Summary

This is an update to the CARPHA Situation Report published on August 7, 2020, in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To date, there are 129,039 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
- The Caribbean Regulatory System Responds to COVID-19

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally
- 19,718,527 confirmed cases
- 728,017 deaths
- European Region
  - 3,582,911 confirmed cases
  - 216,692 deaths
- Region of the Americas
  - 10,591,426 confirmed cases
  - 388,677 deaths
- African Region
  - 895,686 confirmed cases
  - 16,713 deaths
- Eastern Mediterranean Region
  - 1,644,359 confirmed cases
  - 43,433 deaths
- Western Pacific Region
  - 370,621 confirmed cases
  - 8,811 deaths
- South East Asia Region
  - 2,632,773 confirmed cases
  - 53,677 deaths
- International conveyances
  - 741 confirmed cases
  - 13 deaths

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE*

Globally
- 19,718,527 cases (815,481 new)
- 728,017 deaths

Caribbean Region
- 33 countries, areas, or territories
- 129,039 cases (6,909 new)
- 62,820 recovered (4,355 new)
- 2,083 deaths (101 new)

Rest of the World
- 182 countries, areas, or territories and international conveyances
- 19,589,488 cases (808,572 new)
- 12,068,822 recovered (531,285 new)
- 725,934 deaths (18,403 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 7, 2020, an additional 6,909 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 22 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region’s total confirmed cases to 129,039 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents a 6% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 2,083 deaths recorded in the Caribbean Region as at August 10, 2020.
As of August 10, 2020, the WHO reported 19,718,030 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 7, 2020, no new countries, areas or territories reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19, while 35 reported no new cases. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of cases by WHO Regions.

As of August 10, 2020, there have been 14,721 cases confirmed from CARPHA Member States (CMS): the highest number was reported on August 8, 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

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Since February 10, 2020 and as of August 9, 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) has received 12,790 samples from 16 CMS, 797 (6.2%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak, 547 results (4.3%) correspond to unique cases.

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

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 9, 2020.

Among cases for whom sex was reported, 54% were female and 46% 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 (14,146) which are excluded from Figure 5.

Figure 5: Reported Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 by Age Group in CMS, n=575

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CARPHA’S COVID-19 RESPONSE

Laboratory

- **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; build 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](#).

CARPHA PRODUCTS

- **Caribbean Countries Reopening Plans/Initiatives Post COVID-19**—August 7, 2020 NEW
- **Interim Guidance for Individuals and Organisations involved with Sex Work during the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Caribbean**—August 7, 2020. NEW
- **Infographic—Guidelines for Sex Work during the COVID-19 Pandemic**—August 7, 2020. NEW
- **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**

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)

WHO and PAHO Highlights


- **August 6, 2020:** PAHO, through The Strategic Fund, was able to procure up to US$75 million which has been used to provide over 10 million COVID-19 PCR tests to be used in 6 countries. These funds have also been used to purchase PPE and respirators in 26 countries with a total value of US$14.6 million. Click [here](#) to read the full article.

- The WHO has published the following two documents on the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility:
  - [COVAX, the ACT-Accelerator vaccines pillar. Insuring accelerated vaccine development and manufacture](https://www.who.int) — August 6, 2020.
THE CARIBBEAN REGULATORY SYSTEM RESPONDS TO COVID-19

The CARPHA’s Caribbean Regulatory System (CRS) is a regional mechanism that supports the regulation of medical products by recommending quality-assured medical products for market authorization, and by supporting regional pharmacovigilance and post-market surveillance. The CRS assists CARPHA Member States in their response to COVID-19 by reviewing medicines, vaccines and test kits that have been granted emergency use authorization for COVID-19 pandemic by regulatory authorities of reference (e.g. US FDA).

In July 2020, the CARPHA CRS recommended two real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test kits to CARICOM countries for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), based on the EUA by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. This pathway enables Member States to identify quality-assured test kits for procurement and import for use during the pandemic. See media release here.

The CRS also supports Member States by providing educational webinars and regulatory updates on pharmacovigilance and post-market surveillance of COVID-19 therapies via its monthly newsletter. On June 17, 2020, the CARPHA-CRS and the PAHO/WHO held a virtual meeting on “The Quality and Safety of COVID-19 Treatments”. The CRS also contributes to weekly technical updates on COVID-19 treatments led by the Medicines Quality Control and Surveillance Department that are shared with CARPHA personnel to assist Member States.

Figure 8: Overview of the CRS’ Response to COVID-19