

# CARPHA SITUATION REPORT NO. 40 - MAY 1, 2020

## Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic

### Summary

This is an update to the Situation Report published on April 29, 2020, in relation to the outbreak of COVID-19.

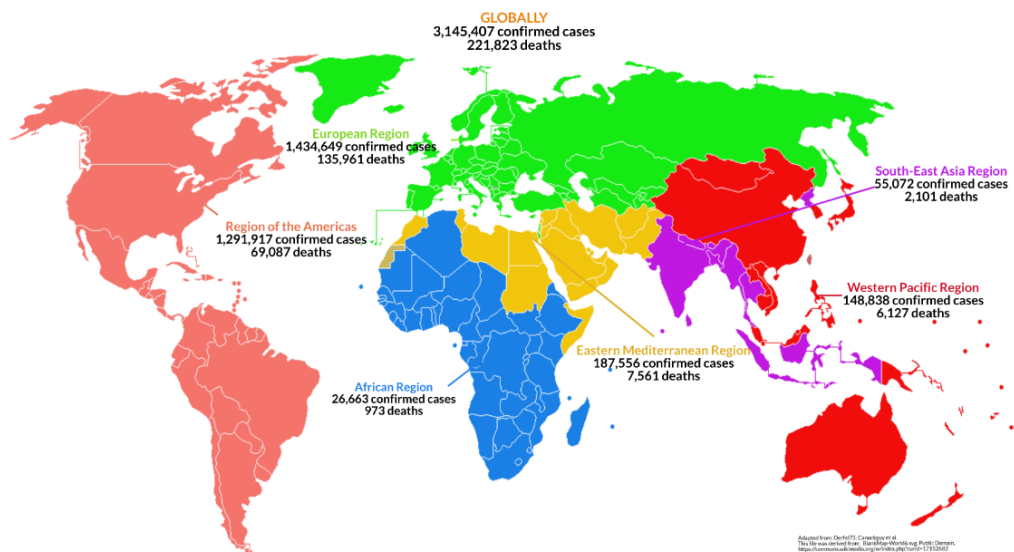
To date, there are 11,990 cases in 33 countries/territories (including 24 CARPHA Member States), in the Caribbean Region. The risk of further importation of cases to the rest of the Caribbean remains **Very High**.

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

3,145,443 cases (149,664 new)

#### Caribbean Region

33 countries, areas, or territories (0 new)

11,990 cases (835 new)\*\*

2,763 recovered (300 new)

530 deaths (21 new)

#### Rest of the World

180 countries, areas, or territories and Other\*\*\* (1 new)

3,133,453 cases (148,829 new)

1,019,563 recovered (84,459 new)

221,293 deaths (16,815 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 29, 2020, no new countries reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19 within the Caribbean region, however, 835 additional cases were confirmed in 17 countries. This brings the region's total confirmed cases to 11,990 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents a increase of 7% in the number of confirmed cases. Twenty-one (21) additional deaths were also recorded, bringing the total number of deaths to 530.

# COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

Region	Cases	# new cases since last report	Deaths	Recovered	% of cases still active*
Region of the Americas	1,291,917	78,829	69,087	250,770	75
European Region	1,434,649	47,956	135,961	547,129	52.4
Eastern Mediterranean Region	187,556	11,673	7,561	95,838	44.9
Western Pacific Region	148,838	2,118	6,127	104,473	25.7
South-East Asia Region	55,072	5,664	2,101	13,791	71.1
African Region	26,663	3,409	973	9,680	60.0
International conveyance (Diamond Princess Cruise Ship)	712	0	13	645	7.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,145,407</b>	<b>149,649</b>	<b>221,823</b>	<b>1,022,326</b>	<b>60.4</b>

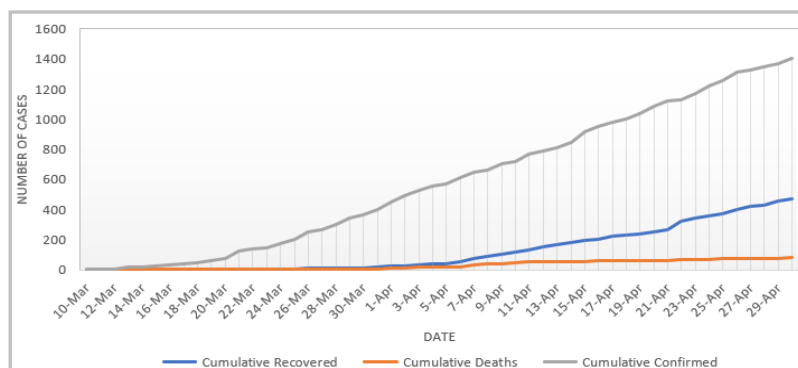
\* Active cases = Total cases – (Number of cases recovered + Number of deaths)  
 For full details on all countries' data visit Sources listed below. Numbers are updated throughout the day and may vary from what is listed at time of publishing.  
 Sources: (1) WHO Situation Dashboard Accessed at 7:20am 1 May 2020. Available from: <https://who.sprinklr.com/>  
 (2) Johns Hopkins University's Centre for Science and Engineering Accessed at 7:30am. 1 May 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=j>

