As of August 18 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory has received 15,123 samples from 16 CMS, 1,025 (6.8%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak.
Recent CARPHA Products

- Regional COVID-19 Public Health Considerations for Reopening of Borders and Resuming Travel in the CARICOM Region
- Infographic - Reducing the Risk of COVID-19 while voting
- COVID-19 Fact Sheet on Solid Waste Management (SWM) and the Human Health and Environmental Impacts and its associated infographic
- Interim Guidance for the Reopening of Food Establishments and Bars during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Infographic - Prevention of COVID-19
- COVID-19 Information and Resources
- Media
- Videos
CARPHA’s Medical Microbiology Laboratory Responding to COVID-19

CARPHA’s Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML), as the regional reference laboratory, continues to provide **direct outbreak support with diagnostic testing**. CMML conducts tests for suspected COVID-19 cases for 16 CARPHA Member States (CMS) routinely, and other Member States, as requested.

In response to COVID-19, CMML has strengthened its capacity to ensure that CMS have access to timely, accurate results within 24-48 hours. CMML continues to provide laboratory services 18 hours/day, 7 days/week. As of August 16th, 2020, the CMML has tested 14,578 samples for SARS-CoV-2 from 16 CMS.

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 public health response to COVID-19, has developed a suite of Health Considerations to successfully exit the COVID-19 lockdown, reopen borders and resume travel. Re-opening and recovery require a careful balance between reducing restrictive measures and ensuring adequate, effective measures are implemented to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and efficiently detect and monitor the current situation.
COVID-19 Definitions

**Imported Cases**
- Exposed to COVID-19 abroad
- Developed symptoms in home country
- Tested positive for COVID-19
  
  *E.g. Daughter returning from university 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

**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. Brother of the girl who returned from university abroad*
When a person coughs, sneezes, sings, talks...tiny droplets containing the disease float in the air...

1. When a person coughs, sneezes, sings, talks...
2. these droplets land on surfaces, such as desks and door handles.
3. Another person is infected

- when the droplets from the air enter the body via nose, mouth or eyes...or when a person touches a surface that has droplets and then touches their mouth, nose or eyes.
Symptoms of COVID-19

- Fever
- Cough (Both dry and productive)
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Muscle pain

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

Severity of COVID-19

Mild to Moderate (81%)
Severe (14%)
Critical (5%)
Prevention of COVID-19

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.

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.

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.
Physical Distancing

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 on CARPHA’s recent activities and guidelines on COVID-19, please access Situation Report 85 - August 19 2020 by clicking here.

Stay updated with the Caribbean Public Health Agency. Follow us on our social media platforms!

@carpha1  @carpha1  @CARPHA1  @(CARPHA)  @CARPHACampus

Be sure to visit www.carpha.org for more information on COVID-19, including all technical guidance documents.
Instructions for Sharing:

- Go to the Communication materials on CARPHA's website
- Click on the infographic you want to share. You should now be able to see the PDF document of the infographic online on your phone.
- On the bottom pane, select the share button (looks like a box with an arrow pointing upwards).
- Select Whatsapp or whichever option you prefer.

Instructions for Printing:

- Download SitRep Infographic.
- Open on Adobe Reader.
- Click on File (on the bar at the top of the page).
- Select Print from the the drop down menu.
- When the Print page comes up, select Fit under the Page Handling and Sizing section.
- Then, click Print.

Please feel free to share these messages!