The Regional Tourism and Health Programme (THP)

Enhancing Caribbean Tourism ……preferred, safer, healthier, more reputable destination

Dr. Lisa Indar (CARPHA)
Head, Regional Tourism and Health Programme

Preventing disease, promoting and protecting health
The Regional Tourism and Health programme (THP)

- **NEW, Innovative, Integrated, Multisectoral & Multifaceted**
  - addresses **health safety & environmental sanitation threats** to tourism
  - to promote health & well-being of visitors and locals
  - enhance quality, competitiveness, profitability & sustainability of tourism

- **Non–traditional Surveillance & Response system**

- **New Players (clients) & New Partners:**
  - Ministry of tourism, tourism authorities, tourism agencies
  - private sector hotels, cruise ships, visitor

- **First global & Caribbean-wide effort of its kind:** *international precedent*
What is CARPHA?

- Regional **Integrated** Public Health agency
- Serves 24 Caribbean countries
- Mandated by Heads of Government
- Combines 5 regional Health Institutes
  - Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC)
  - Environmental Health Institute (CEHI)
  - Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute
  - Caribbean Health Research Council
  - Caribbean Regional Drug Testing

- Prevent disease, **Promote Health**, Respond to **Public Health Emergencies**
  - Regional response and coordination.
  - Regional and Global **PARTNERS**

- Small, diverse populations
- Varying levels development
- Most tourism dependent region in the world

[Website: http://carpha.org/](http://carpha.org/)
Tourism – an economic and social phenomenon

- Business of tourism equals /surpasses oil exports, food/ cars
- Global spread: huge economic and employment benefits
Tourism (travel): global health security issue

- Travel & tourism: (people movement)
  - Pose health, safety & security risks
  - propels global disease spread
- Increase in travel - increased risks Health, Safety & Security: Prerequisites for tourism
- UNWTO: Without adequate crisis management, a short-term crisis can quickly become a long-term tourism crisis and socio-economic disaster
Caribbean: tourism dependent, economic driver

Tourism is increasing

- **2016**: US $56B (15% GDP)
- **535,130** hotel rooms
- **Stay over arrivals**: 33M increased from 20M in 2000
- **Cruise arrivals**: 26M destination: 33.7% in 2016
- **Visitors to locals**, 2:1

**Increasing tourism - increase in economic sustainability**

Source: CTO, 2017
Travel and tourism is the 'business of the Caribbean

Health of Caribbean: health of tourism: most tourism-dependent region

Tourism: Vulnerable to health, safety, security & environment (HSE)
  - Diarrheal & other disease outbreaks, environmental degradation, sanitation

High & increasing visitors: increases the health, safety and security risks

Evident: introduction and spread of new and re-emerging diseases, exemplified by Norovirus, H1NI, Chikungunya and the recent Zika epidemic

However, even though more people visit the Caribbean than reside (3:1 ratio),

National health monitoring surveillance systems: based on local population

No real-time tourism surveillance & response: detect & reduce spread of illness across and within borders

Inadequate food safety & environmental sanitation training

Lack of cumulative HSE standard's and certifying system

Inadequate tourism & health partnerships: to address health in tourism

Need an Integrated Solution to address HSE tourism threats
- Travellers Diarrhea and Food & Water-borne diseases
  - Most common cause of illness in Caribbean travelers
  - Norovirus, Salmonella, Shigella, Giardia, Staphylococcus, E.coli

- Vector borne diseases
  - Dengue, Malaria, Chikungunya, Zika

- Respiratory diseases
  - Legionnaires’ disease, SARS, Bird Flu, Influenza H1N1

- Vaccine preventable diseases
  - Polio, Measles and Rubella (Caribbean free of these!)
  - Hepatitis

