Summary

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

To date, there are 29,061 cases in 33 countries/territories (including 24 CARPHA Member States), in the Caribbean Region. The risk of further cases occurring in the Caribbean remains Very High. The overarching goal is for all countries to control the pandemic by slowing down the transmission and reducing mortality associated with COVID-19.

The Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Health Security (RCM-HS) is actively working with CARICOM Heads of Government and key partners on region-wide approaches to the COVID-19 response. Most Member States have begun a phased lifting of restrictions in country and some have initiated repatriation of nationals under advised protocols. Active surveillance and continued implementation of population social distancing measures are critical at this time.

New in this Report

- Surveillance and Epidemiology COVID-19 in 24 Member States
- CARPHA’s Medicines Quality Control and Surveillance Support to COVID-19

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally
- 6,272,381 confirmed cases
- 377,044 deaths

Caribbean Region
- 29,061 confirmed cases
- 14,595 recovered
- 904 deaths

Rest of the World
- 6,243,320 confirmed cases
- 2,736,296 recovered
- 378,140 deaths

*Clinically diagnosed and laboratory confirmed cases

** Figures reported by WHO which have been supplemented with additional data from local country reports

***Includes persons reported from international conveyances.

SITUATION UPDATE

COVID-19 in the Caribbean

Since the previous report on June 1, 2020, an additional 1,141 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 10 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region’s total confirmed cases to 29,061 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents a 4% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 904 deaths recorded in the Caribbean region as at June 3, 2020.

COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

For full details on all countries’ data see References section of this report. Please note that data are updated throughout the day and may vary from what is listed at time of publishing.

As of June 3, 2020, there have been 4,286 cases confirmed from CARPHA Member States (CMS), the highest number was reported on May 30, 2020. (Figure 2).

Since the last Situation Report on June 1, 2020, no new countries reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19, while 59 countries reported no new cases. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of cases by Region.

As of June 3, 2020, the WHO reported 6,272,098 cases of patients with COVID-19. A total of 216 countries, areas or territories have confirmed at least one case among travellers exposed while abroad and/or person-to-person contact.

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As of June 3, 2020, there have been 4,286 cases confirmed from CARPHA Member States (CMS), the highest number was reported on May 30, 2020. (Figure 2).

Data in Figure 2 were extracted from official reports published by Ministries of Health in Member States, and numbers may vary based on the time the information was extracted.

Figure 1: Reported Cases of COVID-19 by Region as of June 3, 2020*

As of June 3, 2020, there have been 4,286 cases confirmed from CARPHA Member States (CMS), the highest number was reported on May 30, 2020. (Figure 2).

Figure 2 shows the 7-day moving average among CMS. The value for each day represents the average number of cases for 7 days calculated using number of confirmed cases for the current day and the six days prior to the current day.

The highest 7-day average was observed on June 2, 2020.

Figure 3 shows the 7-day moving average number of cases of COVID-19 in CMS as of June 3, 2020

* Excluded from the chart are the 741 cases from international conveyances
\* Active cases = Total cases – (Number of cases recovered + Number of deaths)
Laboratory

Since February 10, 2020 and as of June 2, 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) has received 4,911 samples from 16 CMS, 453 (9.2%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak, 260 results (5.3%) correspond to unique cases.

For the cases for which data were available, the majority were between 20 and 59 years old, with 50-59 being the modal age group. There was no age reported for the majority of cases (3,988) which are excluded from Figure 5.

Among the 24 Member States, 50% (12/24) have been classified as having sporadic transmission of COVID-19 among cases, 38% (9/24) have reported clusters, 4% (1/24) has reported community transmission and 8% (2/24) currently have no cases.

Figure 6 is based on data received by the WHO from national authorities by 10:00 CEST, June 2, 2020.

Among cases for whom sex was reported, 55% were female and 45% were male (Figure 4).

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Figure 6. Categories of Transmission Classification within the Region

Figure 7. COVID-19 Progression in CMS*. Laboratory Confirmed New Cases. Feb—Jun

CARPHA’S COVID-19 RESPONSE

Laboratory Update

- **June 3, 2020:** CARPHA’s Medical Microbiology Laboratory distributed Laboratory Update 14 highlighting the release of “CARPHA Interim Guidance for the Evaluation and Selection of Diagnostic Tests for the COVID-19 Response, Revised Version.” CARPHA has designed a simple, user-friendly instrument consisting of 14 parameters to assist national and other stakeholders in the evaluation and selection of diagnostic tests, inclusive of rapid test kits, to be used for the COVID-19 response in CMS. The updated document can be found [here](#).

Please also check out our video: [The CARPHA COVID-19 Testing Process](#).

Stakeholder Engagement, Communication and Information

CARPHA is working closely with various stakeholders for a coordinated regional response, and as such has engaged with multiple stakeholders in multiple ways, including the following meetings in which CARPHA participated:

- **June 3, 2020:** Dr. Indar participated in the second preparational meeting for the 50th Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED).

- **June 2 and 3, 2020:** CARPHA participated in the Caribbean Nations Security Conference (CANSEC) led by US Southern Command. Dr Indar presented on the current epidemiological situation of the pandemic. Dr Boodram and Mr Williams joined in the tabletop exercises to simulate hurricanes taking different paths in the Caribbean and how to coordinate a response between countries and agencies.

