

# *COVID-19 epidemiological update and science news in Cuba*

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Havana, May 5 (RHC)-- Good news is being reported these days in Cuba as a decrease in active cases of COVID-19 has been registered on the island. At the same time, however, the Cuban government emphasizes the need to maintain social distance and strictly comply with the indications set forth in the plan for confronting the pandemic.

The Minister of Public Health and leading scientists from the Center for Molecular Immunology took part on the prime time radio and TV program Mesa Redonda (Round Table) Tuesday evening to report on the current situation of the disease in the country and to provide further information on the research being carried out to tackle COVID-19.

Dr. José Angel Portal Miranda, Minister of Public Health of Cuba, began his appearance by referring to the global emergency caused by the new coronavirus, which has reached great magnitude since it is present in practically all countries.

He referred to the Virtual Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held on Monday, which focused on how to effectively contribute to the global efforts to address the unprecedented effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, "a health crisis that has reminded us how much we depend on each other."

In the final declaration of that meeting, he recalled that the participating leaders expressed their concern about the rapid spread of COVID-19, a widely contagious disease that poses a huge challenge to humanity and therefore requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation.

Similarly, it was noted that it is the poorest and most vulnerable who are hardest hit by the pandemic, whose impact will reverse hard-won development gains and hinder progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

In this regard, said Portal Miranda, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres reiterated that "not enough solidarity has been shown with developing countries, which need a lot of support to close the existing gaps," a thought ratified by World Health Organization Director Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

The Cuban Minister of Public Health, who also participated in the virtual meeting, summarized that the participants called for intensified international cooperation to contain, mitigate and defeat the virus, through the exchange of information and knowledge, "tools that are available to all to work on controlling the pandemic and continue applying the measures recommended by the WHO.

Portal Miranda highlighted what was expressed at the Summit by Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel, in whose speech he said that this solidarity interconnection had not been achieved and today the price is paid for the inability to correct the serious social imbalances due to the failure to globalize solidarity.

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