Summary

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

To date, there are 192,323 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 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
• CARPHA’s Programme Coordination Unit Coordinating CARPHA’s external funding for the COVID-19 Response

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>28,919,365 cases (1,230,062 new)</td>
<td>19,592,276 recovered (851,278 new)</td>
<td>918,897 deaths (22,796 new)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Caribbean Region</strong></td>
<td>192,323 cases (7,762 new)</td>
<td>110,250 recovered (5,957 new)</td>
<td>3,360 deaths (141 new)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rest of the World</strong></td>
<td>28,727,042 cases (1,222,300 new)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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 10, 2020, an additional 7,762 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 23 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region’s total confirmed cases to 192,323 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents a 4% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 3,360 deaths recorded in the Caribbean Region as at September 14, 2020.
Figure 2: Confirmed Cases in CARPHA Member States as of September 14, 2020

Figure 3: 7-day Moving Average Number of Cases of COVID-19 in CMS as of September 14, 2020

As of September 14, 2020, the WHO reported 28,918,900 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 10, 2020, no new countries, areas or territories reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19, while 28 reported no new cases. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of cases by WHO Regions.

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.
Among cases in CMS for whom sex was reported, 55% were female and 45% were male as of September 14, 2020 (Figure 4).

Among the 24 Member States, 21% (5/24) have been classified as having sporadic transmission of COVID-19 among cases, 29% (7/24) have reported clusters, 33% (8/24) reported community transmission and 17% (4/24) currently have no cases as of September 14, 2020 (Figure 6).

For the cases for which data were available, the majority were between 20 and 59 years, with 30-39 being the modal age group. There was no age reported for the majority of cases (30,947) which are excluded from Figure 5, as of September 14, 2020.

Among the 24 Member States, 21% (5/24) have been classified as having sporadic transmission of COVID-19 among cases, 29% (7/24) have reported clusters, 33% (8/24) reported community transmission and 17% (4/24) currently have no cases as of September 14, 2020 (Figure 6).

**Laboratory**

Between February 10, 2020 and September 13, 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) received 21,871 samples from 17 CMS, 2,252 (10.3%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak and 1,730 results (7.9%) correspond to unique cases.

Figure 7 shows the progression of COVID-19 cases which have been confirmed in CMS from March – September 2020.
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 second webinar in the series was on “Management of Evacuation Shelters During the COVID-19 Pandemic” and was held September 10, 2020 at 3PM EST. The session moderated by Mr Peter Williams, was attended by over 120 participants and included presentations by Mr Bradshaw Isaacs - Assessment of Building Structure’, Dr Kim Newton-James - Shelter Amenities and COVID-19 Considerations, and Dr Stephanie Fletcher-Lartey - Public Health Considerations in Managing an Emergency Shelter.

The webinar was well received by the over 120 participants representing 17 CARPHA Member States. Participants were Ministry of Health workers, disaster management coordinators, shelter managers, social workers, community development officers, health inspectors, and others who work in disaster and health emergency management fields. The recording of the webinar will be made available on www.CARPHA.org shortly.

The Next Webinar: The next webinar in the series will be on “Mosquito Borne Diseases Management during the COVID-19 Pandemic” and will take place on September 16 at 3PM EST. Persons involved in vector control operations, environmental health officers, national laboratory staff, community health and health promotion staff should attend. Registration is required to join this event and is available here.

Stakeholder Engagement and Communication

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

- **September 11, 2020**: Dr. St. John and Dr. Indar participated in a CARICOM Heads of Government Meeting.
- **September 10, 2020**: CARPHA held the second webinar in its COVID-19 Health Rounds “Managing Evacuation Shelters During the COVID-19 Pandemic”. The objective was to discuss strategies and practical steps to take when preparing and managing emergency shelters amid COVID-19.
- **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 was hosted by the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) in collaboration with the Environmental Management Authority - Trinidad and Tobago, and included 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.

CARPHA PRODUCTS

- Caribbean Countries that have issued Travel Advisories due to COVID-19—September 10, 2020.
- Infographic—Indoor Recreational Activities: Reducing the Risk
- 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
NEWS AND INFORMATION

Programme Coordination Unit Coordinating CARPHA’s external funding for the COVID-19 Response

CARPHA’s Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) coordinates the implementation of a portfolio of International Development Partners (IDPs) funded projects and helps to improve the level and quality of project management in the Agency. As of 31st August 2020, CARPHA was serving as the Executing Agency for about nineteen (19) projects financed by thirteen (13) International Development Partners (IDPs). These IDP-funded projects represent the nerve-centre of the Agency’s annual activities and as such, the strengthening of partnerships with these and other emerging IDPs, and the effective implementation of the projects which they finance, are critical to the Agency’s success.

The PCU is currently staffed by Mr. Akhenaton St. Hillaire - Programme Coordinator; Ms. Sharon King - Project Officer (OECS Regional Health Project); Ms. Abby Eligon - Project Officer (AFD Project); Ms. Maria Garcia-Joseph - Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Officer; and Mr. Romario Edwards - Programme Coordination Assistant. The PCU has continued to play a critical role in supporting the national and regional response to COVID-19 in the Caribbean region, including mobilising IDP-funded activities, participation in CARPHA’s Incident Management Team (IMT) for Emergency Response (ER) and leading a small group to measure the application/use of CARPHA’s Situation Reports and Technical Guidance Documents. The PCU Team is coordinating various project activities (more details available here) aimed at bolstering the regional COVID-19 response, including:

- 11th European Development Fund Programme of Support for Health Security Strengthening for Prevention and Control of Communicable Disease Outbreaks in the Caribbean (€ 8,000,000.00): for procurement of vaccines and/or other treatment for COVID-19; Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and laboratory equipment for CARPHA’s and Member States for COVID-19 and other Diseases;
- US CDC COVID-19 Project (US$475,000.00): for experts to strengthen surveillance systems; deployment of Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) and procurement of laboratory supplies for diagnostic testing for COVID-19 at CARPHA Laboratory.
- Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Regional Health Project (World Bank – funded) to fast track items to support response to COVID-19 valued at US$660,984.00
- The Agence Française de Développement (AFD), also supports the Regional Coordinating Mechanism on Health Security, chaired by CARPHA, that is coordinating the regional COVID-19 response; procurement of laboratory equipment and PPE to support COVID-19 testing services.

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. 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 and infographics.

REFERENCES

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