- Sexually Transmitted infections
  - HIV/AIDS, anti biotic resistant gonorrhea
### Illness Outbreaks: Impact on Health, Tourism, Economy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Outbreak type</th>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Risks</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Campylobacter</td>
<td>Function</td>
<td>Chicken, mass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCI</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Norovirus</td>
<td>Hotel</td>
<td>Hygiene</td>
<td>1500, Closure US$17M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Norovirus</td>
<td>Home for aged</td>
<td>Hygiene</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bermuda</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Staphylococcus</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Ham, holding</td>
<td>&gt;50 ill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Norovirus</td>
<td>Hotel</td>
<td>Hygiene</td>
<td>&gt;800, closure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Salmonella</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Eggpaste, holding</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobago</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Salmonella</td>
<td>Hotel</td>
<td>Birds</td>
<td>US $4 M lawsuit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Shigella</td>
<td>Prison</td>
<td>Cucumber, handwashing</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobago</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Unknown,</td>
<td>Twin hotel</td>
<td>water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Salmonella</td>
<td>6 hotels</td>
<td>Liquid Eggs, holding, cooking,</td>
<td>&gt;300, travel advisory, closure, lawsuits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bermuda</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>Hotel</td>
<td>water</td>
<td>400, $75M lawsuit,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Salmonella</td>
<td>Institution</td>
<td>Eggnog, hygiene</td>
<td>&gt;300, deaths</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


2010-2016: **>250 AGE outbreaks: one third tourism-related.**
Consequence of late notification of Tourism PH events: Norovirus Outbreak TCI

1. May 2012: NOROVIRUS introduced
   - Index case: visitor
   - Spread: 50 cases – 300 – 1500 (1 week)
   - Impact
     • Multiple hotel outbreak
     • Hotel closure
     • Widespread Negative publicity
     • Huge Costs & Economic loss
     • Decline in arrivals

2. Late 2012: Noro outbreak in school
   - Spread and now in the population

3. 2013: Grand Turk Cruise Port Outbreak
   - Port closed
   - Widespread Negative publicity
   - Huge Costs & Economic loss

No Norovirus b4 June 2012
• Spread increased due to late notification & response
• Norovirus: now in population
• Could have been reduce if detected & reported earlier
The SOLUTION

Illnesses are largely PREVENTABLE

- Food and environmental safety
- Preventive messaging (facilities, guests, staff, locals)
- Standards and certification
- Monitoring: early warning/alert for early response

Regional TOURISM and HEALTH PROGRAM

Address HSE issues impacting on tourism via integrated system

- Tourism Health Information Surveillance & Response system (THiS)
- Capacity building: Food safety and environmental sanitation
- HSE standards and certification schemes
- Partnership's: multisectoral, multiagency approach

THMRS project (IDB grant)
Need to Expand Caribbean Surveillance & Response

• Critical necessity for Caribbean countries to expand their national surveillance systems to capture travel related/visitor/tourism illnesses

• Adequate disease detection, P &C: core public health obligation.

• Key: core surveillance systems that can detect public health issues in real-time and providing information for a timely, coordinated response

• IHR 2005: binds countries to “prevent international spread of disease”

• Inadequate health monitoring/response systems: increased spread of disease

• Travelers Health surveillance systems implemented by public health agencies in the US, UK and Canada: effective in detecting and reducing disease spread
OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen capacity to detect and respond to travel-related public health threats.
- Reduce illnesses, introduction, and spread to local and visitor populations.
- Build capacity in food safety and environmental sanitation & certification.
- Achieve a healthier, safer, better quality, and more secure tourism industry.
- Extend the safety net of tourism deeper into the market.
- Mitigate against public health events (e.g., Zika) that can damage tourism.
- Provide timely alerts of health, environmental, and social events to support health monitoring efforts and stimulate a rapid response.
- Promote a healthy workforce and reduce avoidable health costs.
- Develop partnerships for sustainability tourism and economies.
- Enhance the reputation, competitiveness, marketability of Caribbean as a preferred healthier, safer, more secure destination (HSE/HSS).
Components

1. Advocacy Partnerships, Endorsement Promotion, Sustainability

2. Early Warning and Response Surveillance System: Tourism Health Information, Surveillance, Monitoring and Response system (THMRS)

