Outbreak of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

CARPHA Situation Report – No. 11 February 14, 2020

Summary

On 11 February 2020 the WHO confirmed that the disease formerly referred to as the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) has officially been named coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

This is an update to the Situation Report in relation to the outbreak of COVID-19, published on February 12, 2020.

An outbreak of novel coronavirus causing severe acute respiratory illness has been reported in Wuhan, China since December 21, 2019. There is evidence of human-to-human transmission among cases mostly in Wuhan city, but also in Japan, Vietnam, Germany and the United States of America.

CARPHA is working closely with international health partners to respond to this public health threat and provide timely advice and assistance to Member States and other regional partners and stakeholders.

On January 30, 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that this outbreak is a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. To date there have been no reported cases in the Region, thus the risk of importation of COVID-19 to the Region continues to be deemed LOW. However, CARPHA will continue to work with regional health security partners to review this risk level considering the rapidly changing global situation.

Relevant intelligence

This week, China changed how it is reporting cases. China has begun to report “clinical cases” without laboratory confirmation. This has caused a discrepancy in media reported cases and those reported by WHO. CARPHA will use statistics reported by the WHO, supplemented by other sources, where information is not available. Changes to reporting of global statistics will be guided by whether an international consensus is reached about including the clinically diagnosed cases as confirmed.

As of February 14, there were 48010 laboratory confirmed cases of patients with COVID-19. Outside of China, twenty-four (24) countries have confirmed at least one case among travellers exposed in China and/or person-to-person contact. Of the deaths reported to date, two were from outside of Mainland China. See Table 1 for...
more details on confirmed cases, deaths and recoveries. WHO Situation Report 24 identified 16 cases reported in four countries for which there are no clearly established epidemiological links, that are being investigated.

Table 1: Countries or Territories with reported laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19, 14 February 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Country/Territory</th>
<th>Confirmed cases</th>
<th>Suspected cases</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Recovered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>China*</td>
<td>47505</td>
<td>1381</td>
<td>7042</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rest of Asia**</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>France</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>United States of America***</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>In transit (Japan: Cruise Ship)</td>
<td>218</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>48010</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1383</td>
<td>7119</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Confirmed cases: Mainland China (47424), Hong Kong (53), Macau (10) and Taiwan (18) Deaths: Mainland China (1380), Hong Kong (1) Recovered: Mainland China (7036), Hong Kong (1), Macau (3), Taiwan (2)
**Confirmed cases: Singapore (58), Japan (33), Thailand (33), South Korea (28), Malaysia (19), Vietnam (16), United Arab Emirates (8), India (3), Philippines (3), Cambodia (1), Nepal (1), Sri Lanka (1). Deaths: Japan (1), Philippines (1).
***Confirmed cases: California (8), Illinois (2), Arizona (1), Massachusetts (1), Texas (1), Washington (1) and Wisconsin (1). Recovered: Illinois (2), Washington (1)
Sources: WHO Accessed at 9:00am. 14 February 2020.
http://who.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/c88e37cfc43b4ed3ba9f777d77e4a0667
Recoveries: Johns Hopkins University's Centre for Science and Engineering Accessed at 9:00am. 14 February 2020.
https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6
Impact

While there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Region, CARPHA activated its Incident Management Team for Emergency Response to enable CARPHA to work effectively with regional and international health partners to respond to this public health threat and provide timely advice and assistance to Member States and stakeholders.

Governance

CARPHA’S Incident Management Team for emergency response (IMT-ER) is leading the health response in keeping with CARPHA’s mandate from the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). The IMT-ER produces Situation Reports three times weekly and the most recent IMT-ER Debrief that reviewed the Incident Action Plan was held on Thursday 6th February. The frequency of reports and meetings will be guided by the level of response on the ground.

Operations

Surveillance and Technical Response

• Developed algorithms to assist CMS to triage and manage suspected cases in their borders and in clinical settings.
• Circulated guidance to CMS and various stakeholders on the identification, isolation and response to suspected cases arriving via sea or air and for Ports of entry in CMS. The relevant guidelines are available on CARPHA’s website. [http://carpha.org/What-We-Do/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus](http://carpha.org/What-We-Do/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus)
• Activated the APIS Security Cluster tracking of passengers from China through IMPACS.
• Activated the Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Health Security in collaboration with the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Response Agency and working closely with other regional stakeholders including OECS and CARICOM, PAHO, IMPACs and others for a coordinated regional response.

Laboratory

• CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) has procured the appropriate primers and reagents and molecular diagnostic tests and are able to conduct specific detection of the new coronavirus for COVID-19. CMML has discussed with Laboratory Directors of 12 CARPHA member states the current situation and plans of action to face the COVID-19 emergency.
• During Epi week 7, CMML has tested a total of 11 samples from 4 member states. All results were negative for the presence of SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent of COVID-19.

Expert Advice

• CARPHA has set up an expert Technical Advisory Group to provide guidance on the management of cases, should transmission occur in the region. The Panel is set to convene next week.
Communication and Information

- CARPHA’s Executive Director participated in a joint virtual media briefing with PAHO and CDEMA, hosted by the Caribbean Broadcasting Union for its print, television and radio members.

