Summary

This is an update to the CARPHA Situation Report published on June 10, 2020, in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To date, there are 36,317 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’s Environmental Health and Sustainable Development Division and COVID-19

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

**Globally**
- 7,410,700 confirmed cases (282,805 new)
- 410,294 deaths

**Caribbean Region**
- 33 countries, areas, or territories (0 new)
- 36,317 cases (1,682 new)
- 16,553 recovered (411 new)
- 973 deaths (24 new)

**Rest of the World**
- 182 countries, areas, or territories and Other
- 7,374,383 cases (281,123 new)
- 3,547,030 recovered (174,021 new)
- 417,321 deaths (11,111 new)

*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

COVID-19 in the Caribbean

Since the previous report on June 10, 2020, an additional 1,682 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 13 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region’s total confirmed cases to 36,317 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents a 5% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 973 deaths recorded in the Caribbean region as at June 12, 2020.
As of June 12, 2020, there have been 5,907 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.

As of June 12, 2020, the WHO reported 7,410,510 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 10, 2020, no new countries reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19, while 61 countries reported no new cases. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of cases by WHO Region.

As of June 12, 2020, there have been 5,907 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.
Since February 10, 2020 and as of June 11, 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) has received 5,868 samples from 16 CMS, 456 (7.9%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak, 261 results (4.4%) correspond to unique cases.

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

Among the 24 Member States, 46% (11/24) have been classified as having sporadic transmission of COVID-19 among cases, 42% (10/24) have reported clusters, 4% (1/24) reported community transmission and 8% (2/24) currently have no 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 (5,598) which are excluded from Figure 5.

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

For countries sending samples to CARPHA

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 12 2020**: CARPHA facilitated a meeting with the Chief Medical Officers to discuss testing, THP, app, care and treatment.
- **June 11, 2020**: CARPHA held its 21st Executive Board Meeting where the Executive Management team presented on CARPHA’s work programme to date, including COVID-19 activities and Non-COVID-19 technical work.
- **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 included the topic of 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 are 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.
- **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”.

CARPHA PRODUCTS

- 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)

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

WHO and PAHO Highlights

- **PAHO Director says preparations needed to combat effects of winter, hurricanes on COVID-19 response**—June 9, 2020.
- **Medical certification, ICD mortality coding, and reporting mortality associated with COVID-19**—June 7, 2020.
- **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.
CARPHA’s Environmental Health and Sustainable Development Division speaks to Solid Waste Management and COVID-19

Summary of Best Practices in CARPHA Member States 2020

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.

REFERENCES

https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?useExisting=1&layers=c0b356e20b30490c8b8b477bb9554e7c&layerId=1