREFIGHTERS USE SPECIALISED EQUIPMENT TO SUPPORT COVID-19 EFFORTS

The Cayman Islands Fire Service (CIFS) is using its specialised equipment to support the Government's drive to increase COVID-19 testing.

Test kits are stored in dry ice. However, dry ice can cause cold burns if not handled properly. It may also make the atmosphere unbreathable in confined spaces.

To ensure the health workers who need to access the test kits are kept safe, frontline firefighters are the ones retrieving these kits from storage as required. The fire officers suit up in their breathing apparatus and specialised personal protective equipment, and are then able to open and ventilate storage containers and remove the boxes of test kits safely.

Wayne Ebanks dons breathing apparatus and specialised PPE, and is checked by Vince McElroy, before entering the test kit storage container.

Commenting on the CIFS' partnership with the Health Services Authority in this effort, Chief Fire Officer Paul Walker said, "This is just a small example of the multi-agency Cayman Islands Government response to the COVID-19 situation. All agencies and services are finding different ways of working and over the past two months have developed closer working relationships as a result."

He continued, "The professionalism and willingness of CIFS staff to diversify, deliver flexible working and support colleagues from across government agencies and services is a wonderful testament to their focus of keeping residents and businesses safe across the Cayman Islands."



Wayne Ebanks dons breathing apparatus and specialised PPE, and is checked by Vince McElroy, before entering the test kit storage container.

The breathing apparatus and protective equipment were newly acquired last year as part of an ongoing initiative to equip CIFS to world class standards.

LOVE FOR OUR FRONTLINE WORKERS

We invited the public to share their appreciation for our frontline workers via Frontline Fridays on Radio Cayman. Here are just a few of the messages that came in for you:

THANK YOU!

"The team at the **Ministry of Employment and Border Control** would like to send a shout-out to all of our essential workers on the frontline. Special thanks to our hard working staff at **Customs and Border Control, WORC, Department of Labour and Pensions, the Passport and Corporate Services Office** and our newest staff at the newly formed **Cayman Islands Regiment**. You all are doing a fantastic job and are appreciated. **Thank you so much.**"

"Thank you from the Pickering family!!"

"Good afternoon and a very good Friday to everyone. Wanting to give a shout-out this afternoon to all the frontline workers. You're making yourselves and Cayman proud for all the work that you're doing. **We appreciate it very very much. God bless you and the Cayman Islands.**"

