

## CARPHA SITUATION REPORT NO. 46

MAY 15, 2020

### Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic

## Summary

This is an update to the CARPHA Situation Report published on May 13, 2020, in relation to the outbreak of COVID-19.

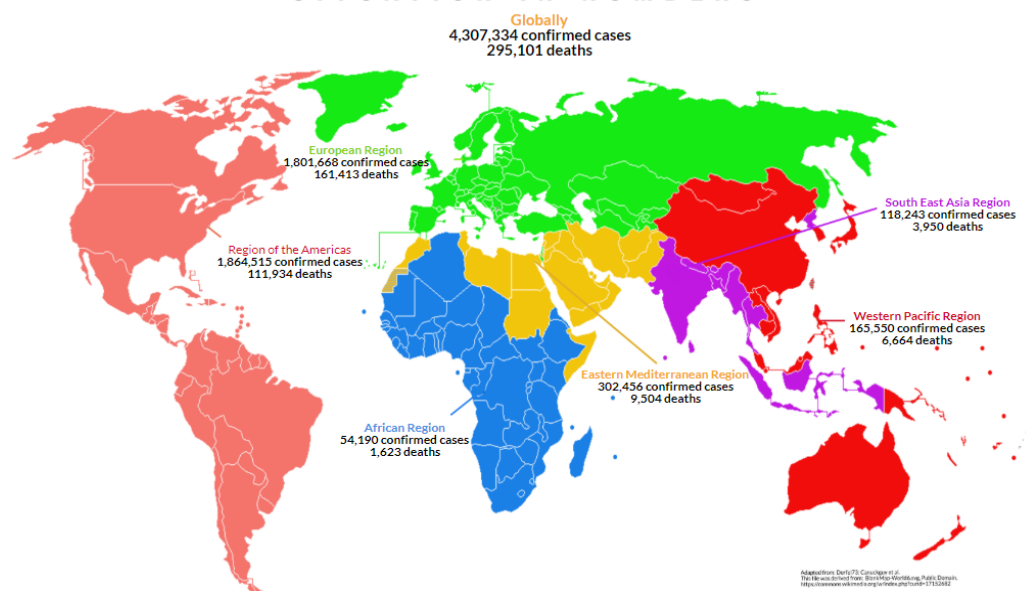
To date, there are 17,978 cases in 33 countries/territories (including 24 CARPHA Member States), in the Caribbean Region. The risk of further importation of cases to the rest of the Caribbean remains **Very High**. The overarching goal is for all countries to control the pandemic by slowing down the transmission and reducing mortality associated with COVID-19.

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
- CARPHA Interim Guidance on the Evaluation and Selection of Diagnostic Tests for COVID-19

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS



## Numbers at a Glance\*

### Globally

4,307,334 cases (166,859 new)\*\*

### Caribbean Region

33 countries, areas, or territories  
(0 new)

17,978 cases (661 new)\*\*

5,908 recovered (283 new)

755 deaths (27 new)

### Rest of the World

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

4,289,356 cases (166,859 new)

1,582,950 recovered (84,611  
new)

294,346 deaths (9,746 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 13, 2020, an additional 661 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 12 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region's total confirmed cases to 17,978 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents a 4% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 755 deaths recorded in the Caribbean region as at May 15, 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.

