CARPHA SITUATION REPORT NO. 91
SEPTEMBER 7, 2020
Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic

Summary
This is an update to the CARPHA Situation Report published on September 3, 2020, in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To date, there are 178,952 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.

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. Some countries are now reporting clusters and community transmission. In all countries, it remains critical that active surveillance and COVID-19 prevention measures, including physical distancing, hand hygiene, wearing of masks in public of crowds are maintained.

New in this Report
• Surveillance and Epidemiology of COVID-19 in 24 Member States
• Caribbean Wellness Day: addressing COVID–19 for priority groups

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE*

Globally
27,033,077 cases (1,189,818 new)

Caribbean Region
33 countries, areas, or territories
178,952 cases (6,351 new)
101,510 recovered (4,390 new)
3,092 deaths (177 new)

Rest of the World
182 countries, areas, or territories and international conveyances
26,854,125 cases (1,183,467 new)
18,084,455 recovered (819,685 new)
878,386 deaths (22,666 new)

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

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

COVID-19 in the Caribbean
Since the previous report on September 3, 2020, an additional 6,351 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 23 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region’s total confirmed cases to 178,952 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents a 4% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 3,092 deaths recorded in the Caribbean Region as at September 7, 2020.
As of September 7, 2020, the WHO reported 27,033,077 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 September 3, 2020, no new countries, areas or territories reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19, while 24 reported no new cases. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of cases by WHO Regions.

As of September 7, 2020, there have been 27,900 cases confirmed from CARPHA Member States (CMS); the highest number was reported on September 1, 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 September 2, 2020.
Between February 10, 2020 and September 6, 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) received 20,326 samples from 17 CMS, 1,903 (9.4%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak and 1,391 results (6.8%) 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, 21% (5/24) have been classified as having sporadic transmission of COVID-19 among cases, 42% (10/24) have reported clusters, 25% (6/24) reported community transmission and 13% (3/24) currently have no cases as of September 7, 2020.

Figure 6 is based on data reported on the WHO Dashboard. See references.

Among cases in CMS for whom sex was reported, 55% were female and 45% were male as of September 7, 2020 (Figure 4).
CARPHA’S COVID-19 RESPONSE

CARPHA COVID-19 Health Rounds Education and Training Series

The Caribbean Public Health Agency has developed an educational and capacity building webinar series titled “CARPHA COVID-19 Health Rounds”. The objectives are to (i) provide technical guidance to support public health policy and clinical decision-making affecting prevention, diagnosis, spread, treatment, clinical trials, medical product use and safety in response to the pandemic and (ii) provide health guidelines for safe re-opening of hospitality and other sectors during the pandemic (iii) provide guidance for addressing other public health emergencies/threats in the Caribbean during the pandemic (e.g. Dengue, hurricanes).

Target participants will vary according to the webinar, but will include: health administrators, emergency response teams, epidemiologists, environmental health officers, regulators, laboratory personnel, health care workers, disaster coordinators, hospitality and other sectors. Webinars will be presented weekly by CARPHA from September to December 2020, in collaboration with key regional partners.

The series was launched on September 2 with “COVID-19 Health Guidelines for Reopening Hospitality Sector”, held in partnership with the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA). The session was attended by 256 persons from varying backgrounds in the tourism industry across the region.

The Next Webinar: The next webinar in the series will be on “Management of Evacuation Shelters During the COVID-19 Pandemic” and will take place on September 10 at 3PM EST. Persons involved in the planning and management of emergency or evacuation shelters should attend, including community shelter managers, municipal disaster managers, planners, environmental health officers, local disaster coordinators, and other public health managers from the public or private sector and civil society. Registration is via CARPHA’s website.

Stakeholder Engagement and Communication

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

- September 7, 2020: Dr Tamu Davidson, Head of Chronic Disease and Injury Department, Surveillance, Disease Prevention and Control Division participated in a webinar in commemoration of the 1st International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies. The event is hosted by the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) in collaboration with the Environmental Management Authority - Trinidad and Tobago, and includes a Panel Discussion: Working together – Health and the Environment. The webinar discussed the challenges and opportunities for public health, air quality and NCDs amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and the goals for a healthy recovery strategy.

- September 3, 2020: Dr. St. John participated in meetings with the US Department of Health and Human Services and CDC respectively on CARPHA’s COVID-19 response

- September 2, 2020: Dr. St. John participated in the following:
  ⇒ WHO Solidarity Clinical Trial Steering Committee.
  ⇒ Debriefing meeting with CARPHA Communications team on a special Facebook campaign of COVID awareness through Ads going with CARPHA that ran in Member States.

CARPHA PRODUCTS

- Caribbean Countries that have issued Travel Advisories due to COVID-19—September 3, 2020.
- Infographics—Guidance for In-Home Repair and Field Services during the COVID-19 pandemic: - NEW
  ◊ Special Recommendations for Specific Groups of Service Industry Workers
  ◊ Guidance for Customers
  ◊ Guidance for Service Industry Workers
- Links to Public Education Resources https://www.carpha.org/What-We-Do/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus
- Links to Media https://www.carpha.org/More/Media/Articles
- Links to Videos https://www.youtube.com/user/CARPHACampus
**Caribbean Wellness Day**

The past twelve (12) years, the Region celebrated CWD under the theme Love that Body’ with a focus on preventing and controlling Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) throughout the life course. For the next five years (2020-2024) the focus continues on the life course approach engaging the whole of society, under the new theme, ‘Power Through Collective Action’. The COVID-19 Pandemic has continued to emphasise the importance of this approach and CARPHA’s work in the prevention of NCDs.

This year’s sub theme is “Stronger Together 2020”, which is also aligned to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) mental health awareness campaign. The objectives for CWD 2020 are to:

1. Promote coping strategies aimed at reducing stress, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Raise awareness about mental illness and mental health.
3. Address stigma and discrimination.

In keeping with the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic, frontline and health care workers are among the priority groups to be addressed in this campaign. Caribbean Wellness Day will be observed on **Saturday, 12 September 2020**.

**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 [here](https://covid-19.sr/) and infographics [here](https://covid-19.sr/).

**REFERENCES**

Sources: