

CARPHA SITUATION REPORT NO. 39 - APRIL 29, 2020

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic

Summary

This is an update to the Situation Report published on April 27, 2020, in relation to the outbreak of COVID-19.

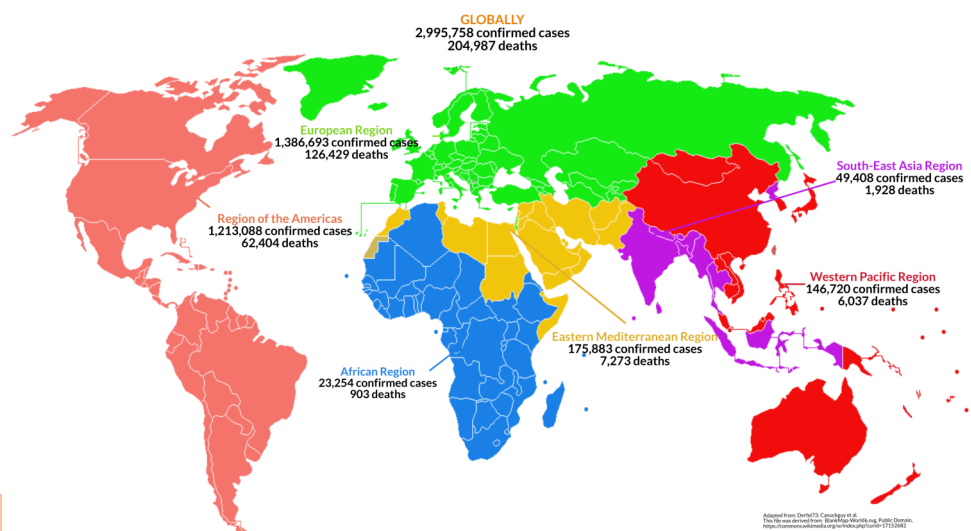
To date, there are 11,155 cases in 33 countries/territories (including 24 CARPHA Member States), in the Caribbean Region. The risk of further importation of cases to the Caribbean remains **Very High**.

The Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Health Security (RCM-HS), is actively working with Heads of Government and regional partners on a common approach to the COVID-19 response.

New in this Report

- **Surveillance and Epidemiology in 24 Member States**
- **CARPHA's Technical Cooperation**
- **CARPHA's COVID-19 Testing Process and Adherence to Quality Standards**

SITUATION IN NUMBERS



Numbers at a Glance*

**Clinically diagnosed and laboratory confirmed cases*

Globally

2,995,779 cases (137,093 new)

Caribbean Region

33 countries, areas, or territories
(0 new)

11,155 cases (441 new)**

2,463 recovered (375 new)

509 deaths (13 new)

Rest of the World

179 countries, areas, or
territories and Other*** (0 new)

2,984,624 cases (136,652 new)

935,104 recovered (62,149 new)

204,478 deaths (8,679 new)

** Updated with additional data from
local country reports

***Persons on board the Diamond
Princess Cruise Ship harboured in
Yokohama, Japan

SITUATION UPDATE

Up to 33 countries in the Caribbean region have reported the importation of at least one confirmed case of COVID-19. The risk of further cases in the Caribbean Region remains **Very High**. Since the previous report on April 27, 2020, no new countries reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19 within the Caribbean region.

Additional cases, however, were confirmed in 15 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region's total confirmed cases to 11,115 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents an 4% increase in the numbers of confirmed cases. Thirteen (13) additional deaths were also recorded, bringing the total numbers of deaths to 509.

