Summary

This is an update to the CARPHA Situation Report published on May 1, 2020, in relation to the outbreak of COVID-19.

To date, there are 13,460 cases in 33 countries/territories (including 24 CARPHA Member States), in the Caribbean Region. The risk of further importation of cases to the rest of the Caribbean remains Very High.

The Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Health Security (RCM-HS), is actively working with Heads of Government and regional partners on a common approach to the COVID-19 response.

New in this Report

- Surveillance and Epidemiology COVID-19 in 24 Member States

Since the previous report on May 1 2020, an additional 1,404 COVIDS-19 cases were confirmed in 15 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region’s total confirmed cases to 13,460 in 33 countries/territories.

This new total represents a 12% increase in the numbers of confirmed cases. Eighty-five (85) additional deaths were also recorded, bringing the total numbers of deaths to 615.
As of May 4, 2020, among CARPHA Member States, Jamaica reported the highest number of confirmed cases at 469, while Cayman Islands has the highest incidence at a rate of 1.82 per 100,000 population (Figure 2).

As of May 4, 2020, the WHO reported 3,407,747 cases of patients with COVID-19. A total of 215 countries, areas or territories have confirmed at least one case among travellers exposed while abroad and/or person-to-person contact.

One new country in the European Region (Tajikistan) reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19 since the last Situation Report on May 1, 2020. Table 1 shows a breakdown of cases by Region.

**Table 1: Countries or Territories with Reported Cases of COVID-19, 4 May, 2020**

As of May 4, 2020, there have been 1,478 cases confirmed from CARPHA Member States (CMS), the highest number reported on April 15, 2020 (Figure 1).

For the cases for which data was available, the majority were aged 50 years and over, with 50-59 being the modal age group. There was no age provided for most cases (Figure 3).
Among cases for whom sex was reported, 57% were female and 43% were male. (Figure 4).

Among cases for whom a source of infection was reported, 29% were imported; and 51% appeared to be close contacts (local transmission) of a known imported case (Figure 5).

Among the 24 Member States, 50% (12/24) have been classified as having sporadic cases, 50% (12/24) have reported clusters, based on data received by WHO from national authorities by 10:00 CEST, May 3, 2020¹ (Figure 6).

FIG 4. Percentage of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 by sex in CMS

FIG 5. Percentage of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 by source of transmission in CMS

FIG 6. Category of Countries by Transmission Classification

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Since February 10 and as of May 3, 2020, CARPHA has received 3,390 samples from 14 CMS, 408 (12.0%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak, 249 results (7.4%) correspond to new cases.

Figure 7 shows the progression of COVID-19 cases which have been confirmed in CMS from February – May 2020.

FIG 7. COVID-19 Progression in CMS*. Laboratory Confirmed New Cases. Feb—May 2020

CARPHA’S COVID-19 RESPONSE

Laboratory Update

On April 30, 2020, CARPHA/CariPHLN held their 2nd virtual COVID-19: Laboratory Diagnostics Update for CARPHA Laboratory Directors. Dr. Stephanie Fletcher-Lartey, Consultant HCE and Dr. Gabriel Gonzalez-Escobar, Head CMML presented during the session moderated by Ms. Sacha Wallace-Sankarsingh, Biorisk Manager.

CARPHA’s COVID-19 Testing Process and Adherence to Quality Standards

The CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) currently tests all suspected cases of COVID-19, as per the WHO case definition, provided by the WHO Global surveillance for COVID-19 caused by human infection with COVID-19 virus. The CMML uses the WHO recommended Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) method. This method remains the gold standard for COVID-19 laboratory diagnosis because the sensitivity and specificity of the test are nearly 100%. Read more by clicking on the link. Video: The CARPHA COVID-19 Testing Process

CARPHA’s Technical Cooperation

- April 28, 2020: Caribbean Countries Benefit from EU Funding to Fight Against Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). Member States of the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) will benefit from a Grant from the European Union (EU) valued at about 8 million euro (US$8.6M) to help in the fight against the coronavirus and to strengthen health security in the Region. Read more.
- April 27, 2020: CARPHA Collaborates with The University of Trinidad and Tobago to Strengthen Health Education and Research in the Caribbean. CARPHA signed an agreement for strategic collaboration with The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) aimed at promoting mutual cooperation in health education and research to better serve the Caribbean. Read more.

Communication and Information

Media releases distributed by CARPHA are available online

Logistics

- April 23, 2020: Dr. Gonzalez-Escobar (Head, Laboratory Services and Networks) and Ms. Wallace-Sankarsingh (Biorisk Manager) represented CARPHA as observers to the Regional Security System (RSS) Table Top Exercise “COVID-19 Security Response” to raise the awareness of the Security Chiefs/Heads of Security Agencies in participating countries to some of the current and emerging challenges associated with COVID-19.
- April 21, 2020: Dr. Shelley Rodrigo (CR-FELTP Coordinator) and Ms. Wallace-Sankarsingh (Biorisk Manager) participated in a demonstration with IMPACS for an online training platform (CBSI-Connect) which will be used to conduct training in Personal Protective Equipment for regional and national front line security service providers.

Stakeholder Engagement

CARPHA is working closely with various stakeholders for a coordinated regional response, and as such has engaged with stakeholders in multiple ways, including the following:
- May 4, 2020: Dr. Indar and Dr. Fletcher-Lartey participated in the 1st Regional Technical Meeting of the Association of the Caribbean States (ACS) and Associate Members on COVID-19.
  - Dr. St. John participated the following meetings with key regional partners:
    ◊ Meeting of Regional Chief Education Officers
    ◊ Planning meeting for the Heads of Government meeting
- May 3, 2020: Dr. St. John participated as a speaker in a COVID-19 symposium - UWI Class of 1991 on Responding to the COVID-19 Crisis in “91 Ways”.
- April 30, 2020: Dr. Indar participated in Meeting with CARICOM’s Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED).
The third meeting of the Emergency Committee convened by the WHO Director-General under the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), took place on Thursday, 30 April 2020, from 12:00 to 17:45 Geneva time (CEST). Membership of the Emergency Committee was expanded to reflect the nature of the pandemic and the need to include additional areas of expertise. On the advice of the Committee, the Director-General declared that the outbreak of COVID-19 continues to constitute a PHEIC and issued the Committee’s advice to States Parties as Temporary Recommendations under the IHR. The Recommendations contained in the Statement on the third meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) are available here.

In celebration of the 18th Vaccination Week in the Americas, from April 25 – May 2, CARPHA urges Member States to continue to maintain their vaccine coverage while fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. The full media release is available here.

CARPHA’s Team continues to adapt to demands of the pandemic response.

### CARPHA PRODUCTS

- [CARPHA’s Statement on the Use of Gloves in the Community Setting in the Context of COVID-19](https://bit.ly/3aWlrur) – April 24, 2020
- Links to Public Education Resources [https://www.carpha.org/What-We-Do/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus](https://www.carpha.org/What-We-Do/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus)
- Media links [https://www.carpha.org/More/Media/Articles](https://www.carpha.org/More/Media/Articles)
- Videos [https://www.youtube.com/user/CARPHACampus](https://www.youtube.com/user/CARPHACampus)

### REFERENCES

[https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?useExisting=1&layers=c0b356e20b30490c8b8b4c7bb9554e7c&layerId=1](https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?useExisting=1&layers=c0b356e20b30490c8b8b4c7bb9554e7c&layerId=1)