Summary
This is an update to the CARPHA Situation Report published on September 17, 2020, in relation to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

To date, there are 206,784 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 or crowded areas are maintained.

New in this Report
- Surveillance and Epidemiology of COVID-19 in 24 Member States
- Classifications of Disease Transmission in the context of COVID-19

**NUMBERS AT A GLANCE***

**Globally**
- 30,950,483 cases (1,212,698 new)
- 959,122 deaths

**Caribbean Region**
- 33 countries, areas, or territories
- 206,784 cases (9,433 new)
- 119,656 recovered (6,742 new)
- 3,588 deaths (131 new)

**Rest of the World**
- 182 countries, areas, or territories and international conveyances
- 30,743,699 cases (1,203,265 new)
- 21,203,780 recovered (924,171 new)
- 955,534 deaths (21,599 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 17, 2020, an additional 9,433 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 21 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region’s total confirmed cases to 206,784 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents a 5% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 3,588 deaths recorded in the Caribbean Region as at September 21, 2020.
As of September 21, 2020, the WHO reported 30,949,804 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 17, 2020, no new countries, areas or territories reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19, while 30 reported no new cases. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of cases by WHO Regions.

As of September 21, 2020, there have been 35,704 cases confirmed from CARPHA Member States (CMS); the highest number was reported on September 18, 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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Among cases in CMS for whom sex was reported, 54% were female and 46% were male as of September 21, 2020 (Figure 4).

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 (35,081) which are excluded from Figure 5, as of September 21, 2020.

Among the 24 Member States, 25% (6/24) have been classified as having sporadic transmission of COVID-19 among cases, 25% (6/24) have reported clusters, 33% (8/24) reported community transmission and 17% (4/24) currently have no cases as of September 21, 2020 (Figure 6).

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

Laboratory

Between February 10, 2020 and September 16, 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) received 22,787 samples from 17 CMS, 2,528 (11.1%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak and 1,787 results (7.8%) 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; (ii) provide health guidelines for safe re-opening of hospitality and other sectors during the pandemic; and (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.

Third in the CARPHA COVID-19 Health Rounds Webinar Series was “Mosquito Borne Disease Management during the COVID-19 Pandemic.” The webinar was well received by over 230 participants from 24 countries, 18 of which were CARPHA Member States. Participants included health workers from various departments including environmental health, public health, vector control, national laboratories, as well as, universities, NGOs and the private sector. Certificates of participation were provided for individuals who attended the session. The recording of the webinar is available here.

The next webinar: The next webinar in the series will be on “COVID-19: Laboratory Diagnostics and Patient Immunity” and will take place on September 29, 2020 at 11:00 AM EST. The webinar will provide current information on available laboratory diagnostic options and what is known about patient immunity to SARS-COV-2. Registration is now available from CARPHA’s website via this link.

Stakeholder Engagement and Communication

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

- **September 21, 2020**: CARPHA representatives attended a discussion with PAHO and The European Union on the COVAX facility.
- **September 21, 2020**: Dr Lisa Indar chaired a special CMOs meeting on the CARICOM travel bubble and the CARPHA integrated Surveillance strategy.
- **September 21, 2020**: Dr. Escobar presented at a webinar hosted by the International Association of Public Health Institutions, speaking on CARPHA’s regional response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **September 21, 2020**: Dr. St. John was a panelist and presenter at the webinar "Subnational Governments in the COVID-19 Scenario in the Americas” hosted by the Forum of Federations with the Organization of American States (OAS) and the University of Kent.
- **September 17, 2020**: Dr. St. John attended the Eastern Caribbean Development Partners Group meeting.
- **September 16, 2020**: Dr. St. John participated in a steering committee for the Caribbean arm of the WHO Solidarity Clinical Trial.
- **September 16, 2020**: Dr. Lisa Indar was a panelist on the Caribbean Tourism Organization’s live online discussion on COVID-19: Forward looking. The discussion examined the Caribbean situation, six months after shutting international borders due to COVID-19, with reopening of some countries and progression of Caribbean tourism during this period.
- **September 15 and 16, 2020**: Dr. St. John interviewed with the Consultants developing the CARICOM Strategic Plan with emphasis on the Effects of COVID-19 on the region.
- **September 14—17, 2020**: Dr. Boodram, Mr. Williams, and Ms. Wallace-Sankarsingh participated in 7 country level table top exercises led by the Regional Security System (RSS) to simulate a hurricane impacting each country. CARPHA staff advised the countries on important COVID-19 health considerations that need to be in place during a country disaster response.

CARPHA PRODUCTS

- [Caribbean Countries that have issued Travel Advisories due to COVID-19](#) — September 18, 2020.
- [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/A)
NEWS AND INFORMATION

Classifications of Disease Transmission

The classification of COVID-19 transmission in countries can be confusing. The following are the definitions of the various transmission classifications used by the WHO and are used to classify countries based on their outbreak situation.

Transmission classification is based on a process of country/territory/area self-reporting. Classifications are reviewed on a weekly basis and may be revised as new information becomes available. Differing degrees of transmission may be present within countries/territories/areas, and classification is based on the highest category reported within a country/territory/area. Categories are:

No cases
- There are no confirmed cases

Sporadic cases
- There are one or more cases, imported or locally detected

Clusters of cases
- Cases are clustered in time, geographic location and/or by common exposures

Community Transmission
- Large number of cases and the inability to relate confirmed cases through chains of transmission, or large number of positive tests through sentinel samples, or unrelated clusters.

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, as well as infographics.

REFERENCES


https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?useExisting=1&layers=c0b356e20b30490c8b88b4c7bb9554e7c&layerId=1