TABLE 1: COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES WITH REPORTED CASES OF COVID-19, 29 APRIL, 2020

Region	Cases	# new cases since last	Deaths	Recovered	% of cases still active ^a
European Region	1,386,693	44,842	126,429	516,743	53.6
Region of the Americas	1,213,088	72,568	62,404	204,269	78.0
Eastern Mediterranean Region	175,883	10,514	7,273	91,555	43.8
South-East Asia Region	49,408	4,816	1,928	12,147	71.5
African Region	23,254	1,784	903	8,947	57.6
Other: International conveyance (Diamond Princess Cruise Ship)	712	0	13	645	7.6
Total	2,995,758	137,123	204,987	937,566	61.9

As of April 29, 2020, the WHO reported 2,995,758 cases of patients with COVID-19. Outside of China, 212 countries, areas or territories have confirmed at least one case among travellers exposed while abroad and/or person-to-person contact. No new countries have reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19 since the last Situation Report on April 27, 2020. Table 1 shows a breakdown of cases by Region.

^a Active cases = Total cases – (Number of cases recovered + Number of deaths)
For full details on all countries' data visit Sources listed below. Numbers are updated throughout the day and may vary from what is listed at time of publishing.
Sources: (1) WHO Situation Dashboard Accessed at 8:00am 29 April 2020. Available from: <https://who.sprinklr.com/>
(2) Johns Hopkins University's Centre for Science and Engineering Accessed at 8:00am. 29 April 2020. Available from: <https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>
<https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?useExisting=1&layers=c0b356e20b30490c8b8b4c7bb9554e7c&layerId=1>

As of April 29, 2020, there have been 1,351 cases confirmed from CARPHA Member States (CMS), the highest number reported on April 15, 2020 (Figure 1).

Fig 1. Cumulative Total Confirmed and Recovered cases of COVID-19 and Deaths in CMS

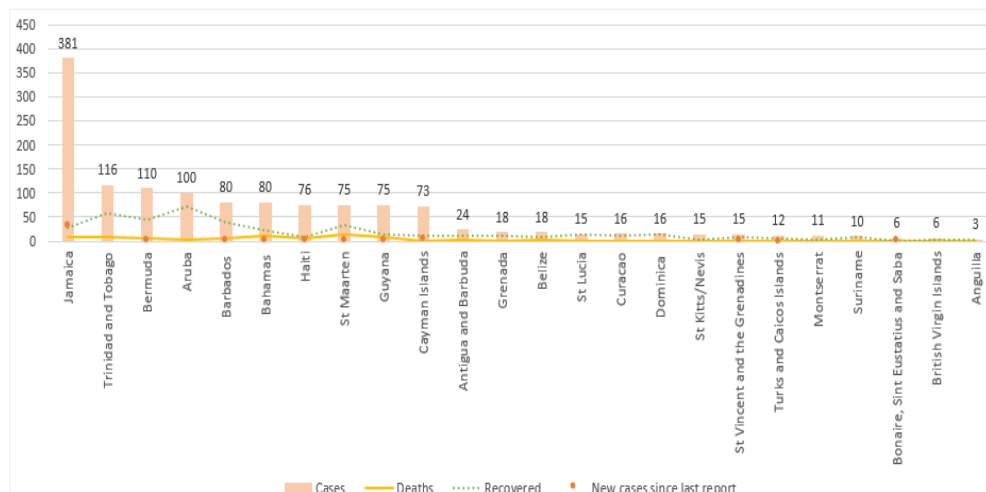
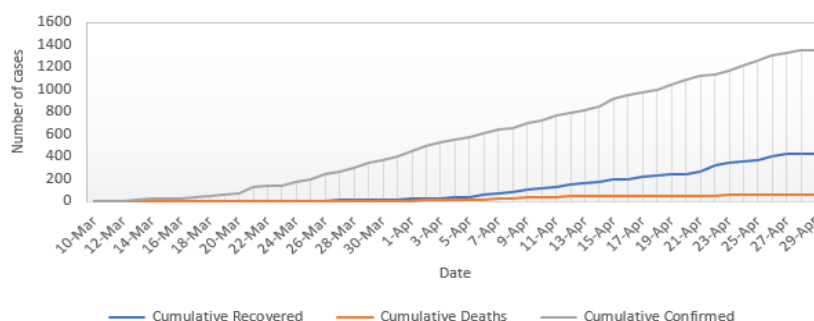


Fig 2. Confirmed Cases in Member States as of 29 April 2020

For the cases for which data was available, the majority were aged 50 years and over, with 50-59 being the modal age group. Age specific data was not available for the majority of cases (Figure 3).

