



## REGIONAL TOURISM AND HEALTH STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP

October 4-5, 2017, Miami, Florida

*Regional Initiatives to enhance the health safety and security of visitor and local populations*

### **Background:**

The health of Caribbean economies is closely related to the health of its tourism industry given that the Caribbean is the most tourism-dependent region in the world. High and increasing numbers of visitors to Caribbean increases the health, safety and security risks to both local and visitor populations. The Regional Tourism and Health program (THP) is an innovative integrated program with components of real time early warning and response tourism surveillance system, food safety and environmental sanitation training, standards and multisectoral partnerships. It aims to promote the health, safety and security of visitors and locals to enhance the quality, competitiveness and reputation of Caribbean tourism. The THP is novel in that it involves the implementation a new non- traditional health information and monitoring system (tourism/visitor based illnesses), new clients/data users (private sector, hotels, cruise ships, visitors), and new partners (Ministry of Tourism, tourism authorities and agencies) compared to the traditional local population based health surveillance system in the Caribbean. Given the multisectoral nature of the THP and that it is implementing a non-traditional tourism based surveillance system, that requires reporting from the private sector, critical factors for implementation and sustainability include recognition and endorsement, partnerships with national regional and international tourism and health stakeholders; mandating the reporting of illness from the hospitality sector, inclusion of tourism and health as a priority in the CCH4 and other strategic documents and support from Heads of Government.

Another key challenge in the Caribbean is the marked variation/lack of standardization in the surveillance and response to travel related public health(PH) issues. The commonality of tourism-based illnesses (e.g. Norovirus), close borders and frequent intra-regional and international travel in the Caribbean necessities the need for uniform, harmonised and standardized responses to travel related PH events, to avoid the introduction of new diseases, spread of illness and to protect the health and security of visitors and locals and our region. CARPHA, as the regional public health agency for the Caribbean, has the mandate and is the lead authority for regional surveillance and response. In this regard, CARPHA has developed Regional Guidelines for responding to travel related PH issues occurring in stay over and sea arrivals. Endorsement and adoption of these guidelines as the standardised regional response is critical for promote uniform harmonised regional response by all countries for addressing travel related public health issues.

### **Objectives of Workshop**

- Present the regional THP to gain recognition and endorsement from health and tourism stakeholders
- To promote new partnerships and deepen existing partnerships for the implementation of the THP from national, regional and international health and tourism stakeholders and agencies.
- To sensitize and gain support for the adoption and implementation of CARPHA's Regional Guidelines for responding to travel related public health illnesses, as the standardized Caribbean guidelines
- Discuss a regional strategy for implementing THP inclusive of mandatory reporting of travel related-illnesses by the hospitality sector to public health (e.g. legislation, policy amendment, minister decree)

### **Expected Outputs/Outcomes of Workshop**

- Increased understanding on the regional THP
- Development of new and deepening of existing partnerships
- Meeting Declaration by stakeholders to support the implementation of the regional THP and Regional Guidelines and to develop a regional THP policy
- Signed Agreement from CMOs and PS Tourism to support the national implementation of the THP, adoption of the regional guidelines and development of a regional THP policy
- Agreement on components of regional THP policy strategy, including the reporting of illness

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Grand Doral 2 Room, Intercontinental at Doral Miami

### AGENDA

**DAY 1: Wednesday October 4, 2017**

Moderator: Dr. Virginia Asin -Oostburg

Time	Activity	Responsible persons
8.30 AM	<b>Registration</b>	Mr. Belgrave and Ms. Chung
	<b>Workshop Opening Ceremony</b>	
9:00 AM	Welcome and Objectives of the Workshop	Dr. Lisa Indar, CARPHA
9:10 AM	Remarks	Mr. Ian Ho-A-Shu, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
9:15 AM	Remarks	Ms. Amanda Charles, Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO)
9:20 AM	Remarks	Mr. Frank Comito, Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Organization (CHTA)
9:25 AM	Feature Address	Dr. C. J Hospedales, CARPHA
9.40AM	CARPHA-CTO-CHTA MOU signing	
9.45 AM	<b>Close of Opening Ceremony Group Photo and Media Briefing</b>	
10:30 AM	Coffee Break	
	<b>Regional THP Program</b>	Moderator: Dr Asin -Oostburg
11.00 AM	Participant Introduction	All participants
11.15 AM	Regional Tourism and Health program (THP)	Dr. Lisa Indar
11.50 AM	THP in the context of Regional Security	Dr. Rosmond Adams
12.00 PM	Tourism Health Information Surveillance, Monitoring and Response Surveillance System (THMRS)	Mr. Jonathan Edwin
12:20 PM	Questions and Discussion	Dr Asin -Oostburg
12:40 PM	Lunch	
	<b>PARTNERSHIPS and POLICY for THP</b>	Moderator
1.30PM	<b>Round Table Panel Discussion on Partnerships and Information sharing on Tourism and Health</b>	CARPHA, CTO, CHTA, CDC, PHAC, PHE, CLIA, ABTA
2.30 PM	<b>Group work 1: Roles and Input of Health and Tourism agencies in THP and Regional THP Policy</b> <i>Instruction presentation of group work by Dr Indar</i>	
4.00PM	Coffee break	
4:15 PM	Group Presentations and Discussion on Partnerships and Regional Policy	Group leads
5.00 PM	Review of Meeting Declaration	Ms Cherril Sobers & Dr. Lisa Indar
5.30 PM	End of Day 1	

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DAY 2. Thursday October 5, 2017

Moderator: Dr Rosmond Adams

Time	Activity	Responsible Person
	<b>THP Regional Guidelines</b>	
8.30 AM	Recap of Day 1	Dr Rosmond Adams
8.45AM	Review of Meeting Declaration	Ms Cherril Sobers & Dr. Lisa Indar
9: 15 AM	Regional Guidelines for responding to travel related PH issues on passenger ships	Dr. Lisa Indar
9:45 AM	Regional Guidelines for responding to travel related PH issues in hotels and other stay over accommodations	Mr. Jonathan Edwin
10.05 AM	Questions and Discussion	Dr Rosmond Adams
10:30 AM	Break	
11.00 AM	<b>Group work 2: Regional Guidelines (Passenger ships and Hotels/guesthouses)</b> <i>Instruction presentation of group work by Dr Indar</i>	
1.00 PM	Lunch	
2.00 PM	Group Presentations and Discussions on Regional Guidelines	Group Leads
3:00 PM	Break	
3:15 PM	Discussion of Regional Policy for implementing THP	Dr. De La Haye, Chief Medical Officer, Jamaica and Dr. Cummings, CARICOM
3.45 PM	<b>Final Meeting Declaration and Agreement signing</b>	Ms Cherril Sobers
4.15PM	Next Steps and Close	Dr. Virginia Asin -Oostburg
4.30 PM	End of Day 2	