3. Advanced Food Safety & Environmental Sanitation Training & Certification

4. Standards: Health, Safety & Environment Standards: Certification & Recognition

5. Partnerships: Multisectoral & Multiagency
Key areas for successful implementation and sustainability

- **Visibility, Advocacy, Sensitization, Promotion**
  - Website, webinars, FB, press releases, magazines, brochures
  - Marketing, Videos, Messaging & focus groups
  - THP package of new value added services of Training, S&R (THMRS, Guidelines, Training, Certification, Stds, Technical assistance, Response)

- **Mandate for Reporting, Recognition, Endorsement**
  - CMS commitment to use THMRS: expand & enhance national surveillance systems
  - **CCH4 priority**, also CTO and CHTA Strategic plans
  - Legislation/Policy change/Ministerial decree/agreement: reporting & training
  - **COHSOD**- Guidelines, THMRS (RPG), regional policy framework and mandate
  - Promotion of Self Reporting: **THP App**, THP Health Card at Air & Sea Ports
  - Publish THP registered hotels (preferred HSE hotel) on CARPHA websites
  - Publish reported illnesses, FS & Env inspection scores, certified FS personnel

- **Partnerships: Multisectoral & multiagency collaboration & Implementation**
  - International, regional & nat tourism & health agencies, IMPACs, RCME

- **Global Recognition tools**
  - THP HSE logo, CARPHA/CTO/CHTA HSE awards; CARPHA accredited FS & Env training

- **Environmental behavioral change**

- **Fee for service, Funding for OECS, UKOTS, & other sustainability mechanisms**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mandate to Report</th>
<th>Regional mandate</th>
<th>Recognition tool</th>
<th>Partnership</th>
<th>Promotion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seek to Mandate reporting of illness from hospitality sector Legislation, Policy amendment or ministerial decree</td>
<td>CCH4</td>
<td>THP logo - CARPHA, CHTA, CTO recommended healthier safer hotel/entity</td>
<td>Multiagency Stakeholder meeting, Sept 2017</td>
<td>Web presence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special virtual CMOs: meeting of Aug 14</td>
<td>Put in SO 1, 3 &amp; 4 with indicators that will require countries to report on</td>
<td>THP Plaque - for hotels reporting as healthier safer hotel</td>
<td>Partnership agreement (e.g. MOUs) between regional and international health and tourism agencies to recognize &amp; endorse THP</td>
<td>Videos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advise, support and consensus on mandate to report</td>
<td>CTO: Add THP to CTO sustainable strategy</td>
<td>THP Plaque - for hotels reporting as healthier safer hotel</td>
<td></td>
<td>Brochures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft policy document</td>
<td>CHTA: Add THP in CHTA strategic plan</td>
<td>THP Plaque</td>
<td>Partnership agreement (e.g. MOUs) between regional and international health and tourism agencies to recognize &amp; endorse THP</td>
<td>Magazine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written endorsement at regional THP meeting, Sept 2017</td>
<td>Regional guidelines</td>
<td>THP Plaque/off Website</td>
<td>Endorsement of regional guidelines for responding to tourism based PH illnesses</td>
<td>THP App</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Take recommendations to COHSOD, Sept 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td>THP Plaque/off Website</td>
<td></td>
<td>Air &amp; Sea port THP health cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 OECS Ministers, Nov 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td>THP Plaque/off Website</td>
<td>Endorsement of regional guidelines for responding to tourism based PH illnesses</td>
<td>Instructional guides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Country pilot (Oct 2017-March 2018)</td>
<td></td>
<td>THP Plaque/off Website</td>
<td>Endorsement of regional guidelines for responding to tourism based PH illnesses</td>
<td>Self Reporting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What Has been done to date
Status of Implementation

1. Advocacy and Partnerships
   - International Partnerships: CDC, CLIA, FTO, PHAC, PHE, UNWTO
   - Regional & National: CTO, CHTA, CMOs, health & tourism, hotel & cruise ass

2. Promotion
   - Logo, brochures, bookmark, web presence, media, Video, CbeanBeat

3. THMRS system
   - Regional guidelines for responding to travel related PH issues
   - Web based system developed and piloted in 8 countries
   - Protocols & partnerships for Early Warning and Response