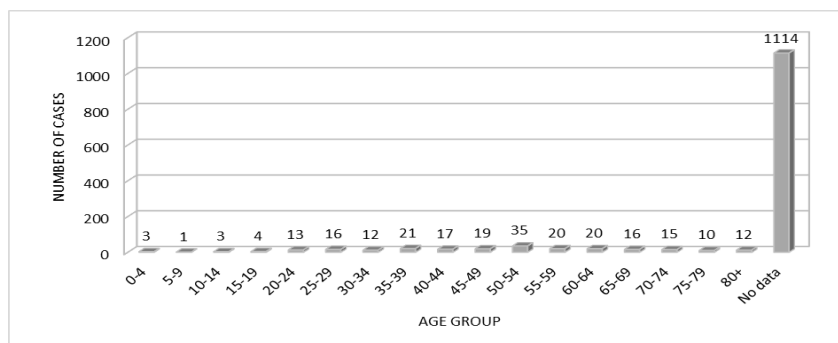
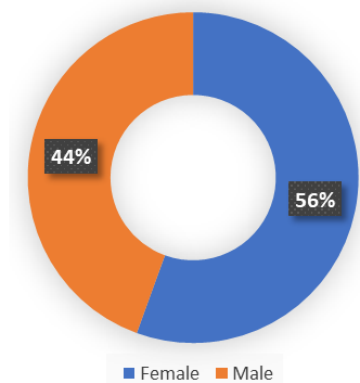


Fig 3. Reported confirmed cases of COVID-19 by age group in CMS

Distribution of the number of cases, deaths and number of cases who have recovered in



Among cases for whom sex was reported, 56% were female and 44% were male. (Figure 4).

Fig 4. Percentage of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 by sex in CMS

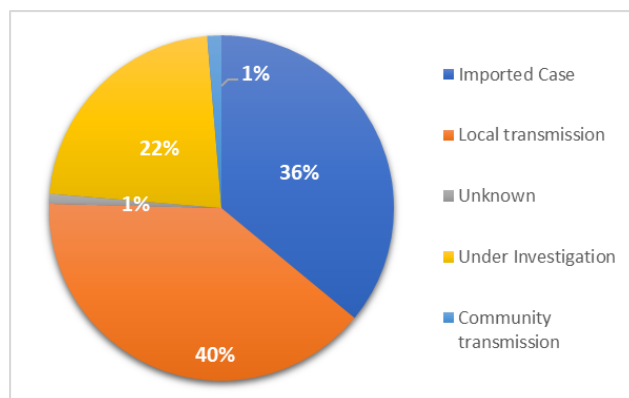


Fig 5. Percentage of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 by source of transmission in CMS

Among cases for whom a source of infection was reported, 40% were imported; and 36% appeared to be close contacts (local transmission) of a known imported case (Figure 5).

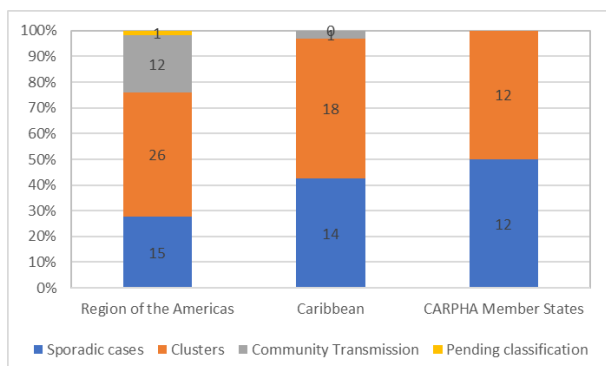


Fig 6. Category of Countries by Transmission Classification

Among the 24 Member States, 50% (12/24) have been classified as having sporadic cases, 50% (12/24) have reported clusters, based on data received by WHO from national authorities by 10:00 CEST, April 28, 2020¹.

