CARPHA SITUATION REPORT NO. 59
JUNE 18, 2020
Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic

Summary

This is an update to the CARPHA Situation Report published on June 15, 2020, in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To date, there are 41,237 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 begun 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 are critical at this time.

New in this Report

- Surveillance and Epidemiology of COVID-19 in 24 Member States
- CARPHA/PAHO webinar on The Quality and Safety of COVID-19 Treatments in the Caribbean
- Information Technology Innovation at CARPHA to support the new normal with COVID-19

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally
8,243,164 cases (437,845 new)**
445,038 deaths

Caribbean Region
33 countries, areas, or territories (0 new)
41,237 cases (2,135 new)**
18,931 recovered (1,433 new)
1,080 deaths (59 new)

Rest of the World
182 countries, areas, or territories and other***
8,201,927 cases (435,710 new)
4,083,529 recovered (310,923 new)
444,458 deaths (14,287 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 15, 2020, an additional 2,135 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 16 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region’s total confirmed cases to 41,237 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents a 5% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 1,080 deaths recorded in the Caribbean region as at June 18, 2020.
As of June 18, 2020, there have been 6,802 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.

As of June 18, 2020, the WHO reported 8,242,999 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 15, 2020, no new countries, areas or territories reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19, while 43 reported no new cases. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of cases by region.

As of June 18, 2020, there were 6,802 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 published reports by the WHO and CARPHA Member States Ministries of Health Official website.

Numbers may vary based on the time the information was extracted. See References

Figure 1: Reported Cases of COVID-19 by Region as of June 18, 2020

Figure 2. Confirmed Cases in Member States as of June 18, 2020

Figure 3. 7-day Moving Average Number of Cases of COVID-19 in CMS as of June 18,
Among cases for whom sex was reported, 55% were female and 45% were male (Figure 4).

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 17, 2020.1

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 (6,476) which are excluded from Figure 5.

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

Figure 5. Reported confirmed cases of COVID-19 by age group in CMS, n=326

Figure 6. Categories of Transmission Classification within the Region

Laboratory

Since February 10, 2020 and as of June 17, 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) has received 6,662 samples from 16 CMS, 464 (7.0%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak, 269 results (4.0%) correspond to unique cases.

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

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 18, 2020**: CARPHA’s Rapid Response Team members participated in a two-day orientation coordinated by the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) to prepare for potential deployment to provide emergency support to Member States during the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season.

- **June 17, 2020**: The CARPHA Caribbean Regulatory System (CRS) in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) held a sub-regional pharmacovigilance webinar on “The Quality and Safety of COVID-19 Treatments in the Caribbean” with a focus on adverse drug reactions (ADRs) and substandard/falsified/unregistered medical products for COVID-19. Dr. Rian Extavour, Technical Coordinator (CRS) moderated the webinar and Dr. St. John (CARPHA), welcomed the presenters and participants with opening remarks.

  Representatives of four CARPHA member states (Belize, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica) briefly presented their regulatory approaches to COVID-19, and the current use of treatments including compassionate use, clinical trials, and natural or traditional therapies used by patients. Dr Jose Luis Castro (PAHO) presented on the current treatment protocols used in the Americas, and the number of ADR reports in the region.

  Drs Robin Rojas (PAHO) and Pernette Bourdillon Esteve (WHO) presented regional and international trends and vulnerabilities that lead to the entry of substandard and/or falsified medicines and other health products for COVID-19. The webinar enabled the 59 participants to become more aware of the regional landscape and key approaches needed for pharmacovigilance, and the prevention of harm from the use of unauthorized or substandard or falsified medicines and devices during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **June 17, 2020**: The first Disaster Response Survival Training session was held for the CARPHA IMT-ER and CARPHA staff registered on the Rapid Response Team.


- **June 17, 2020**: Dr. St. John attended the Caribbean WHO Solidarity Clinical Trial Steering Committee Meeting.

- **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.

CARPHA PRODUCTS

- [Caribbean countries plan to reopen](#) - June 12, 2020
- [Precautionary prevention measures implemented by Caribbean Countries (outside travel-related measures)](#) – 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)
Information Technology Innovation at CARPHA to support the new normal with COVID-19

With the implementation of the Customised Open Source Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) at CARPHA, a decision was made by CARPHA to offer the application, at no cost for implementation, to its Member States who do not have the LIMS application. Today we have three Member States whose LIMS were implemented by CARPHA and we are currently working with another three Member States; together forming a regional approach to the management, implementation, and maintaining of the LIMS.

In light of the COVID 19 pandemic, for Member States that currently have the application installed, further customization can be done to the patient reports to meet the requirement of their approved reporting format. Moving from paper base application to an online real-time web base application can give Member States the ability to:

1. Access the application from any location; all that is required is a Wi-Fi and a web browser.
2. Use multiple devices to access the application
3. Print and dispatch patient report ,by Client, in batches.

Further, this regional approach has several benefits, including:

1. Two weeks for IT infrastructure implementation of LIMS per site.
2. No initial implementation cost to Member States; this cost is covered by CARPHA
3. No Information Technology (IT) infrastructure needed as CARPHA hosts the application on their server. Included in this package is bandwidth, uninterrupt power supply, backups storage and IT supports by CARPHA’s ITS department.
4. Shared experiences since each Member State will be using the same system, so they can support one another with operational and user issues.
5. The economy of scale, as each member state can contribute toward maintaining the application while ensuring a state of the art updated application.
6. Sustainability is boosted in this approach because each Member States does not have to find large sums of money to maintain hardware and/or update software, which can be very expensive.

This Regional Laboratory Information Management System (RLIMS) also has many benefits that are in line with CARPHA’s Strategic Surveillance System.

WHO and PAHO Highlights

- **WHO. Criteria for releasing COVID-19 patients from isolation — June 17, 2020**
- **WHO welcomes preliminary results about dexamethasone use in treating critically ill COVID-19 patients — June 16, 2020**
- **PAHO Director calls to contain spread of COVID-19 in vulnerable populations in border areas — June 16, 2020**
- **Leaders speak out about their concerns regarding older people in the context of COVID-19 — June 16, 2020**
- **Pregnancy, Childbirth, breastfeeding and COVID-19**
- **Situation Report 147—Subject in Focus: Accelerating research on a COVID-19 Vaccine — June 15, 2020**

REFERENCES

https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?useExisting=1&layers=c0b356e20b30490c8bb84c7bb9554e7c&layerId=1