

# COVID-19

## CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

April 22, 2020



### SITREP #36 Infographic

\*For the full SITREP, please access <https://carpha.org/What-We-Do/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus>

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE as of April 22, 2020

### Caribbean

- 9,098 confirmed cases
- 33 countries, territories or areas {of which 24 are CARPHA member states (CMS)}
- 1,301 persons recovered
- 444 reported deaths

### Globally

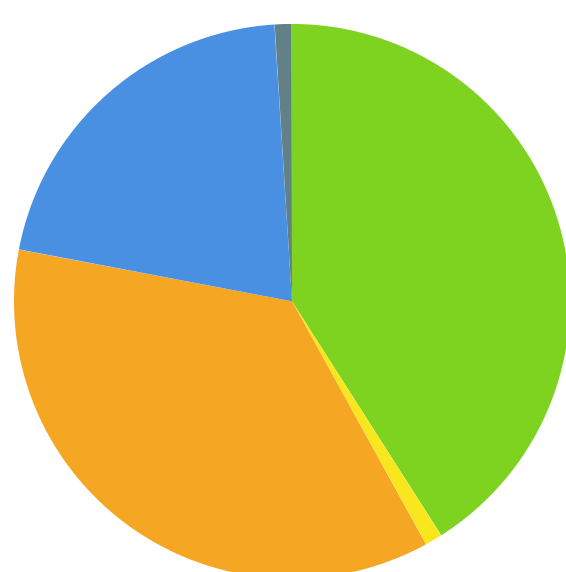
- 2,471,163 confirmed cases

### Rest of the World (apart from the Caribbean)

- 2,462,065 confirmed cases
- 179 countries, areas or territories and Other\*
- 694,023 persons recovered
- 168,562 reported deaths

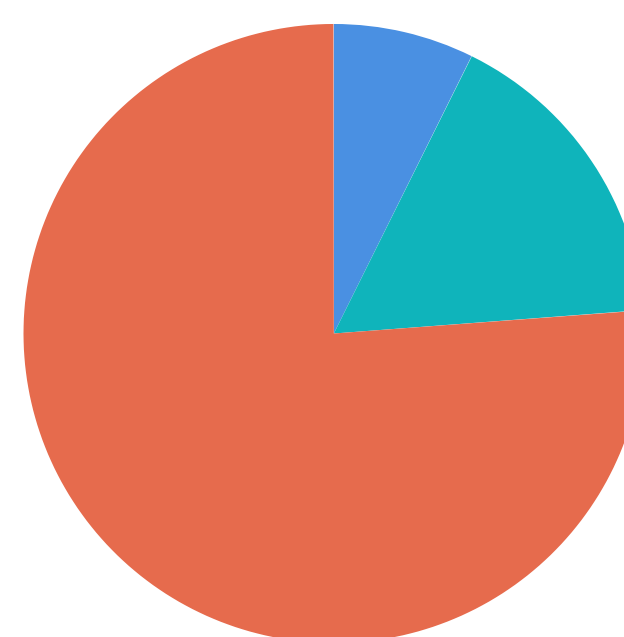
\*Persons on board the Diamond Princess cruise ship

## COVID-19 TRENDS IN CARPHA MEMBER STATES



- Imported Case (41%)
- Local Transmission (36%)
- Unknown (1%)
- Community transmission (1%)
- Under investigation (21%)

Among cases for whom a source of infection was reported, 41% were imported; and 36% appeared to be close contacts (local transmission) of a known imported case.



- Cruise Ship- 49 cases (7.34%)
- Airplanes- 110 cases (16.47%)
- No data - 509 cases (76.2%)

Data available identified cruise ships, the United States of America and the United Kingdom as the top three locations where cases reportedly acquired their illness.

## LABORATORY UPDATE: REVISED SAMPLING REQUIREMENTS



As of April 21, 2020, the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) has received **2,414 samples** from **14 CMS**, **314 (13%)** of which have tested **positive** since the start of the outbreak.