Laboratory

Since February 10 and as of April 28, 2020, CARPHA has received 2,843 samples from 14 CMS, 373 (13.12%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak, 242 results (8.5%) correspond to new cases.

Figure 7 shows the progression of COVID-19 cases which have been confirmed in CMS from February – April 2020.

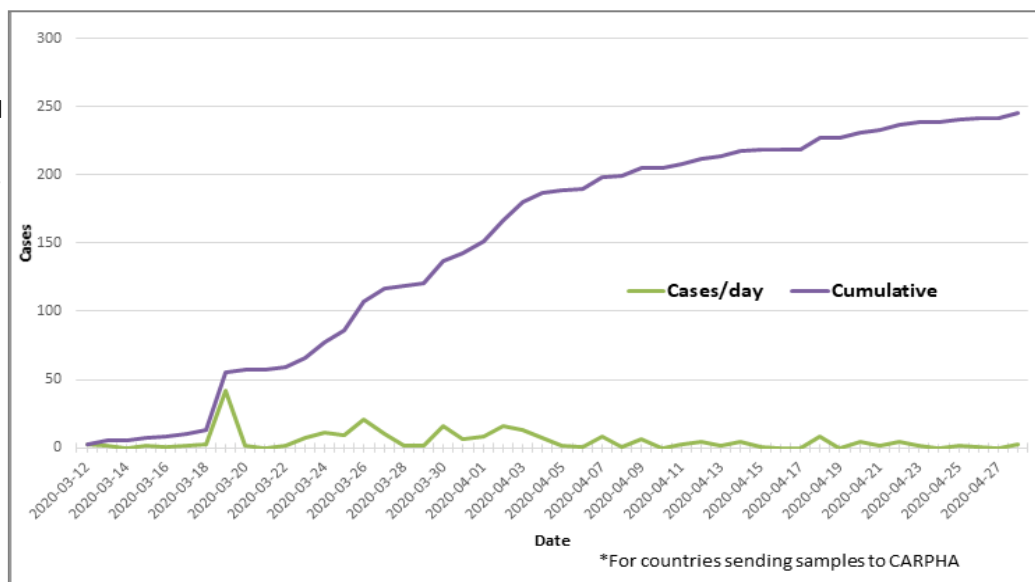


Fig 7. COVID-19 Progression in CMS*. Laboratory Confirmed New Cases. Feb—Apr 2020

¹ WHO. Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 99 Available from: https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200428-sitrep-99-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=119fc381_2 Accessed 29 April 2020.

CARPHA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

Laboratory Update

CARPHA's Medical Microbiology Laboratory distributed **Laboratory Update 11** advising of guidelines for use of expired Universal/Viral Transport Media swabs, in response to the global shortage and disruptions in supply chains for sample collection materials.

CARPHA's COVID-19 Testing Process and Adherence to Quality Standards

The CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) currently tests all suspected cases of COVID-19, as per the WHO case definition, provided by the WHO Global surveillance for COVID-19 caused by human infection with COVID-19 virus. The CMML uses the WHO recommended Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) method. This method remains the gold standard for COVID-19 laboratory diagnosis because the sensitivity and specificity of the test are nearly 100%. Read more by clicking on the [link](#). Video: [The CARPHA COVID-19 Testing Process](#)

CARPHA's Technical Cooperation

April 29: CARPHA led the development of *Common Health Policy and Protocol* as mandated by the CARICOM Heads of Government to COVID-19, submitted today.

April 28, 2020: *Caribbean Countries Benefit from EU Funding to Fight Against Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)*. Member States of the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) will benefit from a Grant from the European Union (EU) valued at about 8 million euro (US\$8.6M) to help in the fight against the coronavirus and to strengthen health security in the Region. [Read more.](#)

- *CARPHA Collaborates with The University of Trinidad and Tobago to Strengthen Health Education and Research in the Caribbean*. CARPHA on April 27, 2020, signed an agreement for strategic collaboration with The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) aimed at promoting mutual cooperation in health education and research to better serve the Caribbean. [Read more.](#)



Dr. Joy St John
Professor Prakash Persad
Picture 1: Dr. Joy St John, Executive Director of CARPHA, and Professor Prakash Persad, Acting President, at UTT.

