

CARPHA SITUATION REPORT NO. 44

MAY 11, 2020

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic

Summary

This is an update to the CARPHA Situation Report published on May 8, 2020, in relation to the outbreak of COVID-19.

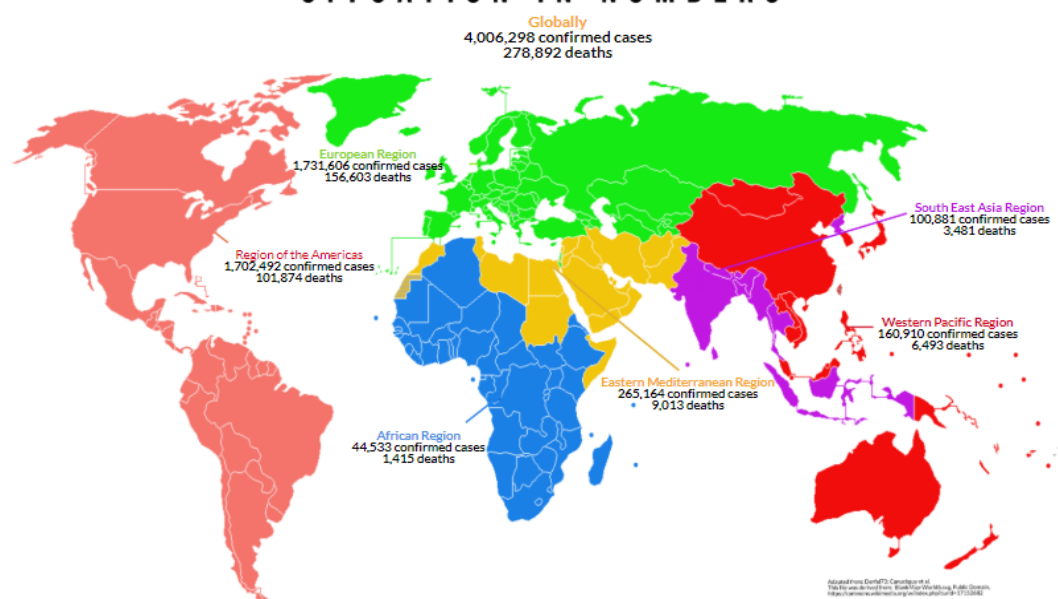
To date, there are 16,561 cases in 33 countries/territories (including 24 CARPHA Member States), in the Caribbean Region. The risk of further importation of cases to the rest of the Caribbean remains **Very High**.

The Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Health Security (RCM-HS), continues to work with Heads of Government and key partners on a region-wide approach to the COVID-19 response. At this time, much of the current focus centers around developing and implementing national strategies for a phased lifting of restrictions in CARPHA Member States, while ensuring that appropriate social distancing measures are maintained for continued population safety.

New in this Report

- **Surveillance and Epidemiology COVID-19 in 24 Member States**
- **Laboratory Testing for COVID-19 at CARPHA**
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Training for Law Enforcement Officers**

SITUATION IN NUMBERS



Numbers at a Glance*

Globally

4,006,298 cases (279,973 new)**

Caribbean Region

33 countries, areas, or territories (0 new)

16,561 cases (1553 new)**

5,033 recovered (945 new)

704 deaths (76 new)

Rest of the World

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

3,989,737 cases (278,420 new)

1,416,342 recovered (127,102 new)

278,188 deaths (21,411 new)

**Clinically diagnosed and laboratory confirmed cases*

*** Figures reported by WHO which have been supplemented with additional data from local country reports*

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

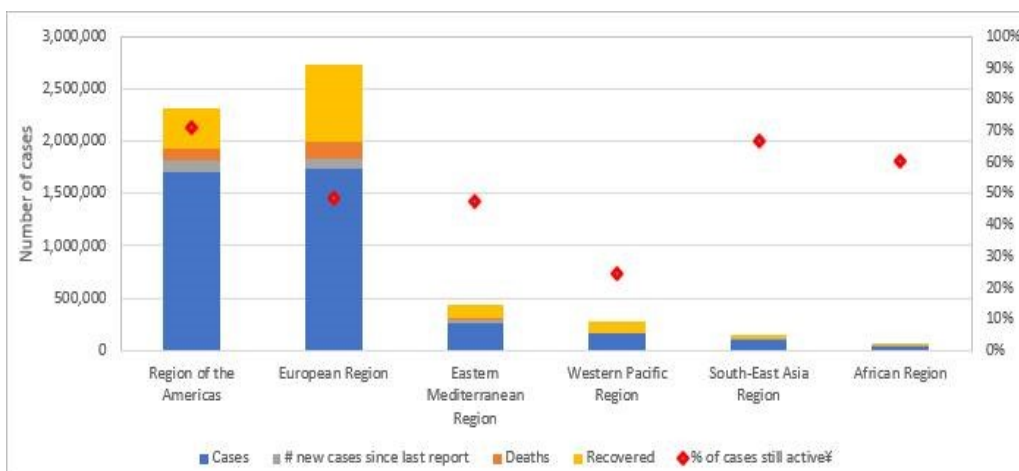
SITUATION UPDATE

COVID-19 in the Caribbean

Since the previous report on May 11, 2020, an additional 1,553 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 15 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region's total confirmed cases to 16,561 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents a 10% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 704 deaths recorded in the Caribbean region as at May 11, 2020.

COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

For full details on all countries' data see References section of this report. Please note that data are updated throughout the day and may vary from what is listed at time of publishing.

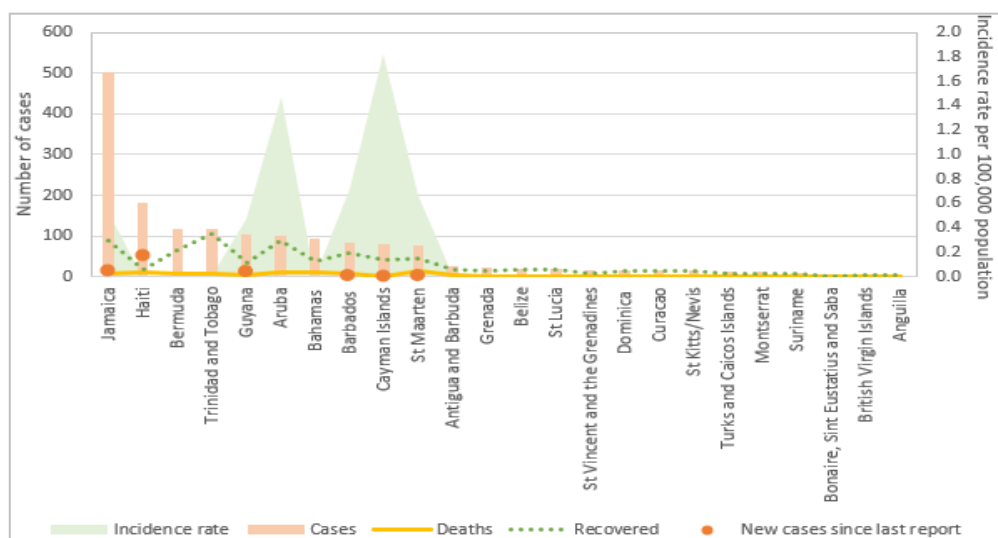


As of May 11, 2020, the WHO reported 4,006,257 cases of patients with COVID-19. A total of 215 countries, areas or territories have confirmed at least one case among travellers exposed while abroad and/or person-to-person contact.

No new countries reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19 since the last Situation Report on May 8, 2020. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of cases by Region.

* Excluded from the chart are the cases from the Diamond Princess Cruise Ship
Figure 1: Reported Cases of COVID-19 by Region as of 11 May, 2020*

ANALYSIS OF CASES AMONG CARPHA MEMBER STATES



As of May 11, 2020, there have been 1,651 cases confirmed from CARPHA Member States (CMS), the highest number was reported on April 15, 2020. (Figure 2).

This chart is based on information posted on Ministries of Health official websites, and numbers may vary based on the time information is posted.

Figure 2. Confirmed Cases in Member States as of May 11, 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 reported for the majority of cases which have been excluded from this chart (Figure 3).

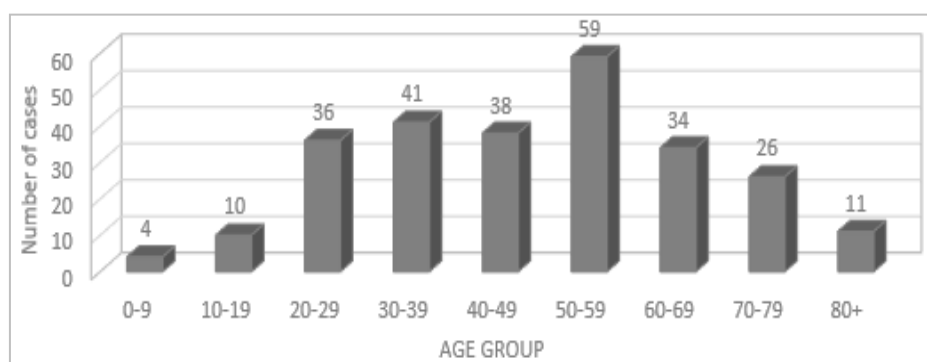


Figure 3. Reported confirmed cases of COVID-19 by age group in CMS, n=259

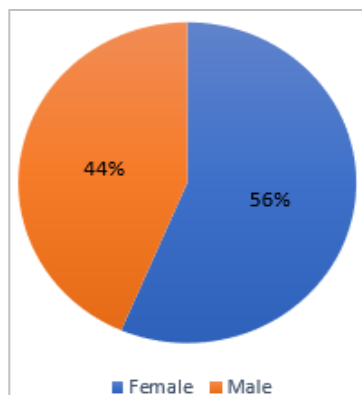


Figure 4. Percentage of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 by sex in CMS, n=757

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

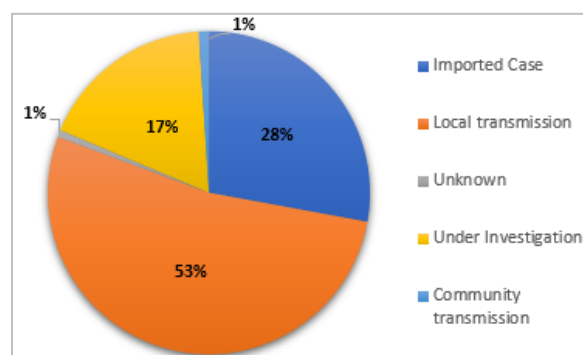


Figure 5. Percentage of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 by source of transmission in CMS

Among cases for whom a source of infection was reported, 28% were imported; and 53% appeared to be close contacts (local transmission) of a known imported case (Figure 5).

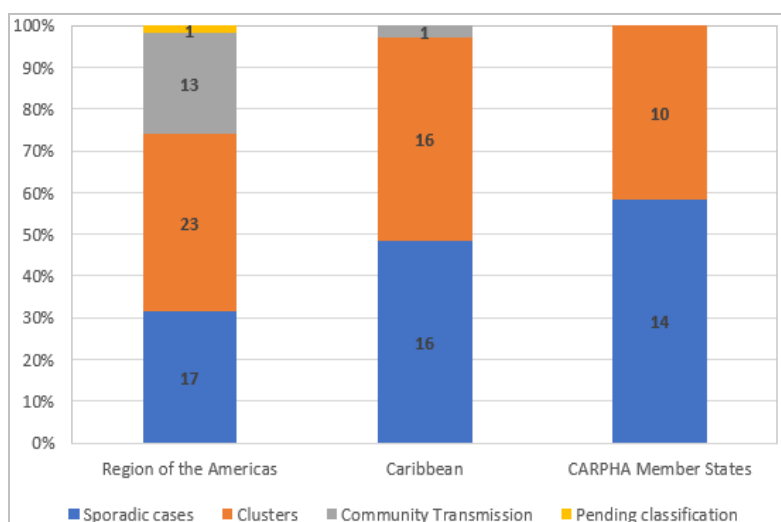


Figure 6. Category of Countries by Transmission Classification

Among the 24 Member States, 58% (14/24) have been classified as having sporadic cases; and 42% (10/24) have reported clusters, based on data received by WHO from national authorities by 10:00 CEST, May 10, 2020¹ (Figure 6).

