

## CARPHA SITUATION REPORT NO. 42

MAY 6, 2020

### Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic

## Summary

This is an update to the CARPHA Situation Report published on May 4, 2020, in relation to the outbreak of COVID-19.

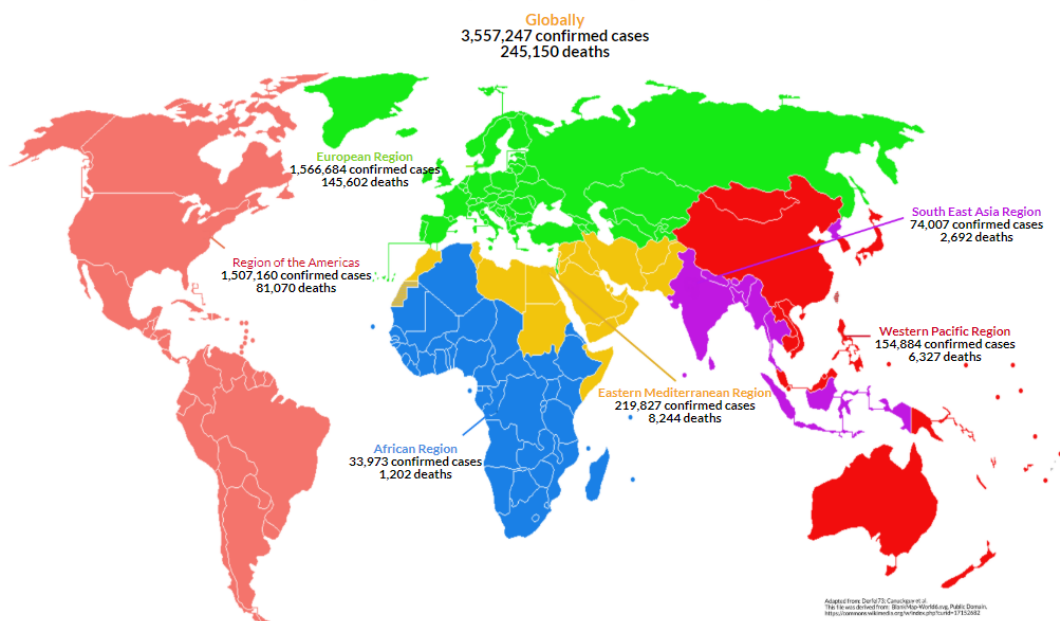
To date, there are 14,184 cases in 33 countries/territories (including 24 CARPHA Member States), in the Caribbean Region. The risk of further importation of cases to the rest of the Caribbean remains **Very High**.

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 COVID-19 in 24 Member States**
- **Update on Caribbean Mosquito Awareness Week**

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS



### Numbers at a Glance\*

#### Globally

3,557,247 cases (149,488 new)

#### Caribbean Region

33 countries, areas, or territories  
(0 new)

14,184 cases (724 new)\*\*

3,807 recovered (521 new)

603 deaths

#### Rest of the World

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

3,543,063 cases (148,764 new)

1,206,203 recovered (76,415  
new)

244,547 deaths (6,964 new)

*\*Clinically diagnosed and laboratory  
confirmed cases*

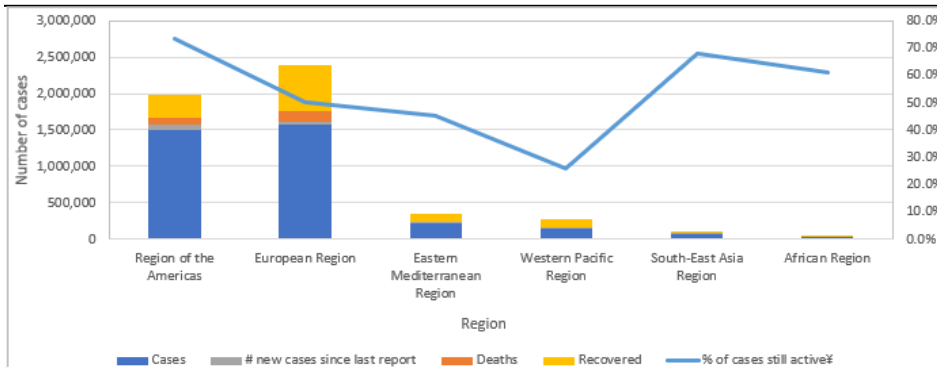
*\*\* Updated with additional data from  
local country reports*

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

## SITUATION UPDATE

Since the previous report on May 4 2020, an additional 724 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 11 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region's total confirmed cases to 14,184 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents a 5% increase in the number of confirmed cases. The number of deaths recorded in the Caribbean region as at May 6 2020 is 603.

# COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY



As of May 6, 2020, the WHO reported 3,557,235 cases of patients with COVID-19. A total of 215 countries, areas or territories have confirmed at least one case among travellers exposed while abroad and/or person-to-person contact.

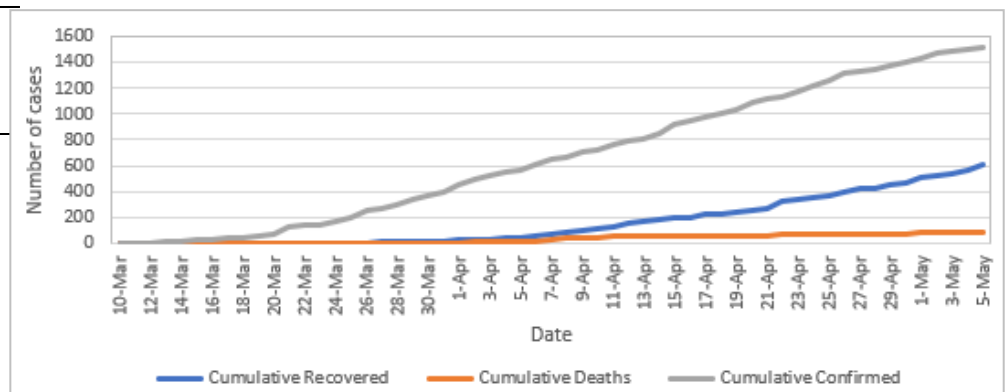
No new countries reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19 since the last Situation Report on May 4, 2020. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of cases by Region.

¥ 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: <sup>(1)</sup> WHO Situation Dashboard Accessed at 9:30am 6 May 2020. Available from: <https://who.sprinklr.com/>  
<sup>(2)</sup> Johns Hopkins University's Centre for Science and Engineering Accessed at 9:30am. 6 May 2020. Available from: <https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

**Figure 1: Reported Cases of COVID-19 by Region as of 6 May, 2020**

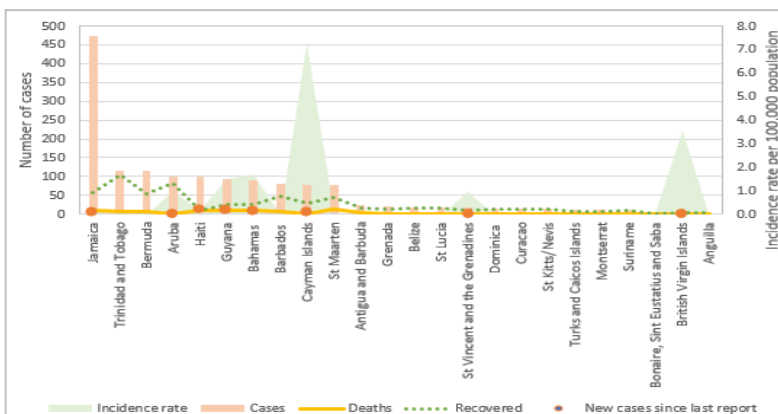
## ANALYSIS OF CASES AMONG CARPHA MEMBER STATES

As of May 6, 2020, there have been 1,519 cases confirmed from CARPHA Member States (CMS), the highest number reported on April 15, 2020 (Figure 2).



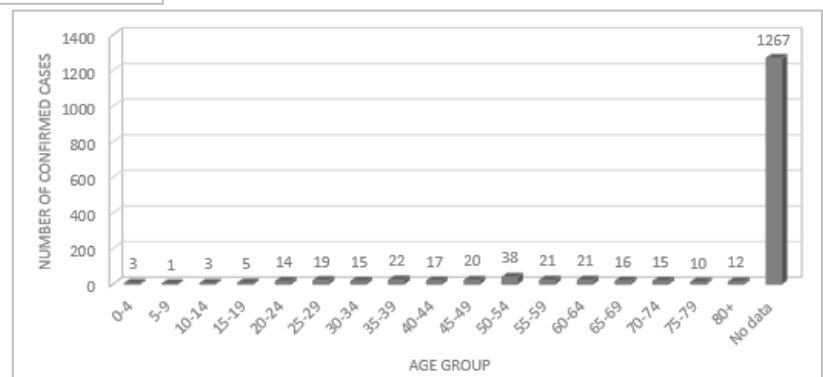
**Figure 2. Cumulative Total Confirmed and Recovered cases of COVID-19 and Deaths in CMS**

As of May 6, 2020, among CARPHA Member States, Jamaica reported the highest number of confirmed cases at 473, while Cayman Islands has the highest incidence at a rate of 7.82 per 100,000 population (Figure 3).