Communication and Information

Various media releases distributed by CARPHA are [available online](#)

Logistics

- **April 23, 2020:** Dr. Gonzalez-Escobar (Head, Laboratory Services and Networks) and Ms. Wallace-Sankarsingh (Biorisk Manager) represented CARPHA as observers to the Regional Security System (RSS) Table Top Exercise "COVID-19 Security Response" to raise the awareness of the Security Chiefs/Heads of Security Agencies in participating countries to some of the current and emerging challenges associated with COVID-19.
- **April 21, 2020:** Dr. Shelley Rodrigo (CR-FELTP Coordinator) and Ms. Wallace-Sankarsingh (Biorisk Manager) participated in a demonstration with IMPACS for an online training platform (CBSI-Connect) which will be used to conduct training in Personal Protective Equipment for regional and national front line security service providers.

Stakeholder Engagement

CARPHA is working closely with various stakeholders for a coordinated regional response, and as such has engaged with stakeholders in multiple ways, including the following:

- **April 28 and 29, 2020:** Dr. St. John and Dr. Indar continued engaging with key regional and international partners in coordinating regional response to COVID-19 and for development of the Common Health Policy and protocol as mandated by the CARICOM Heads of Government through:
 - ♦ Meetings of the CARICOM working group Meeting of Airlines Officials and Maritime Group
 - ♦ Meeting of the COVID-19 Tourism Task Force
 - ♦ Meeting on the WHO Solidarity Clinical Trial

NEW INFORMATION UPDATES

In celebration of the 18th Vaccination Week in the Americas, from April 25 – May 2, CARPHA urges Member States to continue to maintain their vaccine coverage while fighting the COVID-2019 pandemic. The full media release is available [here](#):

CARPHA CAMPUS NEWS

CARPHA's Team continues to adapt to demands of the pandemic response.



Picture 1: HQ staff are treated to a slice of cool, juicy watermelon on a hot day by Ms. Victoria Cruickshank-Taylor

Picture 2: Staff have their temperatures checked as workplace protocols roll out across all three campuses

Picture 3: Staff working late captures the beauty of the lights at CARPHA HQ, Port of Spain, Trinidad

CARPHA PRODUCTS

Recent Articles

[Precautionary prevention measures implemented by Caribbean Countries \(outside travel-related measures\)](#) – April 24, 2020

[CARPHA's Statement on the Use of Gloves in the Community Setting in the Context of COVID-19](#) – April 24, 2020

Links to Public Education Resources <https://www.carpha.org/What-We-Do/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus>

Media links <https://www.carpha.org/More/Media/Articles>

Videos <https://www.youtube.com/user/CARPHACampus>

REFERENCES

Sources: (1) WHO Situation Dashboard Accessed at 8:00am 29 April 2020. Available from: <https://who.sprinklr.com/>
(2) Johns Hopkins University's Centre for Science and Engineering Accessed at 8:00am. 29 April 2020. Available from: <https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>
<https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?useExisting=1&layers=c0b356e20b30490c8b8b4c7bb9554e7c&layerId=1>
(3) Jamaica Ministry of Health and wellness.COVID-19 dashboard available at <https://jamcovid19.moh.gov.jm/> Accessed 29 April 2020
(4) Guyana Ministry of Public Health. <https://dpi.gov.gy/confirmed-covid-19-cases-now-stands-at-75/> Accessed 29 April 2020
(5) Cayman Islands. Ministry of Health, environment, culture and housing COVID-19 dashboard. <https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/6430568/COVID19%2028%20April.pdf>. Accessed 29 April 2020 (6) Curacao. <https://gobiernu.cw/corona-virus-ultimo-notisiano/> Accessed 29 April 2020.