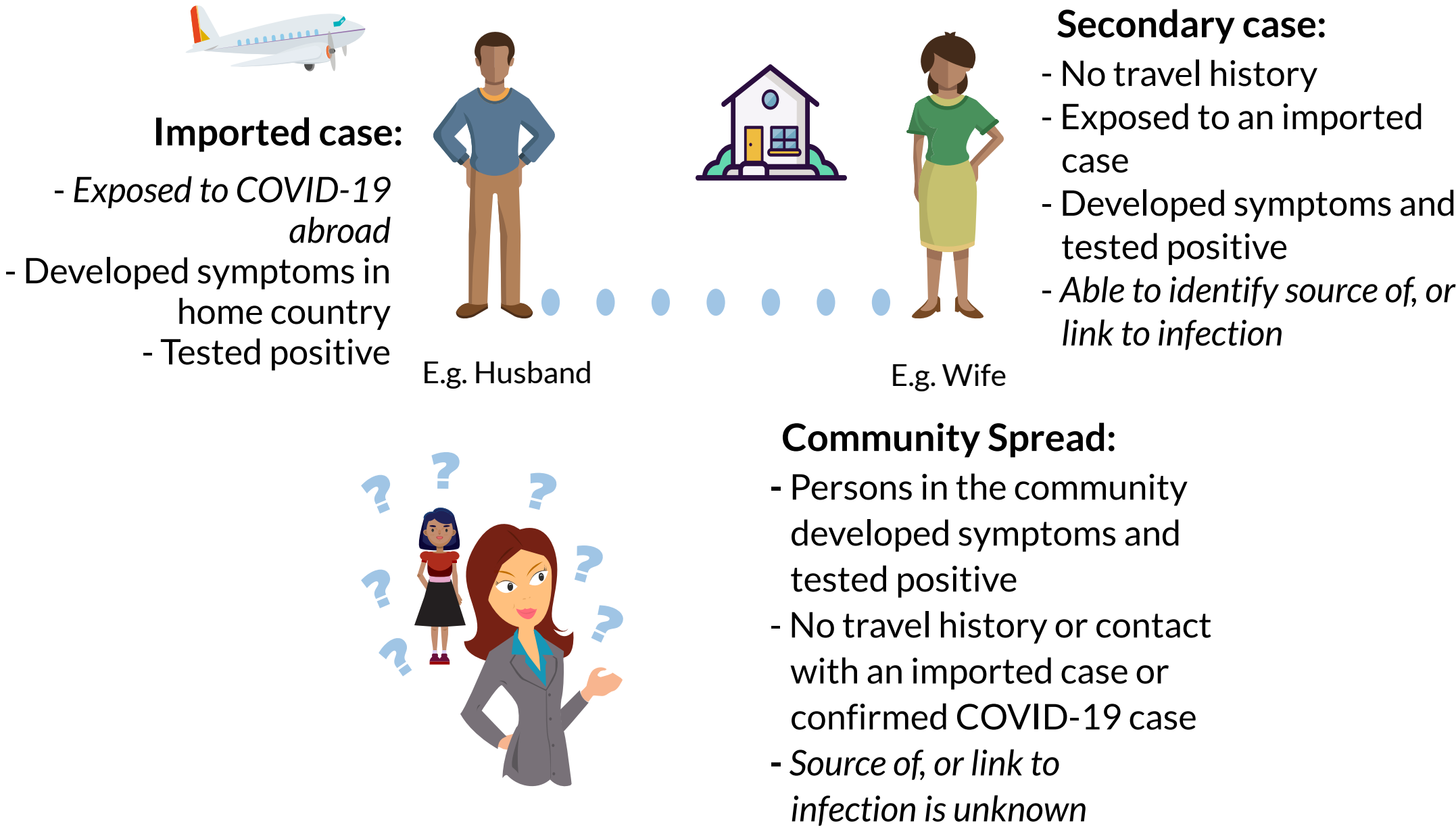
**Samples can be taken from as early as day 0 to as much as ten (10) days following the onset of symptoms.** Persons who feel they have been exposed to COVID-19 should quarantine themselves at home or seek advice from their health care providers.

# DEFINITIONS

## Suspected Case definitions:

Case A	Case B	Case C
A person with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-fever</li><li>-at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease (e.g. cough, shortness of breath)</li><li>-AND a history of travel during the 14 days prior to symptom onset</li></ul>	A person with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-fever</li><li>-at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease (e.g. cough, shortness of breath)</li><li>-AND having been in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case (in the last 14 days prior to symptom onset)</li></ul>	A person with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-fever</li><li>-at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease (e.g. cough, shortness of breath)</li><li>-AND requiring hospitalization</li><li>-AND in the ABSENCE of an alternative diagnosis that fully explains the clinical presentation</li></ul>

## Imported case vs local spread (secondary case) vs community spread:



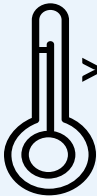
## Definition for reporting COVID-19 Death:

“WHO has published a definition for reporting COVID deaths: *a COVID-19 death is defined for surveillance purposes as a death resulting from a clinically compatible illness in a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case, unless there is a clear alternative cause of death that cannot be related to COVID disease (e.g., trauma). There should be no period of complete recovery between the illness and death.*”

# CLINICAL PRESENTATION OF COVID-19

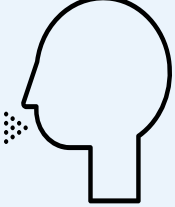
*\*Based on patients in the United States of America*

## MOST COMMON




>37.5°C

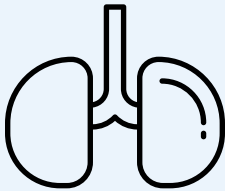
- Fever (83-99%)




- Cough (59-82%)



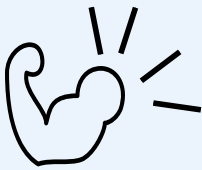
- Fatigue (44-70%)



- Shortness of breath (31-40%)



- Productive cough (28-33%)




- Muscle pain (11-35%)

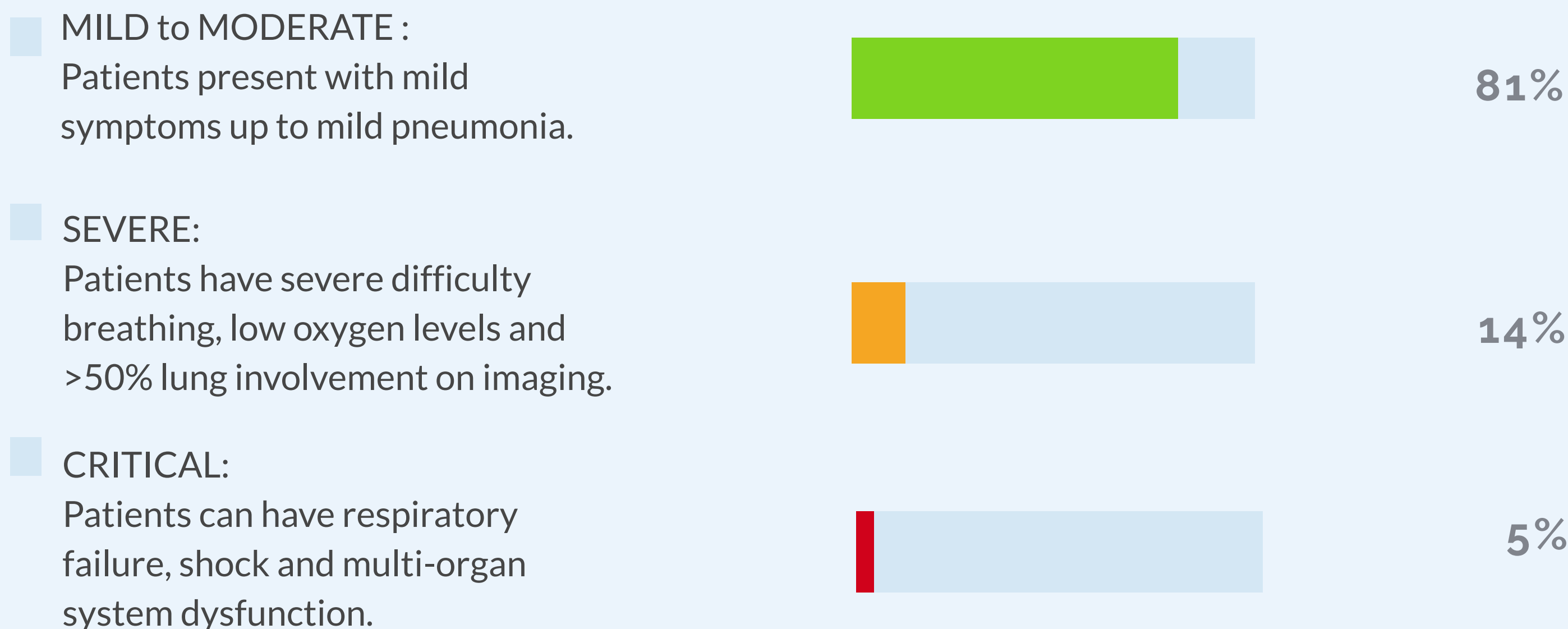
## ATYPICAL

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



 Some persons experience gastrointestinal symptoms such as diarrhoea and nausea before developing fever and lower respiratory tract signs and symptoms. Some persons have also reported loss of smell and an altered sense of taste.

## ILLNESS SEVERITY



## TRANSMISSION OF DISEASE



Persons can get COVID-19 from other individuals who already have the virus. 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.

There has been much debate about the use of masks for the general public. On April 2, PAHO noted that *'in the context of COVID-19, airborne transmission may be possible in specific circumstances and settings in which procedures that generate aerosols are performed, generally in healthcare settings. The use of medical masks and respirators should be prioritized for these circumstances.'*

## WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION: USE OF THERAPEUTICS



Discussions are underway in the region to determine participation in the WHO SOLIDARITY trial.

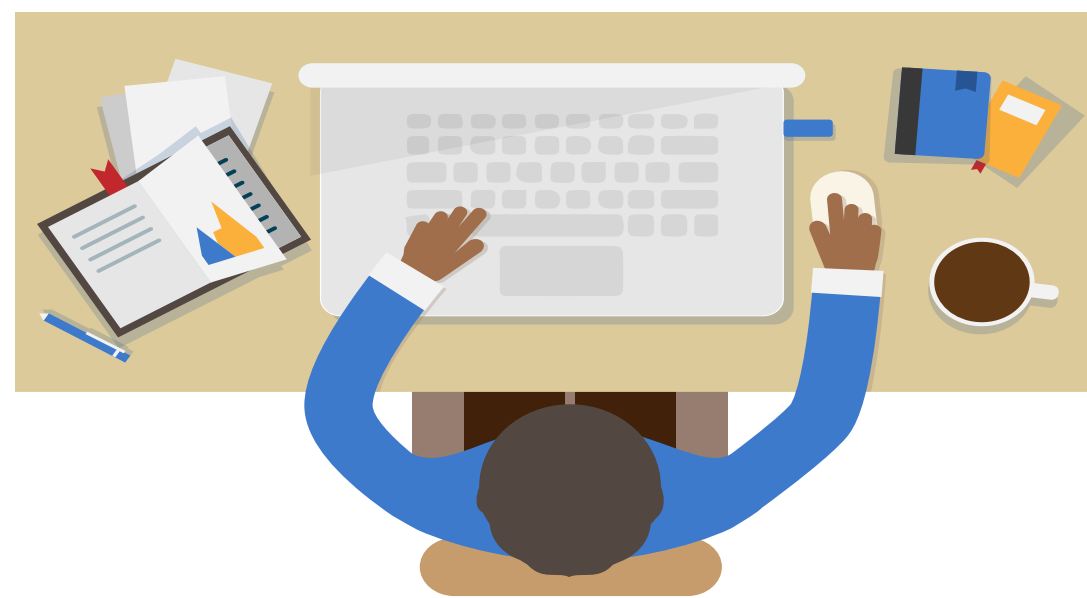
## PREVENTION OF DISEASE

### SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social Distancing is a method used to 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. The idea is to limit contact between persons infected with COVID-19 and those who are not. **Simply put, it means putting more space between persons to decrease the chance of spread and thus, infection.**

## Social Distancing includes:

- When outside of your home, maintain at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from everyone
- Working from home or attending online classes
- Avoiding gatherings with friends
- Avoiding public transportation unless necessary
- Staying at home unless absolutely necessary



### CLEAN HANDS

Wash your hands often and carefully with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean with an alcohol-based hand rub.

### CATCH IT, BIN IT, KILL IT!

Cough or sneeze into your elbow or sleeve (not into your hands), if tissue is not available. Immediately wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser.



### AVOID CLOSE CONTACT

Practice social distancing (2 metres or 6 feet) between yourself and others. Avoid contact with anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

### SEEK MEDICAL CARE

If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early and share previous travel history with your health care provider.



### STAY HOME IF ILL

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

## CARPHA's REGIONAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) is reminding Member States to **ramp up their disease surveillance efforts for acute respiratory infections/severe acute respiratory infections both at the primary and secondary care levels, as a matter of urgency.**

CARPHA is working with technical experts across the Region to provide up-to-date guidance and technical advice to CMS. CARPHA remains committed to providing support and guidance to Member States on how to strengthen their health systems response should there be person-to-person transmission in the Caribbean.