As of May 1, 2020, the WHO reported 3,145,407 cases of patients with COVID-19. Outside of China, 213 countries, areas or territories have confirmed at least one case among travellers exposed while abroad and/or person-to-person contact.

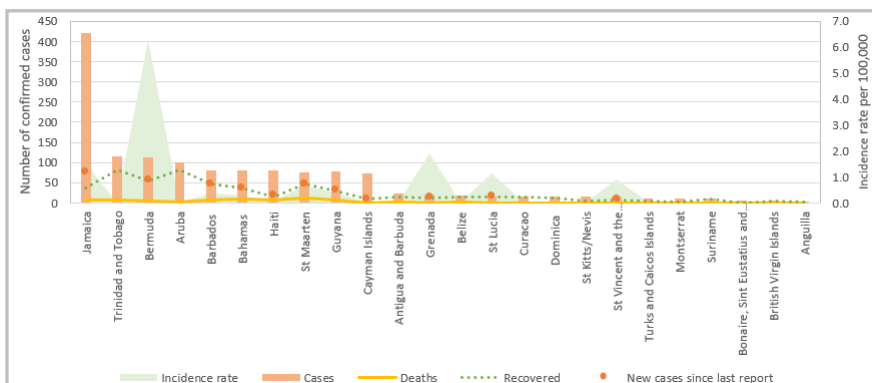
One new country in the African Region (Comoros) reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19 since the last Situation Report on April 29, 2020. Table 1 shows a breakdown of cases by Region.

**Table 1: Countries or Territories with Reported Cases of COVID-19, 1 May, 2020**

As of May 1, 2020, there have been 1,412 cases confirmed from CARPHA Member States (CMS), the highest number reported on April 15, 2020 (Figure 1).

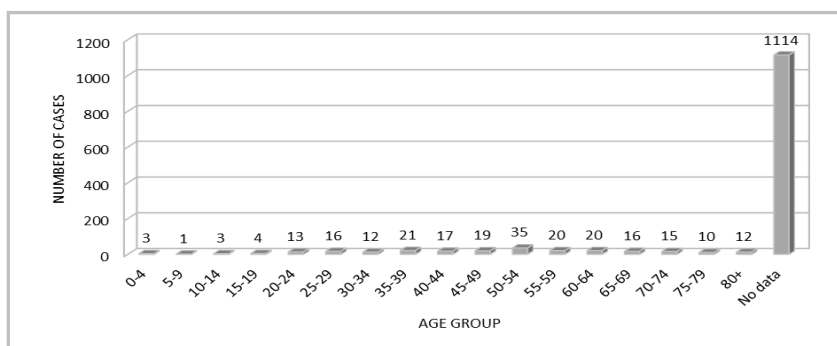


**Fig 1. Cumulative Total Confirmed and Recovered cases of COVID-19 and Deaths in CMS**



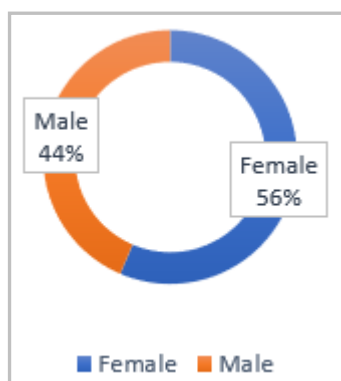
**Fig 2. Confirmed Cases in Member States as of May 1 2020**

As of May 1, 2020, among CARPHA Member States, Jamaica reported the highest number of confirmed cases at 422, while Bermuda has the highest incidence at a rate of 6.3 per 100,000 population (Figure 2).



