As of July 7, 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) has received **8,573 samples** from 16 CMS, 551 (6.4%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak.

### TRENDING AT CARPHA

**CARPHA’s Human Resource (HR) Department COVID-19 Response: Safeguarding Our Most Valuable Asset**

The Human Resource Department, along with CARPHA’s Technical officers, remains at the front line of CARPHA’s response to its employees, Member States, and stakeholders during the COVID-19 crisis.

HR Action Timeline:

- **A** Minimal Risk - January: Staff meeting
- **B** Low Risk - February: Psych Assessment and Med Eval for Lab staff.
- **C** Moderate to High Risk - March: Staff Meetings, BCP Shared with IMT, Workplace protocol, Recruitment of lab personnel, Staff rotation/Telework, Installation of sanitizer stations, EAP Session, Lab shift system introduced, Authorization letters, Bathrooms reassignment - Lab separate, Distribution of masks
- **D** Very High Risk - April: Temperature screening protocol, Additional Lab personnel, EAP Session, Subsidized transportation for public transport users, Virtual interviews
- **E** Very High Risk - May: Staff Meeting, BCP Activated Distribution of masks, Sensitization training – use of masks, Managing remote employees – workshop

The department’s robust support has aided the Agency to efficiently adapt to working safely during the crisis. Some of these interventions include: revised work protocol; recruiting additional laboratory personnel and staff training on the use of masks.
**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
- Fatigue

**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.

**TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19**

1. Transfers from person to person via tiny droplets from the nose or mouth
2. Spreads when a person with COVID-19 coughs or sneezes
3. Also spreads via contact
4. Touching surfaces, such as desks and door handles where the tiny droplets from an infected person have fallen

**IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS**

**Imported Cases**
- Exposed to COVID-19 abroad
- Developed symptoms in home country
- Tested positive for COVID-19

E.g. Husband returning from a conference abroad

**Local Spread/ Secondary Cases**
- No travel history
- Exposed to imported case
- Developed symptoms and tested positive for COVID-19
- Able to identify source of, or link to infection

E.g. Wife of the man who attended the conference abroad

**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

**ILLNESS SEVERITY**

**Mild to Moderate**
(81%)

**Severe**
(14%)

**Critical**
(5%)
**PREVENTION OF DISEASE**

- Wash your hands often and carefully with soap and water or clean with an alcohol-based hand rub with 60-80% alcohol content (ethanol or isopropanol).

- If you have fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention early and share previous travel history.

- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or sleeve if tissue is not available.

- 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.

- Keep at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from persons that do not live in your household.

**SOCIAL DISTANCING MEANS PHYSICAL DISTANCING IN PUBLIC SPACES**

- Limit face to face contact with persons outside of your household in order to stop or slow down the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

- Keep a distance of 6 feet or 2 metres from persons who do not live in your household.

- Remain physically and socially connected to family and loved ones that live in your household.

- Connect virtually with friends and loved ones outside of the household.

For more information of CARPHA’s activities and guidelines on COVID-19, please access Situation Report 67- July 8 2020 by clicking here.
**RECENT CARPHA PRODUCTS**


Reopening of Caribbean Tourism and Travel: Guidelines and Checklist

COVID-19 Guidelines: Faith-based Organizations and Community

COVID-19 Public Transportation Guidelines

Public Education Resources

Media

Videos

**REFERENCES**