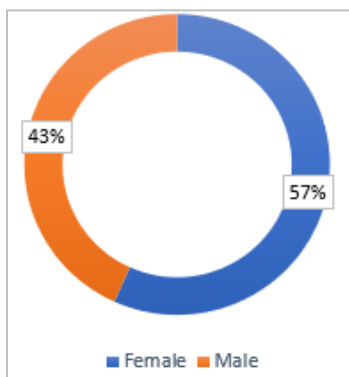


**Figure 3. Confirmed Cases in Member States as of May 6, 2020**

For the cases for which data was available, the majority were aged 50 years and over, with 50-59 being the modal age group. There was no age provided for most cases (Figure 4).

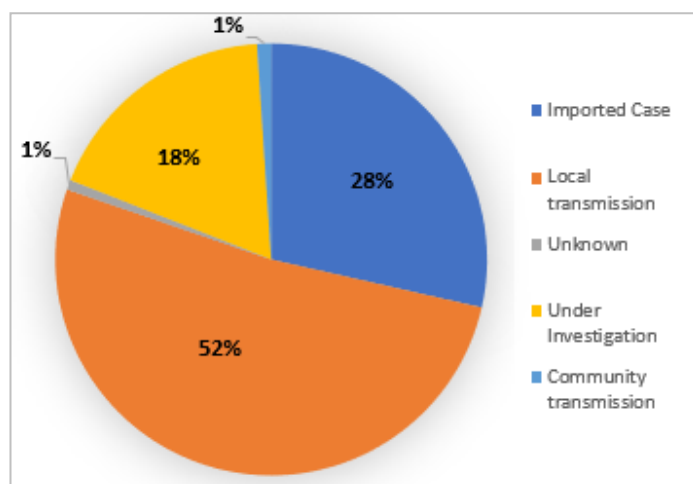


**Figure 4. Reported confirmed cases of COVID-19 by age group in CMS**

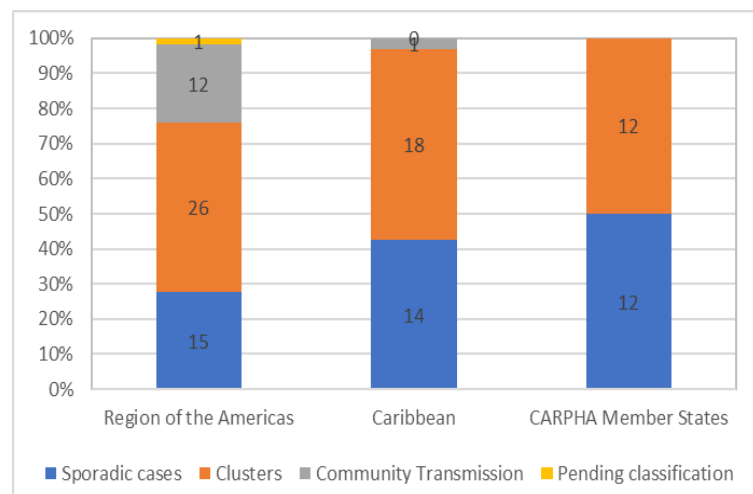


**Figure 5. Percentage of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 by sex in CMS**

Among cases for whom a source of infection was reported, 28% were imported; and 52% appeared to be close contacts (local transmission) of a known imported case (Figure 6).



**Figure 6. Percentage of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 by source of transmission in CMS**



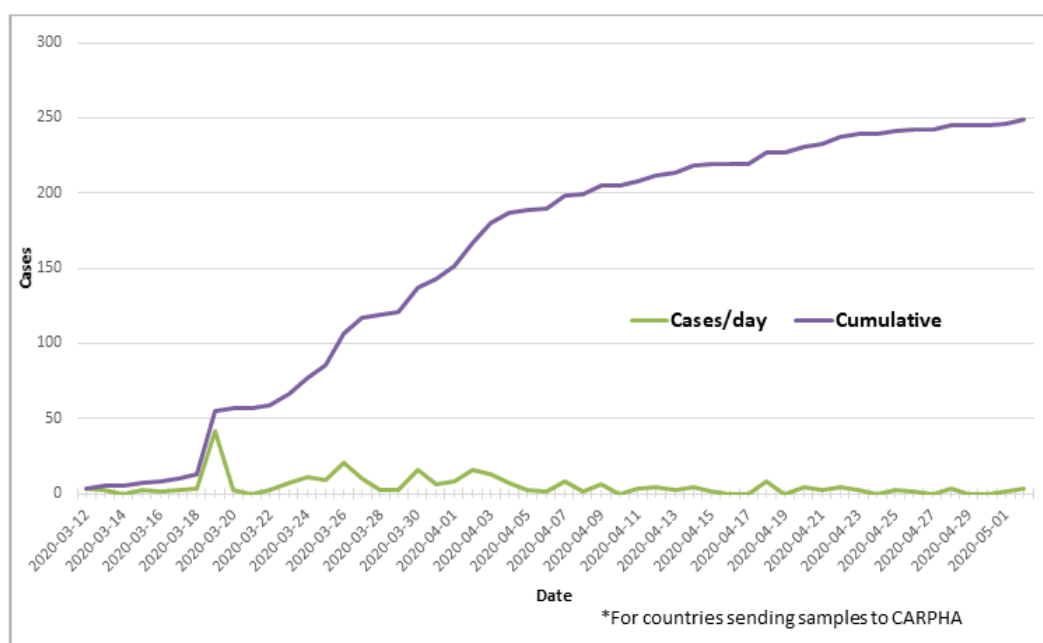
**Figure 7. Category of Countries by Transmission Classification**