- On 10th February, CARPHA distributed a media release titled ‘CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory is Ready to Respond to 2019-nCoV’.

- CARPHA Communications Unit has produced a Social Media Plan of Action for COVID-19 to support Regional Communications Strategy and combat misinformation spread to the public. The Communications Team is working closely with the Regional Health Communications Network (RHCN) and other stakeholders to provide timely updates and information. They have also developed various videos and infographics to counteract myths about the disease circulating in the Region. The latest media release and other relevant guidelines are available on CARPHA’s website [http://carpha.org/What-We-Do/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus](http://carpha.org/What-We-Do/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus)

Logistics and Planning

- CARPHA held an emergency meeting with Trinidad and Tobago Customs and Excise Division to expedite clearance process of testing reagents and processing of shipments for CMML at their ports. Samples and reagents have begun to pass through customs without delay.

- Several CARPHA Member States (CMS) have implemented various measures at ports of entry in response to the outbreak overseas. Table 2 outlines travel related actions taken in CMS.

Table 2. Summary of travel related actions by CMS to date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Avoid non-essential travel to China</th>
<th>Denied entry to persons travelling from China</th>
<th>Screening at Port of Entry</th>
<th>Quarantine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anguilla</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahamas</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bermuda</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cayman Islands</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominica</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Country | Travel Related Actions |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avoid non-essential travel to China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grenada</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Lucia</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Kitts and Nevis</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suriname</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Various media releases in the public domain and personal communication with CMS. Key: Avoid non-essential travel to China - Country has advised their population to avoid non-essential travel to China; Denied entry to persons travelling from China - Country has taken action or issued an advisory that persons coming to their shores from China will not be allowed entry; Screening at Port of Entry - Country has implemented measures at port(s) of entry to screen (including temperature monitoring or questioning) travellers for covid-19; Quarantine - Country has implemented actions to screen and place appropriately assessed travellers under self-isolation or quarantined in a public health facility.

**Stakeholder Engagement**

CARPHA is working closely with various stakeholders for a coordinated regional response, including the following:

- Convened the Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Health Security, consisting of Member States, regional and international agencies (including CDEMA, CARICOM, OECS, PAHO, CDC, PHE, PHAC, RIVM, ARS), with agreement on joint harmonized regional response.
- Ongoing communications with CARICOM on regional health response to COVID-19
- Convened a webinar for Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) and Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) and Ministers of Tourism on “Mitigating the impact of Coronavirus” with over 120 participants.
- Ongoing communications with Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) with regards to the Caribbean response to 2019-nCoV situation on cruise ships.
- Held nine COVID-19 response coordination meetings with Chief Medical Officers and CARICOM.
- Convened a joint briefing of National Disaster Coordinators in association with CARPHA.
• Held coordination meeting with Dr. Jean Marie PWR Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean and the World Bank on support to the preparation activities of Grenada, St Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica.

• Met with PAHO focal point for clinical management.

Way forward

CARPHA has identified that with the rapid spread of the virus from China to 24 other countries, CMS need to be in a state of readiness for any imported cases and subsequent local transmission. CARPHA is working with Technical experts across the region to provide up-to-date guidance and technical advice to CMS.

CARPHA would like to draw attention to recent guidance provided by WHO on considerations for repatriation and quarantine of travellers in relation to the outbreak. 
https://www.who.int/ith/Repatriation_Quarantine_nCoV-key-considerations_HQ-final11Feb.pdf?ua=1

CARPHA recommends that CMS continue to be vigilant, step up surveillance at their ports of entry and to ensure the relevant measures are in place to manage any imported cases that may arrive on their shores.

CARPHA stands ready to provide support and guidance to Member States as to how to strengthen their health systems response if person-to-person transmission becomes established in the Caribbean.

Key CARPHA documents that can be accessed from our website using the embedded links:

Technical Documents

- Traveller’s Guidelines
- Algorithm for Management of a suspected case
- Guidelines for Ports of Entry
- Guidelines for Conveyances
- Algorithm for contact tracing on conveyances

Media Releases:

- The Risk of 2019-nCoV Remains Low for the Caribbean but CARPHA Encourages Vigilance at Ports of Entry
- 2019-nCoV: CARPHA urges the Region to be Vigilant, Be Prepared
- Risk of Novel Coronavirus in the Caribbean “Low” says CARPHA, but Preparation Needed
- CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory is Ready to Respond to 2019-nCoV

Communications Material

- Is there a new bleach cocktail that can cure and protect against the Flu and the Novel Coronavirus?
- How is the Novel Coronavirus new? Lysol and Clorox have “Human Coronavirus” listed on their labels
- Can a surgical mask protect me from coronavirus? CARPHA Biorisk Manager explains
- Who should wear a mask for protection against coronavirus? CARPHA Biorisk Manager responds
- Card 1: Cover your nose and mouth
- Card 2: Cough or sneeze into elbow
References