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

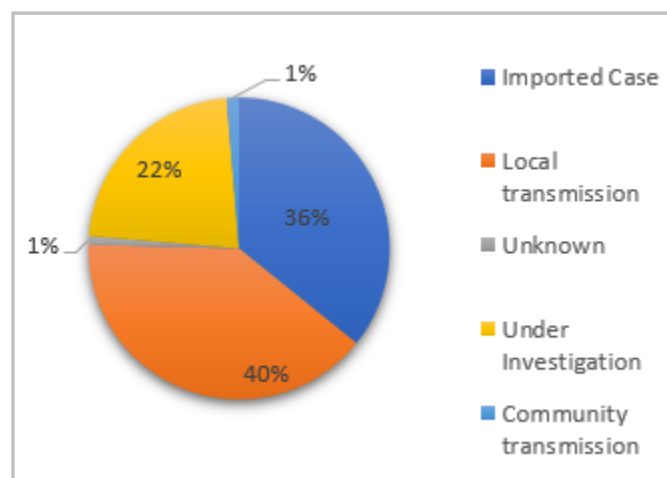
For the cases for which data was available, the majority were aged 50 years and over, with 50-59 being the modal age group. There was no age provided for most cases (Figure 3).



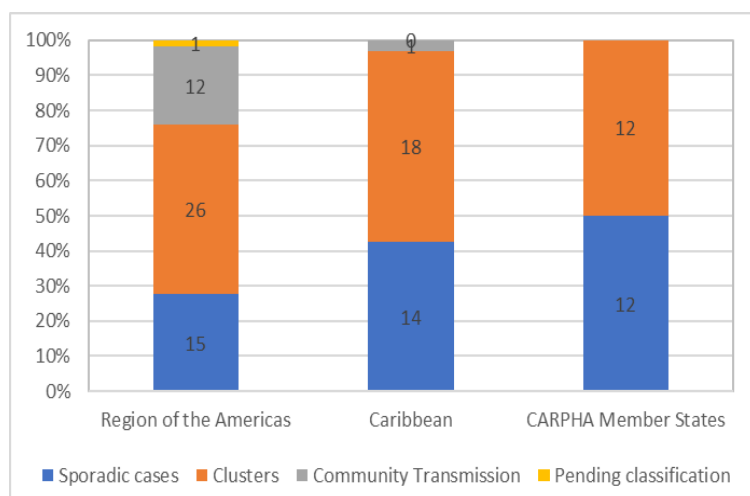
Among cases for whom sex was reported, 56% were female and 44% were male. (Figure 4).

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

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



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



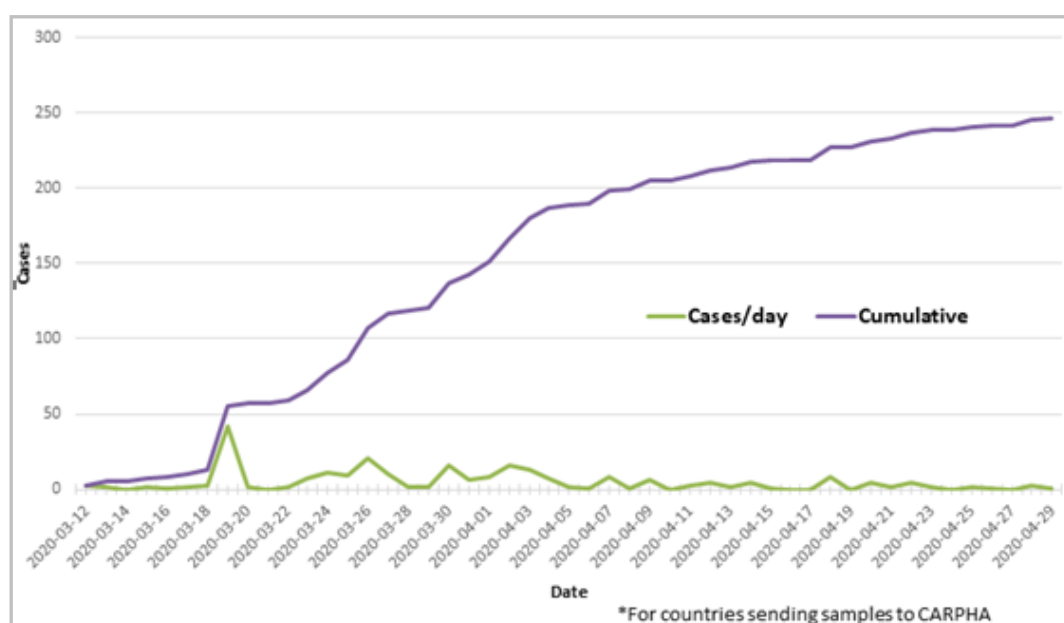
**Fig 6. Category of Countries by Transmission Classification**

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 30, 2020<sup>1</sup> (Figure 6).

## Laboratory

Since February 10 and as of April 30, 2020, CARPHA has received 3,049 samples from 14 CMS, 399 (13.08%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak, 246 results (7.9%) 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**

<sup>1</sup> WHO. Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 101 Available from: [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200430-sitrep-101-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=2ba4e093\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200430-sitrep-101-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=2ba4e093_2) Accessed 1 May 2020.