- **June 2, 2020:** Dr. St. John, Executive Director, represented CARPHA in the following:
  - Presenting on CARICOM’s COVID-19 response to the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI) regional Latin American Network and other agencies.
  - Participant at the COVID-19 Core Coordination Group meeting on Revision of the Needs list.
  - Interviewed on “COVID-19 in the Caribbean” on Caribbean WPFW FM Radio.

- **June 1, 2020:** Dr. St. John was a speaker at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) Action Network Preparedness Series Kickoff: COVID-19’s Effect on Hurricane Preparedness and Responses. The virtual call series organized by the CGI, the disaster response nonprofit Airlink, and other partners was launched this week to convene leaders from the public sector, business community, and philanthropy from across the Caribbean to discuss preparedness for the upcoming hurricane season, amidst the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak.

- **May 29, 2020:** Dr St John and Dr Indar convened a meeting with the Chief Medical Officers from across the region to hear their concerns and provide feedback in charting the way forward for their countries as they prepare to ease COVID-19 related restrictions.

- **May 28, 2020:** Dr. St. John attended the CDEMA Partners meeting

- **May 28, 2020:** Dr. Indar presented on "Health Requirements for Borders Reopening" at the Twenty-third Meeting of the CARICOM Joint Standing Committees of Chiefs of Immigration and Comptrollers of Customs (CICC23) and the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)

- **May 28, 2020:** Dr. St. John presented on "Multi-sectoral collaboration for developing and implementing the COVID-19 Public Health Protocols for the Education Sector" at the Systemic Risk and Education Sector Resilience in the Caribbean Region Webinar jointly hosted by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) – Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean, and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

RECENT CARPHA PRODUCTS

- [Caribbean Countries reopening plans/initiatives post COVID-19](https://www.carpha.org/What-We-Do/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus) — May 29, 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)
- Links to Media [https://www.carpha.org/More/Media/Articles](https://www.carpha.org/More/Media/Articles)
- Links to Videos [https://www.youtube.com/user/CARPHACampus](https://www.youtube.com/user/CARPHACampus)
NEWS AND INFORMATION

Observing the clinical landscape for a potential COVID-19 Treatment at CARPHA’s Medicines Quality Control and Surveillance Department (MQCSD)

The identification of a safe and effective medicine or vaccine against COVID-19 is a high priority in the effort to contain and end the pandemic, particularly as countries in the Caribbean and around the world look to ease lockdowns and gradually reopen their borders. MQCSD continues to review the scientific landscape for potential COVID-19 treatments. A summary of reports from the WHO, PAHO, peer reviewed scientific journals and other sources are sent to the CARPHA Expert Advisory Group and IMT-ER on a weekly basis covering the following topics:

- Potential COVID-19 medicines and vaccines under research and development.
- Clinical trials launched: medicines under investigation and results to date.
- Updates on regulation of COVID-19 diagnostic kits.
- Ongoing notable research and information.
- Guidance/Warnings issued by medicines regulatory agencies such US Food and Drug Administration, European Medicines Agency, WHO, PAHO.

This week, the WHO highlighted the activities of its Working Group for Vaccine Prioritization formed to guide and accelerate treatment development in its 133rd Situation Update (available here) including:

- Review and progress of candidate vaccines, (found here), prioritization criteria and desired characteristics for an effective/safe vaccine, (published here), to guide scientists, product developers, manufacturers, regulators and funding agencies.
- Development of a core protocol, enabling benefit and risk evaluation within 3–6 months in preparation for a Solidarity Trial for Vaccines using evaluation of the Therapeutics Solidarity Trial currently taking place.

As an ISO/IEC 17025 accredited laboratory, MQCSD verifies the quality of medicines on the Caribbean market through its risk-based post market surveillance programme and submissions from CARPHA Member States. Its work supports and strengthens medicines regulation in the Region. This becomes more crucial as the pandemic has negatively impacted the global pharmaceutical industry and supply chain, creating the potential for increased prevalence of substandard/falsified medicines. More information on the work carried out by MQCSD can be found here.

PAHO Calls for greater emphasis on social distancing, surveillance, and stronger health systems as keys to controlling COVID-19 Pandemic.

In a media release on June 2, 2020, the Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Dr. Carissa F. Etienne said maintaining social distancing measures, improving surveillance, and strengthening health systems are the three keys to controlling the COVID-19 pandemic in the Americas. She emphasized key lessons from the pandemic in the following areas:

- Social distancing: Social distancing slows transmission so that health services can test suspected cases, trace contacts and treat and isolate patients. Be careful. Re-opening too fast can risk a resurgence of COVID-19 that could erase the advantage gained over the past few months.
- Surveillance: While testing capacity is not perfect, virtually all places in the region have sufficient data to track and monitor where the virus is spreading. Preventive efforts are more effective when informed by surveillance. Data must drive decision-making, tailor response, protect vulnerable communities and focus efforts where new infections are on the rise and help us better target much needed social support measures.
- Health systems: These are expanding to meet demands from the rising numbers of cases, but “many places are overwhelmed, operating on the edge of their abilities.” PAHO has provided guidance, support and continues to work hand-in-hand with countries to prepare their health systems for a surge in infections.

The Director’s full opening remarks at the Media Briefing can be found here.

REFERENCES

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