4. Food and Environmental Safety Assessment Training & Certification
   - Modules developed
   - Training & Certification conducted in 8 countries

5. Country Implementation (Launched in 8)
   - Bahamas, Belize, Barbados, Trinidad, Tobago, Jamaica, Guyana (6 IDB) Bermuda, TCI,

5. Mandate & Support: CMOs, CC4 and COHSOD
### Program Launch, THIS Training and Food Safety Training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Diagnosis, Advocacy and Multi-sectoral stakeholder meetings</th>
<th>Program Launch, THIS Training and Food Safety Training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diagnosis and Gap Analysis</td>
<td>Advocacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahamas</td>
<td>November 8-14, 2015</td>
<td>Health 6</td>
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<td>Tourism 4</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hotels/private 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>March 4 – 12, 2016</td>
<td>Health 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tourism 2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hotels/private 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>March 20-24, 2016</td>
<td>Health 0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tourism 3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hotels/private 0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Trinidad</td>
<td>29-Apr-16</td>
<td>Health 4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tourism 9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hotels/private 0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tobago</td>
<td>8-Jun-16</td>
<td>Health 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tourism 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Hotels/private 0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>December 12-15, 2016</td>
<td>Health 11</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tourism 0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hotels/private 0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>February 15-17, 2017</td>
<td>Health 7</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Tourism 0</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hotels/private 7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-Totals</td>
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<td>63</td>
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**TOTALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis, Advocacy and Multi-sectoral stakeholder meetings</th>
<th>Program Launch, THIS Training and Food Safety Training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>270</td>
<td>909</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## THP /THMRS 2016-2017 Multi-sectoral Training, Knowledge and Capacity Building Outputs, for health, tourism and private stakeholders

### Diagnosis, Advocacy and Multi-sectoral stakeholder meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Diagnosis and Gap Analysis</th>
<th>Advocacy Stakeholder Meetings</th>
<th>Program Launch, THiS Training and Food Safety Training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TCI</strong></td>
<td>May 16-23, 2016</td>
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<td>June 20-23, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>24 Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>14 Tourism</td>
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<td>Hotels/private</td>
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<td>7 Hotels/private</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>29 Hotels/private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bermuda</strong></td>
<td>November 20-26, 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>November 20-26, 2016 &amp; May 7-13, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>10 Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>2 Tourism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hotels/private</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Hotels/private</td>
<td>4 Hotels/private</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cayman Islands</strong></td>
<td>February 6-11, 2017</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Tourism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hotels/private</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hotels/private</td>
<td>Hotels/private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Diagnosis and Gap Analysis

Sub-totals: 31

### Advocacy Stakeholder Meetings

Sub-totals: 41

### Stakeholders THP and THMRS workshop

Sub-totals: 83

### Training in THiS system

Sub-totals: 3

### Advanced Food Safety Training

Sub-totals: 35

### Impact Totals

Sub-totals: 72

### Program Launch, THiS Training and Food Safety Training

Sub-totals: 121

## IDB and Non IDB: 1102 persons
New Regional Public Goods
To prepare & respond to public health threats that transcend national boundaries

- Web-based, real time, Tourism Early Warning & Response Health Information Surveillance System (THiS.carpha.org)
  - real-time data for early alerts & rapid coordinated response
  - improved capacity to monitor health & wellness of locals & visitors.
  - strengthened health monitoring efforts & adherence to IHR requirements.

- Regional Guidelines for response to travel related public health illnesses in stay over (hotels/guest house) and sea arrivals (passenger ships)
  - harmonised & standardized responses, to avoid the introduction and spread of public health threats.