# CARPHA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE TIMELINE

**Jan 1st, 2020**  
CARPHA begins COVID-19 media releases with CMS, CDEMA, CARICOM, CTO, CHTA and other stakeholders

**Jan 21st, 2020**  
- Activation of Incident Management Team-Emergency response (IMT-ER)  
- Initiation of Situation Reports (SITREPs) to share with Regional stakeholders

**Jan 26th, 2020**  
Distribution of modified Weekly Syndromic Surveillance and COVID-19 Reporting Form to Member States to include COVID-19

**Jan 28th, 2020**  
Discussion with Regional Health Communications Network (RHCN) on country's preparedness level and health promotion activities with member states and CARICOM

**Jan 30th, 2020**  
- WHO declared COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)  
- Risk of COVID-19 to Caribbean deemed as LOW

**Feb 4th, 2020**  
- Distribution of Country Preparedness and Response to COVID-19 on Cruise Ships to CMOs  
- Provision of update on Emergency meeting with ministers to advise WHO on the Caribbean’s response to the outbreak

**Feb 6th, 2020**  
Establishment of Expert Technical Advisory Group to advise on the Caribbean's clinical response to COVID-19

**Feb 25th, 2020**  
Expansion by IMPACS tracking of passengers to include countries with CDC travel advisories (Hong, Kong, Japan, South Korea, Iran)

**Feb 28th, 2020**  
Discussion with the Regional Health Communications Network (RHCN) on countries' preparedness level and health promotion activities with member states and CARICOM

**Mar 5th, 2020**  
Raised risk of COVID-19 to VERY HIGH

**Mar 10th, 2020**  
Declaration of the COVID-19 outbreak as a PANDEMIC by the WHO

**Mar 12th, 2020**  
- Updated COVID-19 laboratory protocol to include secondary cases or transmission associated with imported cases  
- Discussion of Regional plan of action with CDEMA and IMPACS after confirmed COVID-19 cases in 3 CARICOM States

**Mar 20th, 2020**  
Confirmed COVID-19 cases in 13 CARPHA Member States

**Mar 24th, 2020**  
Convened Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Health Security: Public Health Thematic Working Group to discuss the CARICOM regional response to the COVID-19

**Apr 6th, 2020**  
Confirmed COVID-19 cases in 24 CMS

MINIMAL RISK

LOW RISK

MODERATE TO HIGH RISK

VERY HIGH RISK

**Dec 30th, 2019**  
China reports a cluster of 27 cases of pneumonia with unknown aetiology in Wuhan to WHO

**Jan 7th, 2020**  
Chinese scientists identify the pathogen as a novel coronavirus

**Jan 23rd, 2020**  
Procurement of supplies for diagnostic testing of coronavirus responsible for COVID-19

**Jan 27th, 2020**  
- Development of Technical Documents for Regional Guidance  
- Procured Primerdesign 2019-n-Cov kit for specific detection of the new coronavirus to utilise a different PCR approach

**Jan 29th, 2020**  
Assembly of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Health Security (RCM-HS)

**Feb 2nd - 3rd, 2020**  
Production of the Social Media plan of Action for COVID-19 to support Regional Communications Strategy

**Feb 5th, 2020**  
Notification of CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory's (CMML) readiness to accept specimens for diagnostic testing

**As of Feb 21st, 2020**  
Holding of joint PAHO and CARPHA Regional COVID-19 coordination meetings weekly

**Feb 26th, 2020**  
Risk of COVID-19 to Caribbean raised to MODERATE TO HIGH

**Mar 1st, 2020**  
- First confirmed case of COVID-19 in the Caribbean region  
- Preparedness response guidelines discussed at the CARICOM Heads of State meeting

**Mar 5-7th, 2020**  
Discussions with Cruise Line Industry regarding Regional Health Protocols

**Mar 11th, 2020**  
First confirmed case in a CARPHA Member State

**Mar 19th, 2020**  
Discussions with Secretary General of CARICOM and Heads of Institutions on Business Continuity during COVID-19 and submitted CARPHA business continuity plan to CARICOM

**Mar 23rd, 2020**  
Revision of laboratory testing protocol to include testing of all samples in accordance with the expanded WHO case definition as of 23 March 2020

**Mar 25th, 2020**  
- Confirmed COVID-19 cases in 20 CARPHA Member States  
- Presentation to IMPACS Special Meeting of CARICOM Standing Committee of Heads of Correctional Services and Prisons on COVID-19 in prisons

# References

WHO, 2020. Clinical management of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) when COVID-19 disease is suspected. 13 March 2020. Available from: [https://www.who.int/publications-detail/clinical-management-of-severe-acute-respiratory-infection-when-novel-coronavirus-\(ncov\)-infection-is-suspected](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/clinical-management-of-severe-acute-respiratory-infection-when-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-is-suspected)

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