



The provincial meeting of the Group of Experts to face Covid-19 in Holguín was held at the Government headquarters, chaired by deputy governor Yunia Perez Hernandez.

On this occasion, all the municipalities of Holguín participated through video conference, who initially learnt on the evolution of the disease in the territory by Dr. Osmany Ricardo Puig, Second Degree specialist in Epidemiology.

"We have been decreasing cases at the provincial level for two weeks, however five municipalities have increased their incidence rates. In addition, in the last 15 days the curves of the graph are irregular, which shows how much remains to be done and controlled. In order to do so, it is essential to increase the number of tests", the specialist pointed out.

Then Dr. Amarilis Pupo Zaldívar, provincial director of Epidemiology made some clarifications.

"Gibara, Banes, Báguanos, Antilla and Cacocum have both extradomiciliary and intradomiciliary sources of infection. The municipalities must work together with the Expert Groups to make better decisions and look for the best solutions for each specific

problem.

"It is also essential that we take action at all levels so that the population understands that Covid-19 is not over. We went from the complex months of July and August to a very relaxed situation of people, even though we have a complex situation in terms of virus circulation, matched with low levels of vaccination in the pediatric population.

"New variants of the disease are not ruled out either, which we favor as long as the virus circulates in the population and it can mutate. We are the fourth province in terms of the number of cases, even though several provinces have significantly reduced their numbers. Each territory should analyze and think about what else it can do to transform this situation", concluded the doctor.

In this regard, Pérez Hernández made reference to the fact that the pandemic is not under control in Holguín, especially in four municipalities with the highest numbers.



For his part, Dr. Alberto Piriz Azza referred to the irresponsibility in pediatric care related to the constant changes of companions or even with two companions per child, which affects the increase of cases if the person is infected and then leaves the hospital. He also warned that many of these people are unaware of the biosecurity measures necessary to avoid contagion.

After the doctor's talk, the Deputy Governor asked the four municipalities that have not been able to control the pandemic in their territories to speak.

From Báguanos, they referred to problems with the access to the places of incidence, the referral of patients, the follow-up of positive cases after two weeks of evolution, as well as the irresponsibility of the population.

Cacocum alleged failures in organic work, the need to strengthen the follow-up of patients from low-risk hospitals and timely admission.

In Banes, there are difficulties in the follow-up of cases with negative test, together with their identification, timely admission and isolation.

Gibara presented difficulties with the completion of its staff in primary health care, as well as some specialists in hospital and isolation centers. Today, the situation is different, but there are still cases that refuse to be transferred to isolation centers or hospitals.

"Today the most affected municipalities have the same situation as the municipality of Holguin and Moa in July and August, that is why we must transfer our experiences and those factors in which we are failing. We must also insist on vaccination and the symptoms or conditions of those vaccinated. If the person is a household contact or close to positive cases, he/she should not be vaccinated until it is certain that he/she does not have the disease. It has been proven that the vaccine does not cause Covid, but the person may be in the incubation process, even with symptoms, and go for vaccination.

"Patients at risk, even if they have a negative result cannot be discharged if they continue with symptoms or be sent to low-risk wards or wards that do not have the necessary resources for their care in case of aggravation. We have the capacity, and if it is not possible to treat them in any territory, they are referred to the provincial capital city. The main thing is to avoid complications.

"In the case of patients with acute disease, we cannot speak of post Covid symptoms four weeks after negativization, but of aggravation," Dr. Juan Carlos Ortiz Sablón pointed out.

In general, experts insist on the need to go to the health system if the person has symptoms, which are not necessarily respiratory, since it is known that the disease sometimes occurs without cough or respiratory affectations, even when it is positive and is transmitted.

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The population is also called upon on maintaining the measures, since the situation is not favorable and a considerable number of people are being neglected.