- Food Safety & Environment Sanitation capacity building & certification
  - Increased capacities in advanced food safety, illness causation and prevention, outbreak response and environmental sanitation

- Multisectoral, multiagency, Partnership approach
  - CTO, CHTA, IDB US CDC, PHE, PHAC
The Tourism Health Information, Monitoring and Response System (THMRS)

Preventing disease, promoting and protecting health

Partners:
International public health and tourism agencies

Environmental Indicators

Media Reports

CARPHA Laboratory Data

Passenger Ship Surveillance Data

Tourism & Health Information System (THiS) web app for syndromic surveillance:
- stay-over facilities (hotels)
- Self-reporting

Regional Surveillance Guidelines (stay-over arrivals and passenger ships)
Tourism Health Information, Surveillance, Monitoring and Response system (THMRS)

Real-Time Surveillance Systems

Early Detection, Warning and Response to tourism based public health issues

Regional Guidelines

Hotel and Cruise ship Surveillance (THMRS)

Preventing disease, promoting and protecting health

http://this.carpha.org
THMRS = Tourism & Health Information System (THiS)

this.carpha.org

- **web-based, real time**, (early warning & response) tourism information system
- monitor and respond efficiently to tourism related public health threats/crisis to prevent and minimize the spread and impact of disease

**Early Warning hence Early Response**:
- **Avoid or minimize** spread/increase; Loss of revenue & reputation
- Automated instant analyses
- **Automated Alerts systems**: trigger timely notification for rapid response
Communicable Diseases
- Syndromic (weekly)
- Laboratory data
- Outbreaks

NATIONAL Surveillance System

GAP: Does not include travel/tourism related illnesses from visitors/locals

CARPHA

Special Surveillance Projects, e.g. HIV
Proposed Enhanced National surveillance system

BENEFIT: reduce the spread/increase of illness & potential large outbreaks among tourists and locals
- enhance & promote health and safety of visitors and locals
- enhance tourism product sustainability and image
Regional Guidelines
Managing issues of Public Health significance
in Sea (passenger ships) and air arrivals (hotels/guesthouse)

• Guidance documents for port authorities, national port/environmental health, national public health surveillance, and tourism organizations
• Harmonized standardization response to travel related PH issues
**Proposed Caribbean Vessel Surveillance System (CVSS)**

**Communication Protocol**

**Actions**
- **Cruise Ship** completes MDH and forwards to **Shipping Agent/Port Authority** 24 hours and 4 hours* (**if there is a change in illnesses**) before arrival
- **Port Authority** reviews MDH and vessel medical logs/records and if no public health issue identified, grants pratique
- If a public health issue is identified, **Port Authority** immediately forwards MDH to **CMO**, Medical Officer of Health, National Epidemiologist (or designate), and CMO, who will assess action to be taken based on Regional Guidelines (i.e. granting pratique, investigation)
- If an outbreak is suspected or confirmed, the **National Epidemiologist** must immediately notify the CMO and form an Outbreak Assessment Team. The **National Epidemiologist** should complete the Case/Outbreak Reporting Form (Annex 7.1.3) and submit it along with relevant (non-identifiable) information from the MDH to **CARPHA**.
- If an outbreak is declared by the **National Epidemiologist**, an Outbreak Response Team is activated, the CMO notifies the **NFP** (also notified of any notifiable IHR public health event—see IHR(2005) Annex 2), and the CMO notifies the **Ministry of Tourism** who will notify applicable Communications departments and **CARPHA**.

**Outbreak investigation or any notifiable IHR public health event (see IHR(2005) Annex 2)**

**International Agencies:**
- CDC
- CLIA
- FCCA
- PAHO
- PHAC
- PHE
- WHO
- WTO

**Region**
- **CARPHA**
  - Member States
  - CTO
  - CHTA

**International**
- **WHO**

**Vessel**
- Cruise Ship

**Competent National Authority**
- **Ministry of Health/Public Health**
  - CMO
  - Name: Email: Emergency Phone:
- **Chief Environmental Health Officer**
  - Name: Email: Emergency Phone:
- **Medical Officer of Health**
  - Name: Email: Emergency Phone:
- **National Epidemiologist**
  - Name: Email: Emergency Phone:

