COVID-19 and Civil Registration

St. Kitts & Nevis

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• Civil registration is important
• Provides Information on:-
  - Persons Identity
  - Disease Burden (Health Statistics)
  - Population Demographic etc
• District Registrars entrusted to record all vital events in their area in Registers
• Authentication is done at the Central Registry Office
• Process started to scan and digitize records (Birth, Deaths Adoptions & Marriages)
COVID-19 and Civil Registration

- 25th March, 2020 1st cases announced
- Borders closed in 28 March 2020
- State of Emergency Declared with rolling lock downs/curfews
- Only Essential Services allowed out (Fire, Police, Medical etc)
- Civil Registration Office was closed/suspended
- Permission had to be granted for funerals and weddings
- Only 20 - 25 persons allowed to be in attendance at these services
- Government Offices reopened June/July – Covid-19 Protocols came in place in the office setting (staff alternate working days)
Civil Registration’s Efforts to deal with COVID-19

- Registration on the District continued
- Registrar/Deputy was on call
Generation of Statistics

• As mentioned before the road to our records being digitized has begun.
• Data Entry Clerks have been doing their best to capture information from as far back as 1859 for Births and Deaths and 1885 for Marriages.
• In the mean time certificates are still written up when requested.
• We are therefore faced with challenges that some of these records are very fragile and have to be handled carefully.
The civil registry department although not digitized is still able to provide statistics when needed.

These statistics are shared with the statistics department when collected.

Yes a comparison can be made between the last ten months of 2019 and that of 2020 can be done.
Comparison of Births and Deaths
Generation of Statistics Cont’d

- Data was not readily available to make the comparison between the marriages for 2019 and 2020.
  - This is usually handled at the Court Registry.
  - Data for divorces was also not available as this information is at the Court Registry.
  - Challenges in this area lies where information is not up to date.
  - Late registration also another challenge