Summary

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

To date, there are 132,608 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
- CARICOM Features CARPHA’s COVID-19 response work in the Region

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- 20,162,806 confirmed cases
- 737,426 deaths

Caribbean Region

- 33 countries, areas, or territories
- 132,608 cases (3,569 new)
- 65,011 recovered (4,355 new)
- 2,141 deaths (58 new)

Rest of the World

- 182 countries, areas, or territories and international conveyances
- 20,030,198 cases (440,710 new)
- 12,559,612 recovered (490,790 new)
- 735,285 deaths (9,351 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 10, 2020, an additional 3,569 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 20 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region’s total confirmed cases to 132,608 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents a 3% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 2,141 deaths recorded in the Caribbean Region as at August 12, 2020.
As of August 12, 2020, the WHO reported 20,162,474 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 10, 2020, no new countries, areas or territories reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19, while 50 reported no new cases. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of cases by WHO Regions.

As of August 12, 2020, there have been 15,332 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

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 11, 2020.
Since February 10, 2020 and as of August 11, 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) has received 13,470 samples from 16 CMS, 824 (6.3%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak: 568 results (4.2%) correspond to unique cases.

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 (14,756) 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 11, 2020.

Laboratory

Since February 10, 2020 and as of August 11, 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) has received 13,470 samples from 16 CMS, 824 (6.3%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak: 568 results (4.2%) correspond to unique cases.

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

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

- **August 12, 2020**: CARPHA’s Executive Management Team participated in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) meeting on Technical Working Group Meeting on Ecolog Proposal for COVID-19 testing.

- **August 12, 2020**: Dr. St. John, Dr. Indar and members of the IMT-ER attended PAHO/WHO’s “Virtual Consultation on the COVAX Facility”, a global facilitation of the distribution of COVID-19 vaccine. Representatives from CARPHA member States were also in attendance.

- **August 12, 2020**: Dr. Boodram presented on Health Disaster Risk Reduction during a webinar on “Early Action Early Warning Systems”, which was jointly hosted by the IFRC and UNDRR. The objective of the webinar was to promote advocacy for the implementation and improvement of early warning, early action in the region, in preparation for gradual return to new normality in the context of COVID-19.

- **August 11, 2020**: Dr. St. John, Executive Director, presented a COVID-19 update to the Meeting of Directors of National Drug Councils of CARPHA Member States.

- **August 11, 2020**: Dr. Lisa Indar, Assistant Director – SDPC, presented COVID-19 update to the CARICOM Special Session on “COVID-19 and the Services Sector”.

- **August 10, 2020**: CARPHA was featured on CARICOM’s Facebook page in their CARICOM organisation feature. The post identified CARPHA as a CARICOM Institution and briefly highlighted the work that CARPHA does for the Region. Click here for the full post.

- **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 at promoting 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.

**CARPHA PRODUCTS**

- **Caribbean Countries Reopening Plans/Initiatives Post COVID-19** — August 7, 2020
- **Caribbean Countries that have issued Travel Advisories due to COVID-19** — August 7, 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 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.

REGIONAL COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS FOR REOPENING OF BORDERS AND RESUMING TRAVEL IN THE CARICOM REGION

CARPHA, as part of its mandate in leading the regional health response to COVID-19, has developed a suite of “Health Considerations” to successfully exit the COVID-19 lockdown, reopen borders and resume travel. As of June 2020, CARICOM countries started a phased re-opening of their borders and businesses and as expected, have experienced an increase in imported COVID-19 cases. Re-opening and recovery require a careful balance between reducing restrictive measures and ensuring adequate measures are implemented to reduce importation and spread of new cases, and to ensure that capacity is ramped up to rapidly identify, test, isolate and trace contacts of new cases. In the absence of a vaccine, COVID-19 will continue to be a grave public health, security, and economic threat. Document can be accessed at [https://bit.ly/3jUNvEh](https://bit.ly/3jUNvEh) and infographics at [https://bit.ly/2FkbB1E](https://bit.ly/2FkbB1E)

REFERENCES

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