**Outbreak Investigation or any Notifiable IHR Public Health Event**

**Outbreak Assessment/Response Teams**

**Communications**
- Name: Email: Emergency Phone:
Cases of illness are reported in the Tourism and Health Information System (THIS) by a registered Facility or by self-reporting of visitors and staff members in the THIS web-based application. National Epidemiologist/Surveillance Officers review syndromic data reported in THIS to determine if there are any unusual syndrome clusters (Flags are generated in THIS for Attack Rates: Gastroenteritis ≥ 3%, Fever & Neurologic Symptoms and Fever & Hemorrhagic Symptoms >0%). National Epidemiologist/Surveillance Officers report any unusual syndrome clusters to Medical Officer of Health, Environmental Health, Laboratory, and works with the Outbreak Assessment Team to conduct a public health assessment to determine the need for application of additional measures and whether an outbreak investigation is required. If an outbreak is declared, an Outbreak Response Team is activated and the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) is notified immediately.

CMO notifies the Ministry of Tourism/Tourism Authority and Communications if an outbreak is declared or serious illness is reported, or any request for technical support.

Outbreak investigation or any notifiable IHR public health event (see IHR(2005) Annex 2)

International Agencies are involved in information sharing and response to Public Health Emergencies of International Concern (PHEICs) as per International Health Regulations (2005).
Food & Environmental Safety Training & Certification

• Advanced Food Safety and Environmental Safety Training with internationally recognized certification (5yrs)
• HACCP certified training
• Department-specific food safety courses
• Preventing food and water borne disease outbreaks
• Environmental Management and Sanitation
• Water quality monitoring & testing (including recreational water Q)
• Use of rapid test kits

- Assessment from Purchasing – Service
- Inspection scoring system and certification
- Training in Surveillance and Response
- Outbreaks and Prevention (Scenarios)
- Norovirus
- Training in areas of workers’ health and safety

Target Audience: Tourism food establishment staff (hotels, cruise ships)
Health, Safety And Environmental Standards Certification & Recognition System

- Develop & implement core set of credible Caribbean-wide Health, Safety and Environmental “clean and green” Standards, Certification and Recognition System to improve health, safety and environmental quality in the hospitality sector.
  - Standards (7): food safety, sewage treatment, energy management, solid waste management, integrated pest management and water testing and treatment, including recreational water
  - Certification through CROSQ & other recognized certifying bodies
  - Certified Hotels: Published on CTO, CHTA, CTDC, websites with links to international tourism and health websites
- Implementation of management systems to improve recreational and other water quality
4: Multisectoral Partnership and co-ordination in Tourism & Health

International Partners
- US CDC
- Canada
- PHAC
- PAHO/WHO
- UK & Euro CDC
- CLIA
- GIZ
- EU, EDF
- UNEP
- CTO
- IDB, CDB
- UWI
- CROSO

Regional Partners
- CARICOM
- CDEMA
- 5 Cs
- CARICOM
- CROSQ
- CTO
- CHTA
- UWI
- CDEMA
- OCTs
- CAL
- LIAT
- FDA, Inst Pasteur
- Cuban

Member states & Organizations
- Jamaica
- Haiti
- T&T
- T&T
- B’dos
- Mainland
- Bahamas

- National public health labs.
- Food and medicine Regulatory Authorities.
- Civil society organizations

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Mandates

- **Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) Support** (Aug 2017):
  - Special virtual CMOs Meeting on THP on August 14, 2017
  - CMOs supported implementation, THP in CCH4, & regional policy

- **Caribbean Cooperation in Health (CCH4) priority** (September 2017)
  - Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD), consisting of CARICOM Ministers of Health approved of THP as a priority

- **COHSOD Mandate for regional policy** (32nd COHSOD, Sept 23, 2017)
- Mandated CARPHA to prepare a Draft Regional Policy for the THP
  - having noted the efforts of CARPHA to mitigate public challenges in the tourism,
  - recognized the uniqueness of the engagement between public health and the private sector;
  - understanding the need for an adequate regulatory environment to support the public health efforts in the tourism sector
  - recognized the importance of CARPHA extended efforts in surveillance and ultimately disease prevention.
Preventing disease, promoting and protecting health

http://carpha.org/What-We-Do/Tourism-and-Health-Programme

CARIBBEAN TOURISM & HEALTH PROGRAM
Ensuring the health & safety of our visitors & locals

