Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic

Summary

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

To date, there are 137,070 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 easing 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
- Updated COVID-19 Prevention and Control Infographic

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Recovered</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Globally</strong></td>
<td>20,730,892 cases</td>
<td>751,156</td>
<td>71,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Caribbean Region</strong></td>
<td>137,070 cases (4,462 new)</td>
<td>67,926 (1,912 new)</td>
<td>2,221 (80 new)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rest of the World</strong></td>
<td>20,593,822 cases (563,624 new)</td>
<td>12,969,058 (409,446 new)</td>
<td>748,935 (13,650 new)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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 12, 2020, an additional 4,462 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 19 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region’s total confirmed cases to 137,070 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents a 3% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 2,221 deaths recorded in the Caribbean Region as at August 14, 2020.
As of August 14, 2020, the WHO reported 20,730,456 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 12, 2020, no new countries, areas or territories reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19, while 39 reported no new cases. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of cases by WHO Regions.

As of August 14, 2020, there have been 16,355 cases confirmed from CARPHA Member States (CMS): the highest number was reported on August 12, 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 13, 2020.
Among cases for whom sex was reported, 54% were female and 46% were male (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Percentage of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 by Sex in CMS, n=1,655

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 (15,778) which are excluded from Figure 5.

Among the 24 Member States, 25% (6/24) have been classified as having sporadic transmission of COVID-19 among cases, 42% (10/24) have reported clusters, 17% (4/24) 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 13, 2020

Among the 24 Member States, 25% (6/24) have been classified as having sporadic transmission of COVID-19 among cases, 42% (10/24) have reported clusters, 17% (4/24) 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 13, 2020

Laboratory

Since February 10, 2020 and as of August 13, 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) has received 14,114 samples from 16 CMS, 921 (6.5%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak, 637 results (4.5%) correspond to unique cases.

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

Figure 5: Reported Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 by Age Group in CMS, n=577

Figure 7: COVID-19 Progression in CMS*. Laboratory Confirmed New Cases: February 10 — August 13, 2020

CARPHA’S COVID-19 RESPONSE

Stakeholder Engagement and Communication

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

- **August 13, 2020**: Dr. Lisa Indar, Assistant Director – SDPC, participated in the 31st Meeting of the Special Committee on Sustainable Tourism hosted by the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). Dr. Indar presented on “COVID-19, and the tourism and health program for sustainable tourism and COVID-19 Management”.


- **August 13, 2020**: CARPHA prepared an updated prevention and control infographic to be distributed to MS for use in public health campaign.

- **August 12, 2020**: Dr. St. John, Executive Director, participated in a Meeting with the Caribbean Association of Fire Chiefs. The development of a Memorandum of Understanding and protocols for the safe conduct of duties in COVID-19 times were discussed.

- **August 12, 2020**: CARPHA issued the media release CARPHA Turnaround Time for Testing Remains Consistent with No Test Results Pending emphasising its commitment to CMS to provide all testing results within 24—48 hrs and highlighting its success in doing so to date. Click here to read the full release.

- **August 12, 2020**: CARPHA’s EMT 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. Bodrum presented on Health Disaster Risk Reduction during the webinar on “Early Action Early Warning Systems”, jointly hosted by the International Federation of Red Cross and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. 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, presented a COVID-19 update to the Meeting of Directors of National Drug Councils of CARPHA Member States.

- **August 11, 2020**: Dr. Lisa Indar, AD 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.

CARPHA PRODUCTS

- [Caribbean Countries Reopening Plans/Initiatives Post COVID-19](#) — August 13, 2020
- [Caribbean Countries that have issued Travel Advisories due to COVID-19](#) — August 13, 2020
- [Interim Guidance for Individuals and Organisations involved with Sex Work during the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Caribbean](#) — August 10, 2020
- [Links to Public Education Resources](#)
- [Links to Videos](#)

Photo 1: CARICOM features CARPHA on their Facebook page.
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. The full document can be accessed at https://bit.ly/3jUNvEh and infographics at https://bit.ly/2FkbBIE.

REFERENCES

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