Laboratory

Since February 10, 2020 and as of May 10, 2020, CARPHA has received 3,717 samples from 16 CMS, 421 (11.3%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak, 249 results (6.7%) correspond to new cases

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

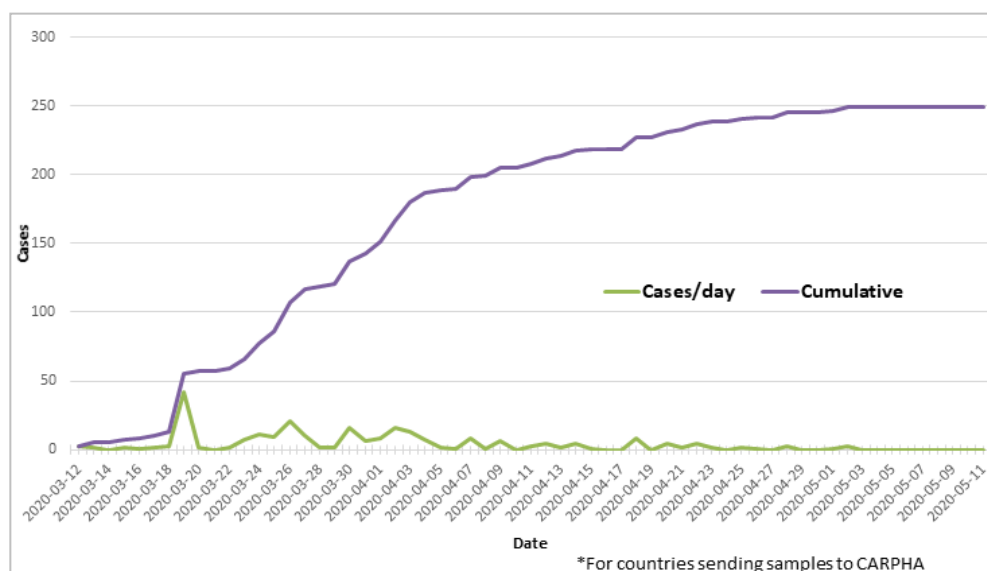


Figure 7. COVID-19 Progression in CMS*. Laboratory Confirmed New Cases. Feb—May

¹ WHO. Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 111 Accessed 11 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. T

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.

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).

More than 500 law enforcement professionals from across 20 CARPHA Member States (15 CARICOM Members and 5 Associate States) attended the virtual session in addition to other regional organizations - the OECS and the RSS. Participants were from 17 countries including Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago. The largest contingent being from Jamaica (126). Trinidad and Tobago had 5 virtual classrooms as well as 60 individuals signed on to the virtual training.

The session has been dubbed to be one of, if not the most subscribed session held on the platform. CARPHA continues to collaborate with CARICOM IMPACS to strengthen preparedness and response on the frontline.

Communication and Information

· **May 9, 2020:** On May 8, 2020 Dr. Joy St. John spoke with Mr. Will Grant - Mexico, Central America and Cuba Correspondent for BBC News - about the CARICOM regional experience with COVID-19.

· **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 11, 2020 Dr. St. John and Dr. Indar participated in CARICOM meeting of the chief medical officers to discuss [Repatriation](#), with a focus on criteria for repatriation of crew workers via cruise ships

May 9, 2020: Dr. St. John and Dr. Indar participated in the meeting "Consultations with Labour and Private Sector Leaders" to solicit input from labour and private sector leaders to on proposed protocols for re-opening of the Caribbean to travel



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.

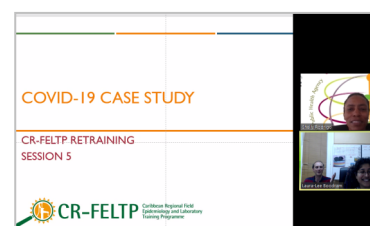


Picture 4: Dr. Davidson presents on Health and Wellbeing for Security Frontline workers.

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.

CARPHA PRODUCTS

- [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.
- [Water Sanitation and Hygiene Guidelines](#)—May 6, 2020
- [Alert for 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 8:40am 11 May 2020. Available from: <https://who.sprinklr.com/>
(2) Johns Hopkins University's Centre for Science and Engineering Accessed at 9:15am. 11 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>
(4) Jamaica Ministry of Health and wellness. Press release dated May 10 2020. Available at <https://www.moh.gov.jm/covid-19-recoveries-in-jamaica-reach-90/> Accessed 11 May 2020