Summary

This is an update to the CARPHA Situation Report published on June 8, 2020, in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To date, there are 34,635 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 of COVID-19 in 24 Member States
- CARPHA Joins commemoration of World Food Safety Day 2020
- CARPHA’s Environmental Health and Sustainable Development Division and COVID-19

SITUATION UPDATE

COVID-19 in the Caribbean

Since the previous report on June 8, 2020, an additional 1,478 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 10 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region’s total confirmed cases to 34,635 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents a 4% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 949 deaths recorded in the Caribbean region as at June 10, 2020.
As of June 10, 2020, the WHO reported 7,127,753 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.

Since the last Situation Report on June 8, 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 WHO Region.

As of June 10, 2020, there have been 5,573 cases confirmed from CARPHA Member States (CMS), the highest number was reported on May 30, 2020. Figure 2 shows a distribution of the confirmed cases and incidence rate per 100,000 population in CMS to date.

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

Figure 3 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 5, 2020.
Among cases for whom sex was reported, 55% were female and 45% were male (Figure 4).

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 (5,269) 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) 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 9, 2020.1

Laboratory

Since February 10, 2020 and as of June 9, 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) has received 5,545 samples from 16 CMS, 455 (8.2%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak, 261 results (4.7%) correspond to unique cases.

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

Figure 4. Percentage of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 by sex in CMS, n=869

Figure 5. Reported confirmed cases of COVID-19 by age group in CMS, n=304

Figure 6. Categories of Transmission Classification within the Region

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

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 10, 2020**: Dr. St. John, Dr. Indar and Dr. Boodram took part in a virtual webinar hosted by PAHO in celebration of World Food Safety Day. Dr. Indar gave a presentation titled “Food Safety in the Caribbean: Regional Update” which highlighted links between food safety and COVID-19. She reiterated that there remains no evidence of the virus being spread by food or water and encouraged behaviours to reduce its spread within the food industry and among food workers. Practices such as good hand hygiene, proper coughing and sneezing etiquette, washing fruits, vegetables and ingredients prior to cooking, the wearing of PPE and maintaining 2 metres between workers at food stations were highlighted. Relevant documents developed by CARPHA that were referred to during the presentation were the Interim Guidance on Food Safety during the COVID-19 Pandemic (Coronavirus Disease) in the Caribbean and Interim COVID-19 Guidelines for Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, and Waste Management in Institutional Facilities, Communities and Home Settings.

- **June 10, 2020**: Dr. St John and Dr Indar attended the 7th Special Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM to discuss the draft CARICOM common health and Border Policy for Reopening during COVID.

- **June 9, 2020**: Dr. St. John attended the CMO’s Meeting convened by CARICOM on the COVID-19 needs list.

- **June 8, 2020**: Dr. Tamu Davidson represented CARPHA and provided opening remarks for a Webinar hosted by the Caribbean Palliative Care Association (CARIPALCA) Entitled: “Palliative Care in the time of COVID-19”.

- **June 5, 2020**: Dr. St. John represented CARPHA at the CARICOM Heads of Government Meeting to consider the Draft CARICOM Common COVID-19 Public Health and Border Policy.

- **June 4, 2020**: CARPHA joined the global community in observing World Environment Day on June 5, 2020. In observance of this day and the year’s theme of “Biodiversity”, CARPHA published an e-book titled “A Call to Action to Protect Biodiversity”. The book also addresses the link between Biodiversity and COVID-19 and how the threat of habitat loss and the stresses put on ecosystems as a result of human activity and climate change allows pathogens to thrive and increases the risk of zoonotic diseases like COVID-19. The e-book can be accessed here.

- **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.
The COVID-19 pandemic brought challenges regarding solid waste management (SWM) practices and procedures in CARPHA Member States (CMS). The Environmental Health and Sustainable Development Department, CARPHA (EHSD-CARPHA) gathered information on the SWM practices related to COVID-19 from CMS from April to May 2020. The aim is to share and exchange practices among the Member States in consideration of the diverse national situations and constraints. The information gathered includes guidelines on:

1. General Adaptation to Solid Waste Management Systems
2. Rules for sorting waste at home
3. Waste collection
4. Waste Treatment

EHSD-CARPHA has compiled this information into three (3) infographic posters:
- COVID-19 Solid Waste Management (SWM) for Healthcare, Quarantine and Laboratory Facilities
- COVID-19 Solid Waste Management (SWM) for Household Waste
- COVID-19 Solid Waste Management (SWM) for Waste Management Managers

Today we present the infographic on COVID-19 Solid Waste Management (SWM) for Healthcare, Quarantine and Laboratory Facilities which can be found here on CARPHA’s website.

WHO and PAHO Highlights

- Updates have been made on the WHO’s page on Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public: When and how to use masks. The document Advice on the use of masks in the context of COVID-19: Interim guidance was updated on June 5, 2020. A corrigendum to that document was also released.

RECENT CARPHA PRODUCTS

- Caribbean Countries reopening plans/initiatives post COVID-19—May 29, 2020
- Links to Public Education Resources https://www.carpha.org/What-We-Do/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus
- Links to Media https://www.carpha.org/More/Media/Articles
- Links to Videos https://www.youtube.com/user/CARPHACampus

REFERENCES

https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?useExisting=1&layers=c0b356e20b30490c8b8b47bb9554e7c&layerId=1