Among the 24 Member States, 50% (12/24) have been classified as having sporadic cases; and 50% (12/24) have reported clusters, based on data received by WHO from national authorities by 10:00 CEST, May 5, 2020<sup>1</sup> (Figure 7).

## Laboratory

Since February 10, 2020 and as of May 5, 2020, CARPHA has received 3,475 samples from 16 CMS, 415 (11.9%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak, 249 results (7.2%) correspond to new cases

Figure 8 shows the progression of COVID-19 cases which have been confirmed in CMS from February – May 2020.



**Figure 8. COVID-19 Progression in CMS\*. Laboratory Confirmed New Cases. Feb—May**

<sup>1</sup> WHO. Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 106 Accessed 6 May, 2020. Available [here](#)

# CARPHA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

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



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

## Communication and Information

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 (PPE) 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:

- **May 6, 2020:** Dr. St. John and Dr. Indar participated in the Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) requesting endorsement of the Regional Travellers' Health Policy Framework for Improving Regional Health, Security, Tourism and Economic Sustainability.
- **May 5, 2020:** Meeting of the CARICOM Heads of Government, presenting on the Draft CARICOM Common COVID-19 Public Health Policy Considerations.
- **May 4, 2020:** Dr. Indar and Dr. Fletcher-Lartey participated in the 1st Regional Technical Meeting of the Association of the Caribbean States (ACS) and Associate Members on COVID-19.
  - Dr. St. John participated in the following meetings with key regional partners:
    - ◇ Meeting of Regional Chief Education Officers
    - ◇ Planning meeting for the Heads of Government Meeting
- **May 3, 2020:** Dr. St. John participated as a speaker in a COVID-19 Symposium - UWI Class of 1991 on Responding to the COVID-19 Crisis in "91 Ways".

# NEWS AND INFORMATION UPDATES

Caribbean Mosquito Awareness Week (CMAW) is being observed this year during May 4<sup>th</sup>-8, 2020. Join CARPHA in a regional effort to raise awareness about mosquitos and the diseases that they spread through biting, such as Dengue, Zika and Chikungunya. During the current pandemic, our health systems are dedicating many resources to preventing and controlling the spread of COVID-19. Any upsurge in Mosquito Borne Diseases will place an additional burden on our health systems. As individuals and communities, let's take measures to prevent the unwanted threat caused by mosquito borne diseases.

***In times of COVID - Let's Unite to fight the bite!***



## CARPHA PRODUCTS

- Alert of general practitioners <https://bit.ly/3aWlrur> - May 1, 2020
- Advice for general practitioners (infographic) <https://bit.ly/2YI6HCl> - 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 \(outside travel-related measures\)](#) – May 1, 2020
- [Caribbean Countries that have issued Travel Advisories due to COVID-19](#) – May 1, 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 9:30am May 6, 2020. Available from: <https://who.sprinklr.com/>
- (2) Johns Hopkins University's Centre for Science and Engineering Accessed at 9:30am. May 6, 2020. Available from: <https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>
- (4) Jamaica Ministry of Health and wellness.COVID-19 dashboard available at <https://jamcovid19.moh.gov.jm/> Accessed May 6, 2020
- (5) Haiti COVID-19 dashboard. Available at <https://www.coronahaiti.org/> Accessed May 6 2020
- (6) Guyana Ministry of Public Health. <https://dpi.gov.gy/covid-19-deaths-now-stand-at-10/> Accessed May 6, 2020
- (7) Bahamas Information Services. Press release dated May 5 2020. Available at <http://www.bahamas.gov.bs>. Accessed May 6, 2020
- (8) Cayman Islands. Ministry of Health, environment, culture and housing COVID-19 dashboard. [https://www.hsa.ky/public\\_health/covid-19-update-tuesday-5-may-2020/](https://www.hsa.ky/public_health/covid-19-update-tuesday-5-may-2020/) Accessed May 6, 2020