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# CARPHA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

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## Laboratory Update

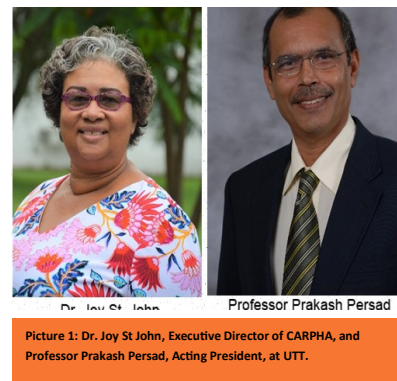
On April 30, 2020, CARPHA/CariPHLN held their 2<sup>nd</sup> virtual COVID-19: Laboratory Diagnostics Update for CARPHA Laboratory Directors. Dr. Stephanie Fletcher-Lartey, Consultant HCE and Dr. Gabriel Gonzalez-Escobar, Head CMML presented during the session moderated by Ms. Sacha Wallace-Sankarsingh, Biorisk Manager.

## 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 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.](#)



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

## Communication and Information

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

## Logistics

**April 27, 2020:** *CARPHA Collaborates with The University of Trinidad and Tobago to Strengthen Health Education and Research in the Caribbean.* CARPH 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.](#)

- **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 30, 2020:** Dr. St. John and Dr. Indar participated in Meeting with CARICOM's Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED).
- **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 through:
  - ♦ Meetings of the Working Group on the Common Health Policy and protocol as mandated by the CARICOM Heads of Government., planning meeting for the upcoming Heads of Government meeting on COVID-19, meeting of Airlines Officials to discuss COVID-19 protocols, meeting of the COVID-19 Tourism Task Force and meeting of the Regional Steering Group for the WHO Solidarity Clinical Trial.
- **April 26 and 27, 2020:** Dr. St. John and Dr. Indar attended meetings of the Working Group on the Common Health Policy and protocol mandated by the CARICOM Heads of Government.

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# NEWS AND INFORMATION UPDATES

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- The third meeting of the Emergency Committee convened by the WHO Director-General under the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), took place on Thursday, 30 April 2020, from 12:00 to 17:45 Geneva time (CEST). Membership of the Emergency Committee was expanded to reflect the nature of the pandemic and the need to include additional areas of expertise. On the advice of the Committee, the Director-General declared that the outbreak of COVID-19 continues to constitute a PHEIC and issued the Committee's advice to States Parties as Temporary Recommendations under the IHR. The Recommendations contained in the Statement on the third meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) are available [here](#).
- 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](#)

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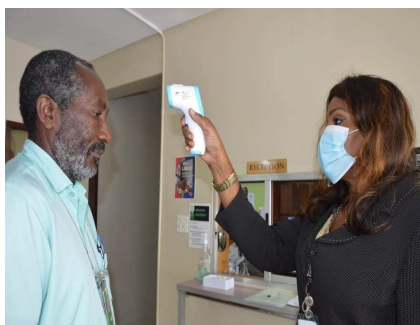
## CARPHA CAMPUS NEWS

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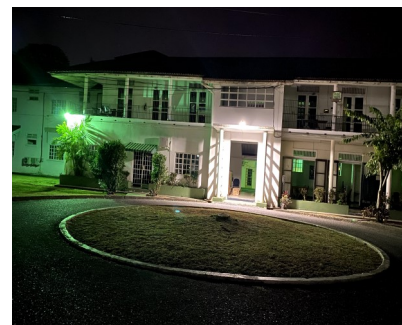
CARPHA's Team continues to adapt to demands of the pandemic response.



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



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



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

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## CARPHA PRODUCTS

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- ⇒ Alert of general practitioners <https://bit.ly/3aWlrur> - May 1, 2020
- ⇒ Advice for general practitioners (infographic) <https://bit.ly/2Yl6HCJ> - May 1, 2020
- ⇒ Food Safety during the COVID-19 <https://bit.ly/35uroO8> - May 1, 2020
- ⇒ Travel brief: [Precautionary prevention measures implemented by Caribbean Countries \(outside travel-related measures\)](#) April 24, 2020.
- ⇒ [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>

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## REFERENCES

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Sources: (1) WHO Situation Dashboard Accessed at 7:20am 1 May 2020. Available from: <https://who.sprinklr.com/> (2) Johns Hopkins University's Centre for Science and Engineering Accessed at 7:30am. 1 May 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 1 May 2020 (4) Bermuda Government Ministry of Health. <https://www.gov.bm/articles/30-april-covid-19-update> Accessed 1 May 2020 (5) Barbados Government Information Service. <https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/blog/covid-19-update-one-new-case-today-3/> Accessed 1 May