

CARPHA SITUATION REPORT NO. 43

MAY 8, 2020

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic

Summary

This is an update to the CARPHA Situation Report published on May 6, 2020, in relation to the outbreak of COVID-19.

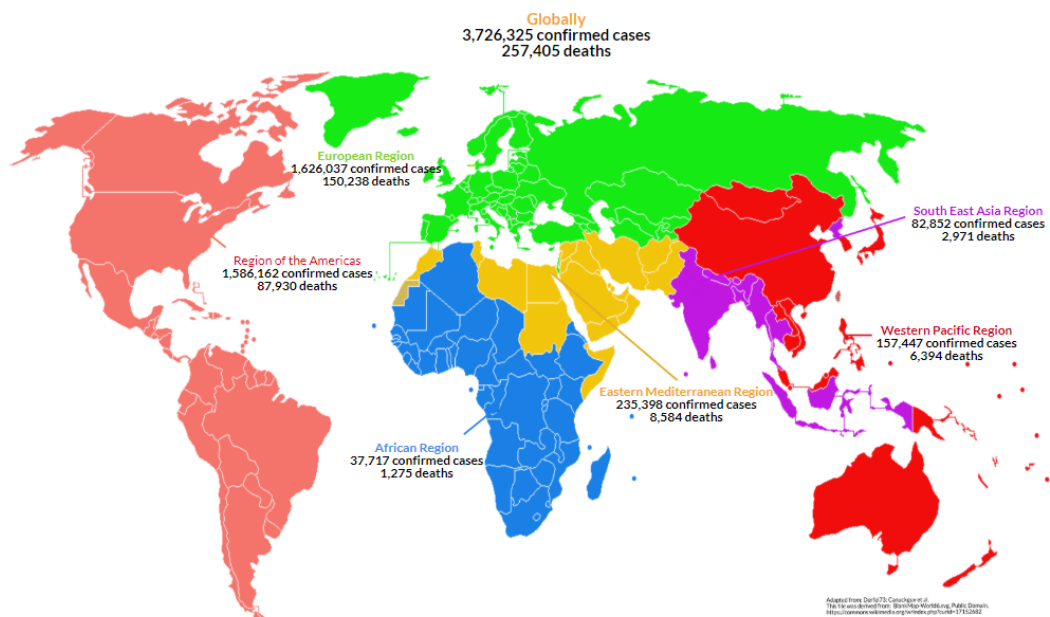
To date, there are 15,008 cases in 33 countries/territories (including 24 CARPHA Member States), in the Caribbean Region. The risk of further importation of cases to the rest of the Caribbean remains **Very High**.

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 CARPHA activities**

SITUATION IN NUMBERS



Numbers at a Glance*

Globally

3,726,325 cases (169,078 new)

Caribbean Region

33 countries, areas, or territories
(0 new)

15,008 cases (824 new)**

4,088 recovered (281 new)

628 deaths (25 new)

Rest of the World

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

3,711,317 cases (168,254 new)

1,289,240 recovered (83,037
new)

256,777 deaths (12,230 new)

**Clinically diagnosed and laboratory
confirmed cases*

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

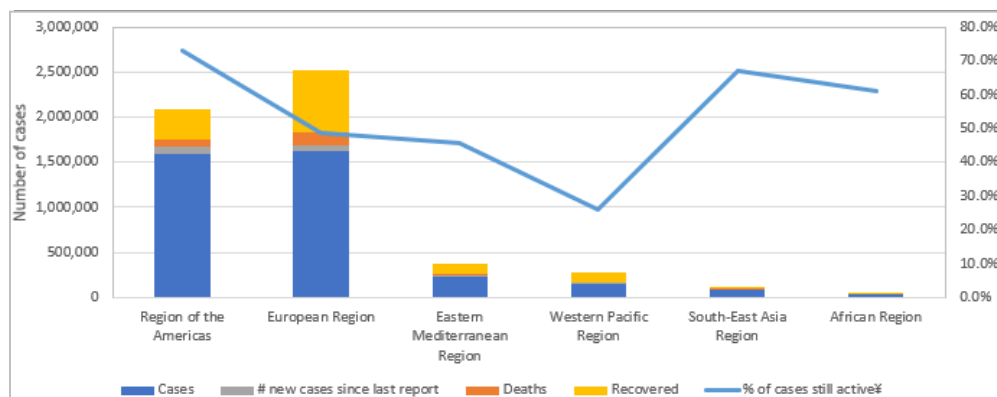
****Persons on board the Diamond
Princess Cruise Ship harboured in
Yokohama, Japan*

SITUATION UPDATE

COVID-19 in the Caribbean

Since the previous report on May 6 2020, an additional 824 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 13 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region's total confirmed cases to 15,008 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents a 6% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 628 deaths recorded in the Caribbean region as at May 8 2020.

COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY



As of May 8, 2020, the WHO reported 3,726,292 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 6, 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: ⁽¹⁾ WHO Situation Dashboard Accessed at 9:00am 8 May 2020. Available from: <https://who.sprinklr.com/>

⁽²⁾ Johns Hopkins University's Centre for Science and Engineering Accessed at 9:00am. 8 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>

Figure 1: Reported Cases of COVID-19 by Region as of 8 May, 2020

ANALYSIS OF CASES AMONG CARPHA MEMBER STATES

As of May 8, 2020, there have been 1,570 cases confirmed from CARPHA Member States (CMS), the highest number reported on April 15, 2020 (Figure 2).

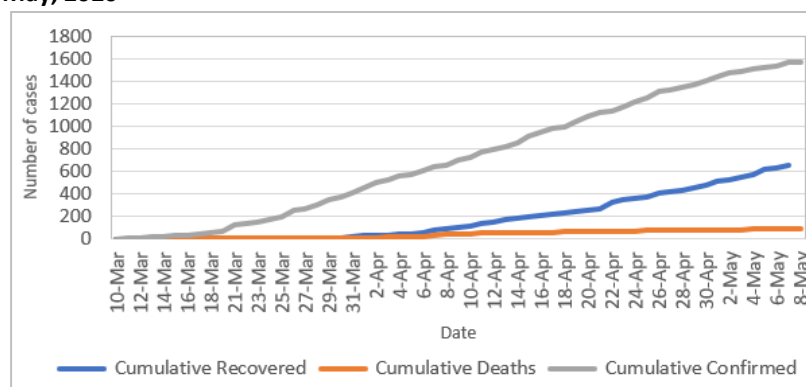


Figure 2. Cumulative Total Confirmed and Recovered cases of COVID-19 and Deaths in CMS as of 8 May

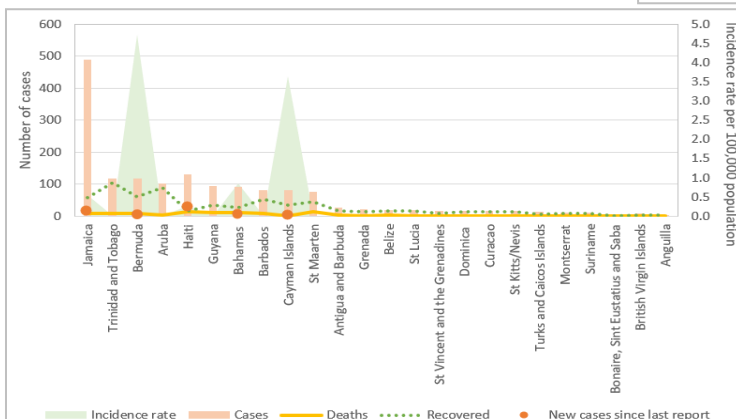


Figure 3. Confirmed Cases in Member States as of May 8, 2020

As of May 8, 2020, among CARPHA Member States, Jamaica reported the highest number of confirmed cases at 488 (Figure 3). This chart is based on information posted on Ministries of Health websites, and numbers may vary passed on the time information is posted

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).

