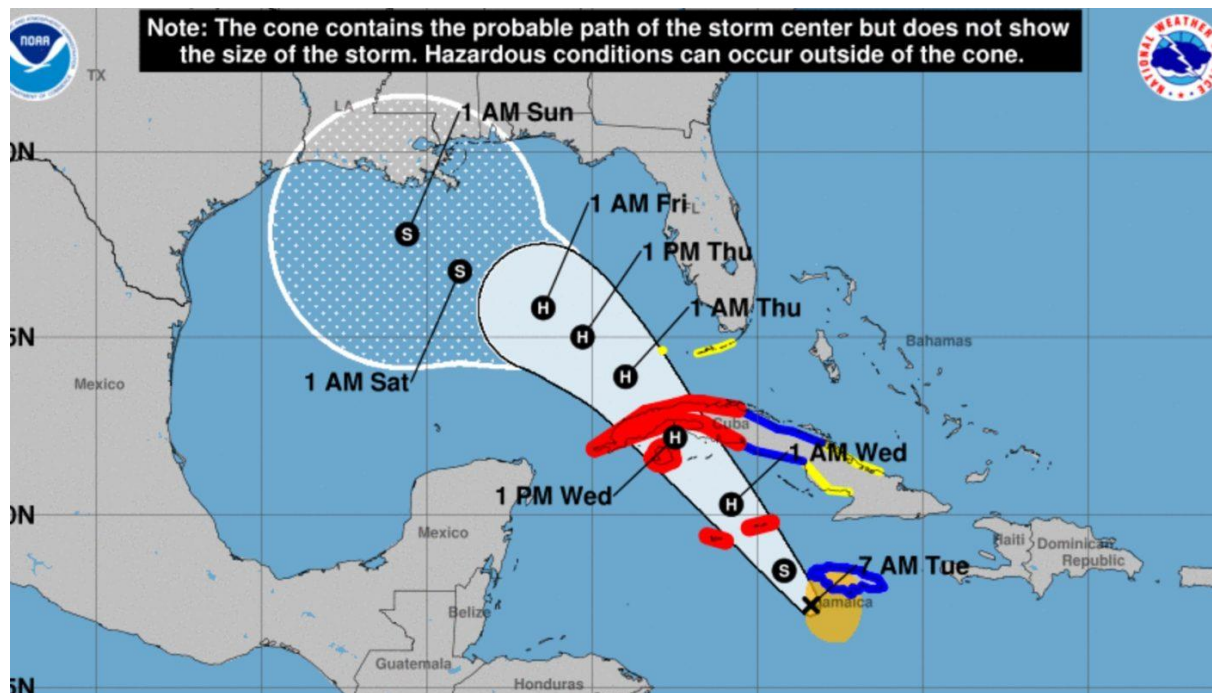


Cuba prepares for tropical storm Rafael



Expected path of Hurricane Rafael (Source: [NHC/Cubadebate](#))

Just days after Hurricane Oscar caused devastation in the east of the island, the next danger of the current hurricane season is already looming: Tropical Storm Rafael, not yet classified as a hurricane, is gaining strength and heading for western Cuba. The Cuban civil defense [announced](#) appropriate preparations. In Havana and on the Isle of Youth, educational institutions are closed today.

The storm is expected to hit the Isle of Youth on Wednesday and then move westwards across Cuba. Its effects will already be felt today in the form of heavy rainfall, first in the east and later in the west of the island.

The civil defense alert phase has already been activated on the Isle of Youth. In addition to suspending school and university operations, public transportation will also be paused. Residents in endangered areas and tourists on the island of Cayo Largo del Sur will be evacuated. From midday onwards, all shops will also cease operations until further notice. Overland transport has also been suspended in the western provinces of the main archipelago until further notice. ([Cubaheute](#))