Tourism & Health Programme

Challenge to Sustainable Tourism in the Caribbean

The health of Caribbean economies is closely related to the health of its tourism industry. Poor health impacts tourism-related businesses and

Tourism & Health Programme
Ensuring the health & safety of our visitors & locals

*Preventing disease, promoting and protecting health

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Preventing disease, promoting and protecting health

THP in Caribbean Beat magazine

As the Caribbean is entering its high tourism season and popular mass gathering events like Christmas, Carnival and Cricket, the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) is pleased to announce its novel, Regional Tourism and Health Program (THP) for a Healthier, Safer, More Secure, Happier Tourism Experience.

Travel and tourism is the business of Caribbean with over 50M visitors in 2016. However, diseases like the recent Zika epidemic and other public health threats have negatively impacted on visitors’ experience.

Recognizing that the Caribbean is the most tourism dependent region in the world, and that tourism, which bring so many economic benefits, is vulnerable and can also contribute to health, safety and environmental (HSE) threats, including the introduction and spread of diseases by both visitors and locals, CARPHA in partnership with the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) and the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) established a regional THP to address HSE threats impacting on tourism.

The aim is to improve the health, safety and security of visitors and locals and thereby contribute to enhancing the quality, competitiveness, reputation, resilience and sustainability of Caribbean tourism.

With funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the THP is being executed by CARPHA, the Caribbean’s sole public health agency responsible for preventing disease, promoting and protecting health occurring among visitors to the Caribbean by air (hotels) and sea (ships), for harmonized & standardized responses, to avoid illness spread.

- **Food Safety and Environment Sanitation Capacity Building.** The Caribbean is known for its delicious cultural foods. However, travelers’ illnesses have been commonly linked to unsafe foods. Improving food safety will contribute to a healthier and more reputable tourism product. This component also allows for globally recognized certification.
- **Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Standards and Certification.** Caribbean-wide credible HSE “clean and green” Standards & Recognition System.
- **Multisectoral Partnerships with regional and international health and tourism stakeholders to address public health threats that transcend boundaries in a rapid manner.

The THP is currently being implemented in Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica and the Turks and Caicos Islands with the aim to extend to other islands.

This integrated program is the first Caribbean-wide and global effort of its kind, setting an international precedent. There is no better time than now, as new threats to health and travel in the region emerge and in this era of real time, instant information flow, for creating mechanisms for monitoring and responding to tourism health and safety threats.

According to Dr Lisa Inder, the Head of the THP... it is critical for the Caribbean, more than in any other region in the world, to be proactive and implement measures to monitor, respond and mitigate against tourism HSE threats in a timely manner. This will reduce the spread of diseases, the negative publicity and reputational damage that health events can have, and thus promote a healthier, safer, more secure and reputable Caribbean tourism product.

More information on the THP can be found at http://carpha.org/What-We-Do/Tourism-and-Health-Programme and on https://youtu.be/ict2FqbrRRs

Visitors rest assured, we are making Caribbean tourism healthier and safer for YOU.
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>THP Regional &amp; National Videos</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Video Links</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. CARPHA Launch ED Director</td>
<td>• <a href="http://carpha.org/Media-Centre/Video-Player/VideoId/37/Launch-Of-Tourism-And-Health-Programme-Call-To-Action">http://carpha.org/Media-Centre/Video-Player/VideoId/37/Launch-Of-Tourism-And-Health-Programme-Call-To-Action</a> <strong><a href="https://youtu.be/ic72FQpbRRs">https://youtu.be/ic72FQpbRRs</a></strong></td>
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<td>a. THiS Head, THP</td>
<td>• <a href="https://youtu.be/gSYAwXENdck">https://youtu.be/gSYAwXENdck</a> • <a href="https://youtu.be/wRjTqJt4EjE">https://youtu.be/wRjTqJt4EjE</a></td>
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<td>Jamaica</td>
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THANK YOU,

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Questions and Discussion