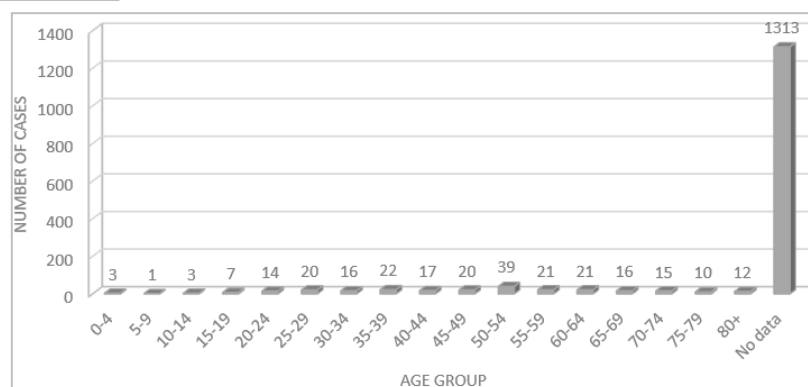
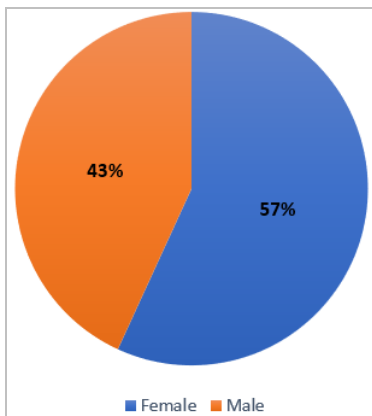


Figure 4. Reported confirmed cases of COVID-19 by age group in CMS



Among cases for whom sex was reported, 57% were female and 43% were male. (Figure 5).

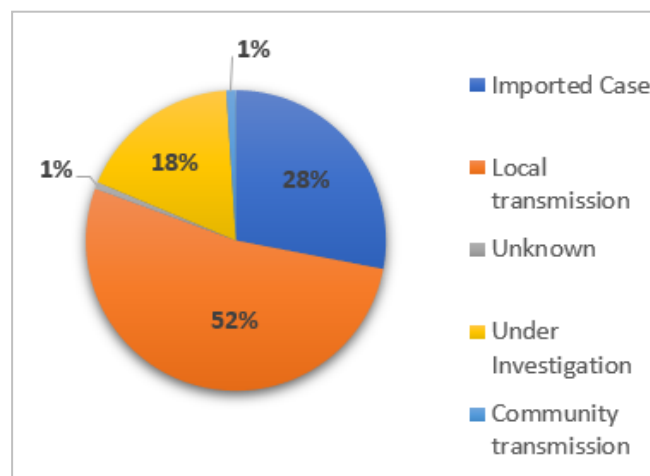


Figure 6. Percentage of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 by source of transmission in CMS

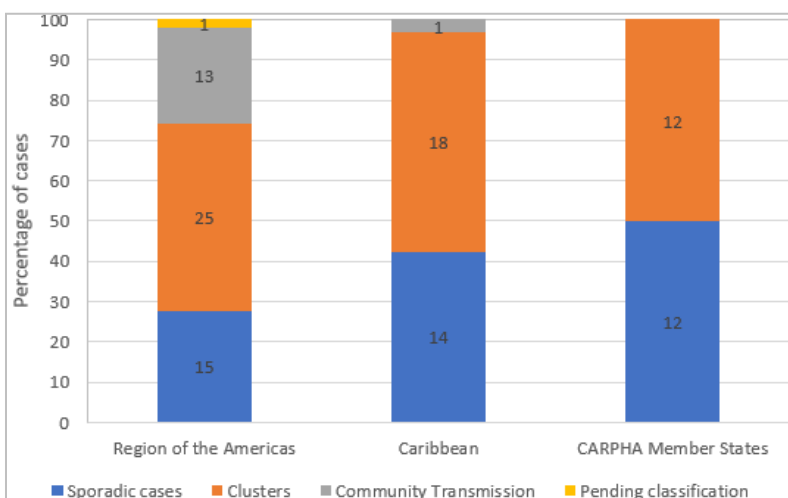


Figure 7. Category of Countries by Transmission Classification

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, 2020¹ (Figure 7).

