Summary

This is an update to the CARPHA Situation Report published on June 12, 2020, in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To date, there are 39,102 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.

CARPHA is leading the regional health response, actively working with CARICOM, Member States and key partners on region-wide approaches to the COVID-19 response. Some Member States have began a phased lifting of in country restrictions, some have initiated repatriation of nationals and some have opened their borders to travellers. Active surveillance and continued implementation of COVID-19 prevention measures especially social distancing, hand hygiene and wearing of masks in public measures are critical at this time.

New in this Report

- Surveillance and Epidemiology of COVID-19 in 24 Member States
- Information Technology Innovation at CARPHA to support the new normal with COVID-19

**Numbers at a Glance***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total Confirmed Cases</th>
<th>New Confirmed Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Globally</strong></td>
<td>7,805,319</td>
<td>(394,619)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Caribbean Region</strong></td>
<td>33 countries/territories (0 new)</td>
<td>39,102 (2,785 new) **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17,498 recovered (945 new)</td>
<td>1,021 deaths (48 new)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rest of the World</strong></td>
<td>182 countries/territories and other***</td>
<td>7,766,217 (391,834 new)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,772,606 recovered (225,576 new)</td>
<td>430,171 deaths (12,850 new)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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 IN NUMBERS

COVID-19 in the Caribbean

Since the previous report on June 12, 2020, an additional 2,785 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 15 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region’s total confirmed cases to 39,102 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents a 8% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 1,021 deaths recorded in the Caribbean region as at June 15, 2020.
As of June 15, 2020, the WHO reported 7,805,148 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 12, 2020, no new countries reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19, while 53 countries reported no new cases. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of cases by WHO Region.

As of June 15, 2020, there have been 6,334 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 (6,021) which are excluded from Figure 5.

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.

Figure 6 is based on data received by the WHO from national authorities by 10:00 CEST, June 14, 2020.

Laboratory

Since February 10, 2020 and as of June 14, 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) has received 6,287 samples from 16 CMS, 462 (7.3%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak, 267 results (4.2%) correspond to unique cases.

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

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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 13, 2020:** CARPHA issued a media release acknowledging World Blood Donor Day on June 14, 2020 and highlighted the need for blood donors to come forward especially during the COVID-19 pandemic when there is an increased risk for blood shortages at a time when they are needed most. Read more here.

- **June 12, 2020:** CARPHA facilitated a meeting with the Chief Medical Officers to discuss testing, Tourism and Health application, and treatment of COVID-19 cases in Member States.

- **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. The team received commendations for their hard work in maintaining business as usual, while responding to the crisis in a highly professional way.

- **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

- [Caribbean countries plan to reopen](https://www.carpha.org/What-We-Do/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus) - June 12, 2020
- [Precautionary prevention measures implemented by Caribbean Countries (outside travel-related measures)](https://www.carpha.org/What-We-Do/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus) – June 12, 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)
The COVID-19 global pandemic brought social distancing, curfews, lockdowns, teleworking, and border closures, creating challenges for the normal way we work at CARPHA. CARPHA has been playing a critical role during the COVID-19 pandemic, leading the regional health response and responding to CARPHA Member States (CMS) needs promptly. This required working in real time, from anywhere, around the clock to research, prepare and disseminate technical guidelines, carry out surveillance, collaborate with national and regional stakeholders and provide specialized diagnostic and reference laboratory services to CMS.

To ensure that work continued seamlessly regardless of the time and location, the Information Technology Services (ITS) department rose to the occasion to ensure that a robust Information Technology platform was in place and dedicated IT staff were available to address all issues promptly. Some of the technical support included:

- The ability to work as a team on technical documents and the ability to access these documents from any location at any time. To accommodate this we used a secure and reliable cloud base solution to store and access documents and the CARPHA website and email system to disseminate information to CMS.
- The use of innovative technology to communicate with other staff and CMS. In addition to the traditional desk and mobile phone, to accommodate working from anywhere and at any time, we used new features such as mobile twinning, which allowed staff to receive calls to their mobile phone via their work number. Additionally, with the use of a mobile app, staff were able to make calls using their work phone remotely via Wi-Fi.
- Whether working from home or in the field, network security is essential for data protection. To ensure security was maintained in non-secure environments a Virtual Private Network (VPN) was implemented. This VPN allowed staff to connect to the CARPHA Network using two-tiered authentication. Additionally CARPHA ITS staff continue to research and upgrade the security platform including artificial intelligence (AI) software.
- Identification of a Symptom Tracker Mobile APP for piloting in country. Data collected from the mobile app will aid with disease surveillance.
- In a world where the new normal involves social distancing and travel restrictions we use the Zoom video conferencing platform for international, regional and local meetings. This platform allows us to host a large number of users at any one time.

WHO and PAHO Highlights

- Blood donations are vital during the current COVID-19 pandemic—June 12, 2020
- ‘Asks’ to the private sector in the response to COVID-19—June 11, 2020

REFERENCES

https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?useExisting=1&layers=c0b356e20b30490c8b884c7bb9554e7c&layerId=1