As of July 28, 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) has received **10,516 samples** from 16 CMS, 661 (6.3%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak.

**TRENDING AT CARPHA**

Leading the Safety and Security Measures for CARPHA Staff during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Since the onset of COVID-19 in January 2020, CARPHA’s Facilities Department has been leading the implementation of safety and security measures for CARPHA’s staff on all three campuses.

The Facilities Department and Maintenance Unit continue to ensure that CARPHA’s work environment remains safe and conducive to staff’s needs. Additionally, the robust Transportation Team continues to respond at a moment’s notice. With their assistance, laboratory staff can make numerous trips to collect samples submitted by CARPHA Member States, from the airport.

Image (left) shows a breakdown of the additional measures that have been implemented to ensure the safety and security of all staff and visitors to CARPHA.
**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

**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

**Clinical Presentation**

*Based on patients in the United States of America*

**Most Common:**
- Fever (temperature > 38.0°C)
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- 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

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

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 76- July 29 2020 by clicking here.
RECENT CARPHA PRODUCTS

Infographic—COVID-19 - General Information—NEW
Infographic—Protecting Persons Living with Non-communicable Diseases as it relates to the COVID-19 Pandemic—NEW
Infographic—Protecting Older Adults as it relates to the COVID-19 Pandemic—NEW
Infographic—Prevention of COVID-19—NEW
Caribbean Countries Reopening Plans - July 23, 2020
Caribbean Countries that have issues travel advisories - July 23, 2020
Public Education Resources
Media
Videos

REFERENCES