Summary

This is an update to the CARPHA Situation Report published on August 5, 2020, in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To date, there are 122,130 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. Countries must continue to focus on interrupting viral transmission and reducing mortality associated with COVID-19, even as they continue a phased lifting of in-country restrictions.

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. At this time, some Member States are reporting an increase in positive cases as a result of reopening their borders and continued repatriation of nationals. The processes used for receiving incoming travellers have been guided by protocols developed under the gradual ease of restrictions. In all countries, it remains critical that active surveillance and COVID-19 prevention measures, including physical distancing, hand hygiene and wearing of masks in public are maintained.

New in this Report

- Surveillance and Epidemiology of COVID-19 in 24 Member States
- Reducing the Risk of COVID-19 while Voting

**SITUATION IN NUMBERS**

- **Globally**
  - 18,903,046 cases (548,493 new)
  - 709,513 deaths
- **Region of the Americas**
  - 10,15,632 confirmed cases
  - 376,606 deaths
- **European Region**
  - 2,510,279 confirmed cases
  - 215,640 deaths
- **Eastern Mediterranean Region**
  - 1,610,798 confirmed cases
  - 42,403 deaths
- **South-East Asia Region**
  - 2,426,584 confirmed cases
  - 55,371 deaths
- **Western Pacific Region**
  - 353,564 confirmed cases
  - 8,626 deaths
- **International conveyances**
  - 741 confirmed cases
  - 13 deaths

**NUMBERS AT A GLANCE**

- **Globally**
  - 18,903,046 cases (548,493 new)
  - 709,513 deaths
- **Caribbean Region**
  - 33 countries, areas, or territories
  - 122,130 cases (3,644 new)
  - 59,781 recovered (2,446 new)
  - 1,982 deaths (64 new)
- **Rest of the World**
  - 182 countries, areas, or territories and international conveyances
  - 18,780,916 cases (544,849 new)
  - 11,537,537 recovered (419,657 new)
  - 707,531 deaths (13,301 new)

* Figures reported by WHO supplemented with additional data from local country reports.

**SITUATION UPDATE**

**COVID-19 in the Caribbean**

Since the previous report on August 5, 2020, an additional 3,644 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 20 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region’s total confirmed cases to 122,130 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents a 3% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 1,982 deaths recorded in the Caribbean region as at August 7, 2020.
As of August 7, 2020, there have been 13,640 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 websites

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

As of August 7, 2020, the WHO reported 18,902,735 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 August 5, 2020, no new countries, areas or territories reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19, while 40 reported no new cases. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of cases by WHO Regions.

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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 August 6, 2020.
Since February 10, 2020 and as of August 6, 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) has reported 483 positive unique cases of COVID-19 from CARPHA Member States (CMS): an increase of 26 since the last Situation Report.

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

Laboratory

Among cases for which 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, with 40-49 being the modal age group. There was no age reported for the majority of cases (13,065) which are excluded from Figure 5.

Among the 24 Member States, 33% (8/24) have been classified as having sporadic transmission of COVID-19 among cases, 38% (9/24) have reported clusters, 13% (3/24) reported community transmission and 17% (4/24) currently have no cases.

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

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- **August 4, 2020:** The CariPHLN Secretariat distributed CariPHLN Bulletin #5 which now has a new look! This issue includes details of the first COVID-19 PCR test kit authorised for pandemic use by the CARPHA CRS, the Global Health Security Agenda Action Package Prevent-3 (GHSA APP3) biosafety and biosecurity statement on the current COVID-19 pandemic and preparing for future health emergencies, the updated laboratory guidance from PAHO/WHO and links to useful training tools, webinars and online courses. Click [here](#) to read the full bulletin.

Stakeholder Engagement and Communication

CARPHA is working closely with various stakeholders for a coordinated regional response. Recent key highlights include:

- **August 5, 2020:** Dr. St. John participated in a webinar “Accelerating Access to COVID-19 Tools in Latin America and the Caribbean (LATAC)”, co-hosted by the Governments of the United Kingdom and Mexico. The webinar aimed to promote international and regional cooperation as the only solution to tackling the pandemic, providing a platform to discuss a multilateral approach to securing Vaccines, Therapeutics and Diagnostics (VTD); share approaches and raise awareness of VTD landscape, building understanding of areas of common cause amongst LATAC countries and convene COVAX partners (WHO, Gavi and CEPI) and multilateral development banks to build LATAC understanding of pooled financing approaches and opportunities for vaccines.

- **August 1, 2020:** Dr. Glennis Andall-Brereton, Senior Technical Officer for Non-Communicable Diseases at CARPHA has been published in the August 2020 issue of the Lancet Oncology: “Cancer Care in the Commonwealth Caribbean in COVID times” commentary. The full text can be found in Volume 21, Issue 8, August 01, 2020 and is available [here](#).

- **July 31, 2020:** In recognition of World Breastfeeding Week, the Chronic Disease and Injury Department in collaboration with the Communications Department released “World Breastfeeding Week 2020: Support Breastfeeding for a Healthier Planet” which addresses breastfeeding during the COVID-19 pandemic and reminds mothers of the guidelines to follow to protect their babies.

- **July 31, 2020:** Dr. St. John was a guest on the Caribbean Broadcasting Cooperation TV show “Morning Barbados” to give an update on COVID-19. [Link to stream available here](#).

- **July 31, 2020:** Dr. Lisa Indar and Ornella Cyrus presented “Syndromic Surveillance and Tourism Health Information System (THiS)”. Targeted audience were personnel from the Ministry of Health, Health Authority of Anguilla (including IPC/Surveillance focal point, Public Health Nurses, visiting Clinical Epidemiologist from Cuba), Prison Nurse, Environmental Health Officers and PHE surveillance counterpart. This training was done in collaboration with the Ministry of Health Anguilla and coordinated in collaboration with the Caribbean Public Health Agency.

- **July 30, 2020:** Dr. St John attended the PAHO webinar on Scaling Up COVID-19 testing and the second meeting of the AFD Project Steering Committee.

- **July 30, 2020:** Ms. Ornella Cyrus presented “Tourism Health Information System (THiS)” to six (6) persons from the Ministry of Health St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

- **July 29 and 30, 2020:** Dr. St. John participated in the CDEMA partners meeting on weather systems in the CARICOM region.

CARPHA PRODUCTS

- [Interim Guidance for Retail Sectors during the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Caribbean](#) — July 31, 2020
- [Infographic — Guidance for Retail Sector during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Caribbean Countries that have issued Travel Advisories due to COVID-19](#) — July 30, 2020
- [Caribbean Countries Reopening Plans/Initiatives Post COVID-19](#) — July 30, 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)
Reducing the Risk of COVID-19 while Voting

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) as part of its mandate in leading the regional health response to COVID-19, has developed a number of guidelines which offer evidence-based recommendations on how countries can safely reopen their borders and various sectors. These guidelines seek to promote good public health practices within the population and encourage persons to conduct their activities while reducing the risk of transmission of the virus.

Several Member States have general elections scheduled for the remainder of the year. CARPHA has produced guidance aimed at reducing the risk of transmitting and contracting COVID-19 while performing their civic duty of voting. Highlighted in the Infographic (Photo 3) are the combination of preventive measures including: wearing a mask, maintaining physical distancing and hand hygiene. It outlines additional precautionary measures to be taken by Poll Duty Staff to ensure that proper cleaning and sanitization is maintained throughout the facility on election day.

The full infographic is available here and can be adapted and printed for local use and distribution.

REFERENCES

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