Among cases for whom a source of infection was reported, 28% were imported; and 54% appeared to be close contacts of a known imported case.

LABORATORY:

As of May 12 2020, the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) has received 3,855 samples from 16 CMS, 426 (11.1%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak.

1. CARPHA’s novel multisectoral regional THP is addressing COVID-19 through the provision of a package of “COVID-19 Proactive Measures” for the hospitality sector to build traveller’s assurance to return to the Caribbean. For more information, click here.
DEFINITIONS
Suspected COVID-19 Case Definitions:

Case A
A person with:
- fever
- at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease (e.g. cough, shortness of breath)
- AND a history of travel during the 14 days prior to symptom onset

Case B
A person with:
- fever
- at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease (e.g. cough, shortness of breath)
- AND having been in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case (in the last 14 days prior to symptom onset)

Case C
A person with:
- fever
- at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease (e.g. cough, shortness of breath)
- AND requiring hospitalization
- AND in the ABSENCE of an alternative diagnosis that fully explains the clinical presentation

Imported Case vs Local Spread (Secondary Case) vs Community Spread:

Imported case:
- Exposed to COVID-19 abroad
- Developed symptoms in home country
- Tested positive for COVID-19

E.g. Son who returned from university abroad

Local spread/Secondary case:
- No travel history
- Exposed to an imported case (in this example, his son)
- Developed symptoms and tested positive for COVID-19
- Able to identify source of, or link to infection

E.g. Father who works in home country

Community Spread:
- Persons in the community developed symptoms and tested positive
- No travel history or contact with an imported case or confirmed COVID-19 case
- Source of, or link to infection is unknown

Transmission of COVID-19
It can be transferred from person to person via tiny droplets from the nose or mouth of the COVID-19 infected persons when they cough or sneeze. A healthy individual can get this disease after touching surfaces such as desks and door handles where the droplets from an infected person have fallen.

Clinical Presentation
*Based on patients in the United States of America

Most Common

- Fever
- Dry cough
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Productive cough
- Muscle pain

Atypical
Older adults and persons with medical conditions may have delayed presentation of fever and respiratory symptoms.
**ILLNESS SEVERITY**

**MILD to MODERATE:**
Patients present with mild symptoms up to mild pneumonia.

- **81%**

**SEVERE:**
Patients have severe difficulty breathing, low oxygen levels and >50% lung involvement on imaging.

- **14%**

**CRITICAL:**
Patients can have respiratory failure, shock and multi-organ system dysfunction.

- **5%**

**PREVENTION OF DISEASE**

**SOCIAL DISTANCING**

Social Distancing can stop or slow down the spread of a disease in the community. It requires limiting the time we spend with persons outside of our close family and/or house mates. It means putting more space between persons to decrease the chance of spread and thus, infection. Social Distancing includes:

- Keeping at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from everyone when outside of your home
- Working from home or attending online classes; staying home unless necessary
- Avoiding gatherings with friends

**PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES**

- Wash your hands often and carefully with soap and water or clean with an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or sleeve if tissue is not available.
- Practice social distancing. Avoid contact with anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical early and share previous travel history.

If you **develop symptoms**, stay home. Avoid public transport and public spaces. Seek medical care.

**Use face masks** when applicable, e.g. when visiting the grocery or market.

For more information of CARPHA's activities and guidelines on COVID-19, please access Situation Report 45 - May 13 2020 by clicking here.

**REFERENCES**


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