As of June 17 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) has received **6,662 samples** from 16 CMS, 464 (7.0%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak.

**TRENDING AT CARPHA**

**Information Technology Innovation at CARPHA: Supporting the New Normal**

CARPHA has offered the Customised Open Source Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) application to its Member States. LIMS offers an efficient way to manage laboratory samples and its related data by regulating operations for workflows and reporting procedures or guidelines. It allows easy record-keeping and reporting.

This unique tool is an online **real-time** web based application and can be used regardless of location across the Caribbean region to bolster CARPHA’s Strategic Surveillance System.
**CLINICAL PRESENTATION**

*Based on patients in the United States of America*

**Most Common:**
- Fever (temperature > 37.5 °C)
- Shortness of breath
- Cough (both dry and productive)
- Muscle pain

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

**Diarrhoea and nausea may be experienced before developing fever and other symptoms.**

**Loss of smell and an altered sense of taste have been reported.**

**Illness Severity**

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

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

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

**Mild to Moderate (81%)**

**Severe (14%)**

**Critical (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**

- **STAND HERE**
- Keeping at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from everyone when outside of your home
- ** worning from home or attending online classes**
- **Staying home unless necessary, e.g. for work**
- **Exercising at home**

Other 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.**

EXPLAINING COVID-19 TO CHILDREN

COVID-19 has affected everyone, including children. Adequate time should be spent discussing this disease with the children in your household. Some tips when explaining COVID-19 with children include:

1. **Remain calm and reassure them that they are safe.**
2. **Make time to talk and listen to their concerns. Try to answer truthfully and age appropriately.**
3. **Teach them actions to include in their daily routine to stay safe.**

Storytelling is also an option when explaining COVID-19 to children. The excerpt below is from Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings entitled "My Hero is You: How Kids Can Fight COVID-19!

"What does COVID-19 look like?” Sara asked her mum. "COVID-19, or the coronavirus, is so tiny we can’t see it,” said her mum. “But it spreads in the coughs and sneezes of people who are sick, and when they touch people or things around them. People who are sick get a fever and a cough and can have some trouble breathing.”

For more information of CARPHA’s activities and guidelines on COVID-19, please access Situation Report 59 - June 18 2020 by clicking here.
REFERENCES