Laboratory

Since February 10, 2020 and as of May 7, 2020, CARPHA has received 3,605 samples from 16 CMS, 416 (11.4%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak, 249 results (6.9%) correspond to new cases

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

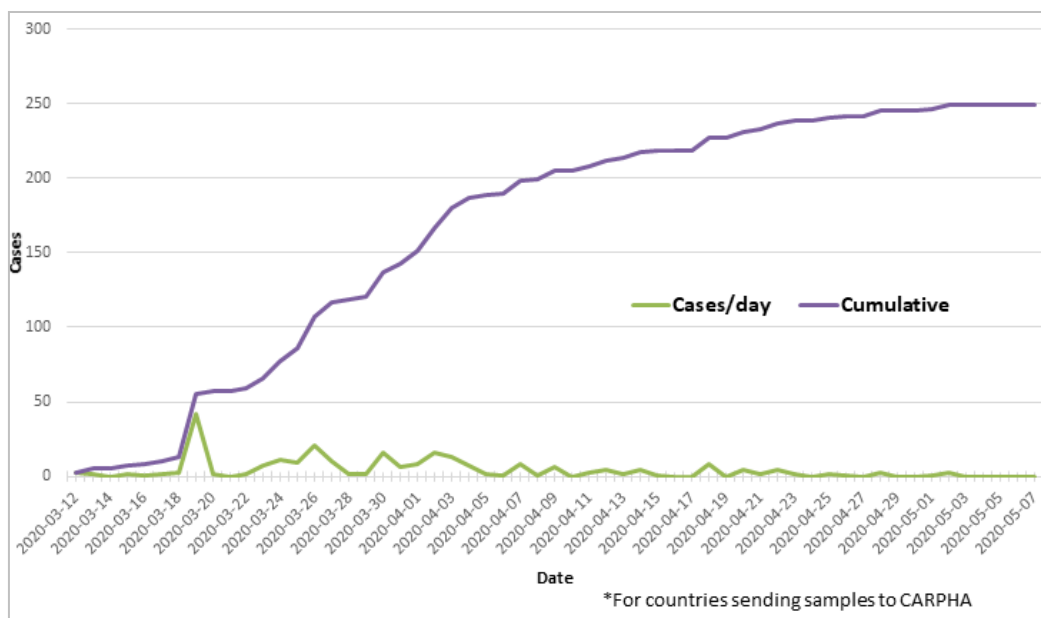


Figure 8. COVID-19 Progression in CMS*. Laboratory Confirmed New Cases. Feb—May

¹ WHO. Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 108 Accessed 8 May, 2020. Available [here](#).

CARPHA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

Laboratory Update



Picture 1: Dr. Gonzalez-Escobar and Mr. Julien collecting samples shipped from Member States via the RSS to CMML for testing.

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.](#) Video: [The CARPHA COVID-19 Testing Process](#)

CARPHA's Technical Cooperation

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Training for Law Enforcement Officers: On May 7, 2020, CARPHA in collaboration with the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) conducted a training session, "Use of PPE for Frontline Security Officers" targeting law enforcement officers (police, customs, coast guard, immigration, military and prisons) in CARICOM Member States responsible for ports of entry and investigations. The training was facilitated through the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative virtual platform, CBSI-Connect and the Trinidad and Tobago Police Training Academy.

More than 500 law enforcement professionals from across 20 CARPHA Member States (15 CARICOM Members and 5 Associate States) participated during the session in addition to other regional organizations - the OECS and the RSS. The topics included an "Introduction to COVID-19 – The Pandemic" (Dr. Stephanie Fletcher-Lartey, Consultant HCE), the main session on the use of Personal Protective Equipment (Ms. Sacha Wallace-Sankarsingh, Biorisk Manager) and information on Wellbeing Measures for Security Frontline Workers (Dr. Tamu Davidson, Head, CDI).

The course will remain available on CBSI-Connect for other law enforcement officers to benefit and a Question and Answer forum is currently open with moderation by Dr. Shelly Rodrigo, Caribbean Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programme Coordinator. This ongoing collaboration between CARPHA and members of the CARICOM Security Cluster is a direct result of the response to COVID-19 by the Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Health Security (RCM-HS).



Picture 2: Dr. Fletcher-Lartey explains the COVID-19 situation to participants.



Picture 3: Ms. Wallace-Sankarsingh conducts a practical demonstration on hand hygiene and use of gloves with 2 participants and Ms. Joycelyn Hughes, IMPACS.

Communication and Information

· **May 7, 2020:** In observance of Caribbean Mosquito Awareness Week (May 4—10, 2020), the following release was shared, [CARPHA urges the Public to Protect Themselves Against Mosquito Borne Diseases](#) which can be found [here](#). A promotional video for the Caribbean Mosquito Awareness Week (CMAW) was produced and can be found [here](#).

Stakeholder Engagement

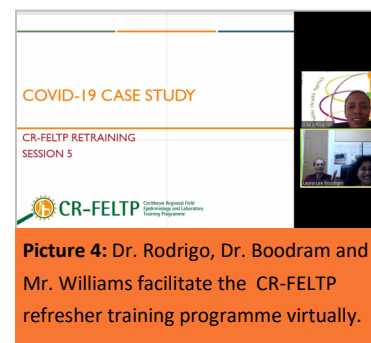
CARPHA is working closely with various stakeholders for a coordinated regional response, and as such has engaged with stakeholders in multiple ways, including the following:

- **May 7, 2020:** Dr. St. John gave presentations in the following meetings:
 - ◇ The Eastern Caribbean donors and Group Partners of CDEMA regarding COVID-19
 - ◇ The Center for Black Diaspora African and Black Diaspora Studies DePaul University regarding the Coronavirus-19 pandemic and its impact on communities within the Black Diaspora.
- Dr. Indar participated in the meeting of the OECS Tourism Forum on the Reopening of the Tourism Sector.
- **May 7 and 5, 2020:** Meeting of the CARICOM Heads of Government, presenting on the Draft CARICOM Common COVID-19 Public Health Policy Considerations.
- **May 6, 2020:** Dr. Indar participated in the Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) requesting endorsement of the Regional Travellers' Health Policy Framework

NEWS AND INFORMATION UPDATES

· **May 7, 2020:** In a statement released by the CARICOM Secretariat at the *Tenth Special Emergency Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)* which took place on May 5, 2020, Heads of Governments within the region along with representatives from CARPHA, the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) discussed harmonizing responses and policies on the impact of COVID-19. Included in the discussion was the approach to re-opening ports of entry and the need for the development of a common public health policy and protocols which CARPHA will assist in drafting. The full statement can be found [here](#).

· **May 7, 2020:** The CR-FELTP held a refresher training for programme graduates from April 21 – May 8 2020. A total of 28 graduates from 9 Member States registered for the retraining, which reinforced important epidemiology topics and practical skills that the graduates utilize in-country for national COVID-19 response.



Picture 4: Dr. Rodrigo, Dr. Boodram and Mr. Williams facilitate the CR-FELTP refresher training programme virtually.

· **Caribbean Mosquito Awareness Week** runs from May 4 - 10, 2020.

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



CARPHA PRODUCTS

- Travel brief: [Precautionary prevention measures implemented by Caribbean Countries \(outside travel-related measures\)](#) – May 8, 2020
- [Caribbean Countries that have issued Travel Advisories due to COVID-19](#) – May 8, 2020
- [Frequently Asked Questions on Understanding and Interpreting COVID-19 Test Results at CARPHA](#) - May 8, 2020
- [Interim Guidance on the Interpretation of Test Results using the PCR-based Methods for Public Health Practitioners and General Practitioners](#) - May 8, 2020
- [Interim Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection at Hotels, Guest Houses and Other Tourist Accommodation during the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Caribbean](#)—May 8, 2020.
- [WASH Guidelines](#)—May 6, 2020
- [Alert of general practitioners](#) - May 1, 2020
- [Advice for general practitioners \(infographic\)](#) - May 1, 2020
- [Food Safety during the 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>
- Links to Media <https://www.carpha.org/More/Media/Articles>
- Links to Videos <https://www.youtube.com/user/CARPHACampus>

REFERENCES

- Sources: (1) WHO Situation Dashboard Accessed at 9:00am May 8, 2020. Available from: <https://who.sprinklr.com/>
- (2) Johns Hopkins University's Centre for Science and Engineering Accessed at 9:00am. May 8, 2020. Available from: <https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>
- (3) Jamaica Ministry of Health and wellness.COVID-19 dashboard available at <https://jamcovid19.moh.gov.jm/> Accessed 8 May 2020
- (4) Haiti COVID-19 dashboard. Available at <https://www.coronahaiti.org/> Accessed 8 May 2020
- (5) Cayman Islands. Ministry of Health, environment, culture and housing COVID-19 dashboard. https://www.hsa.ky/public_health/covid-19-update-7-may-2020/ Accessed 8 May 2020