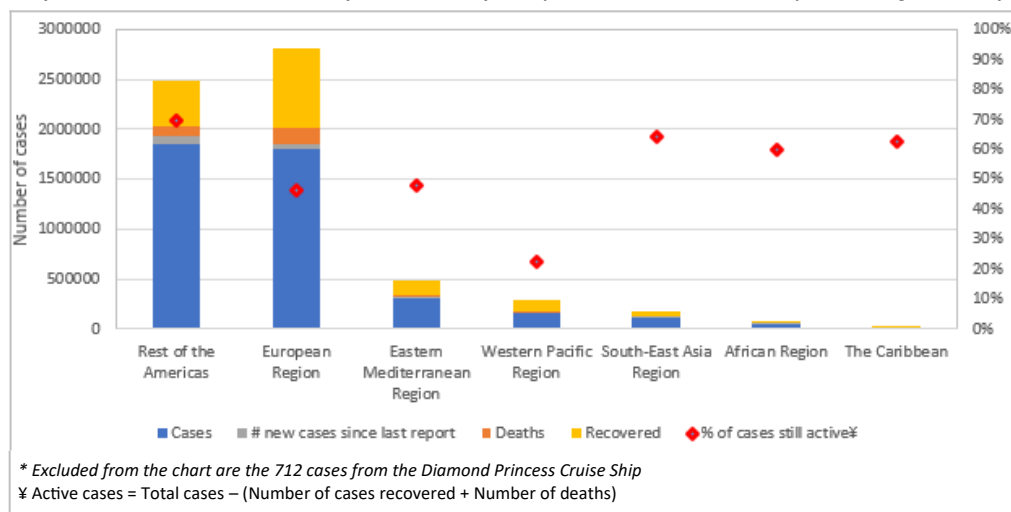


Figure 1: Reported Cases of COVID-19 by Region as of 15 May, 2020\*

As of May 15, 2020, the WHO reported 4,307,287 cases of patients with COVID-19. A total of 216 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 (Lesotho) reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19 since the last Situation Report on May 13, 2020. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of cases by Region.

## ANALYSIS OF CASES AMONG CARPHA MEMBER STATES

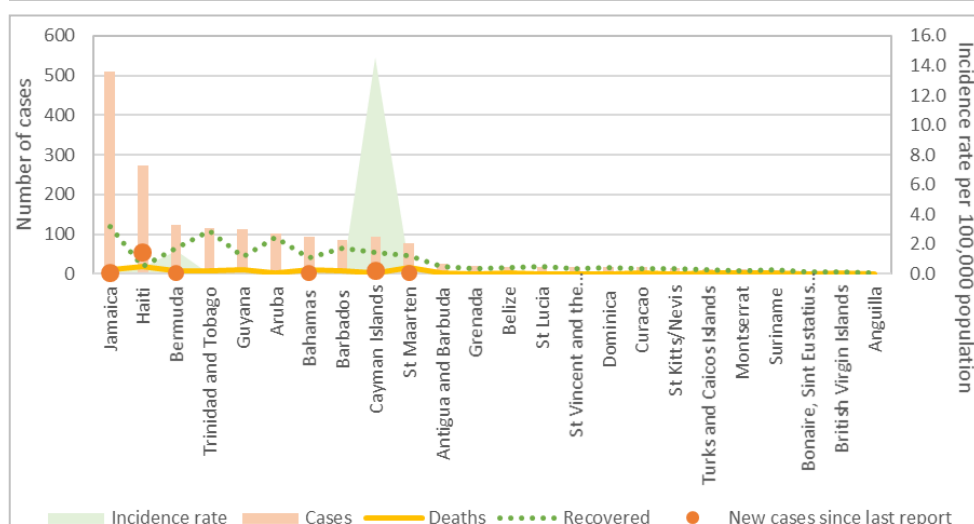


Figure 2. Confirmed Cases in Member States as of May 15, 2020

As of May 15, 2020, there have been 1,779 cases confirmed from CARPHA Member States (CMS), the highest number was reported on April 15, 2020. (Figure 2).

Data in Figure 2 was extracted from official reports published by Ministries of Health in Member States, and numbers may vary based on the time the information was extracted.

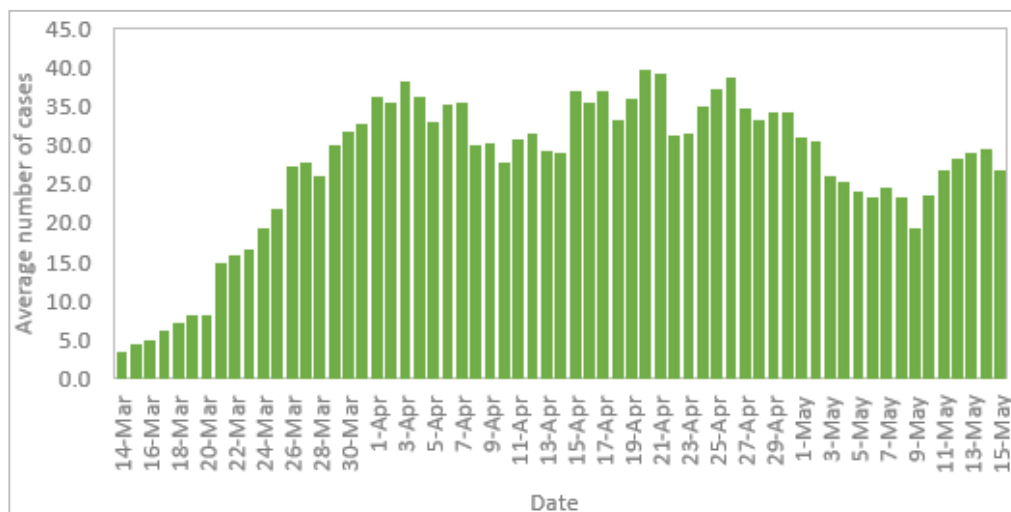


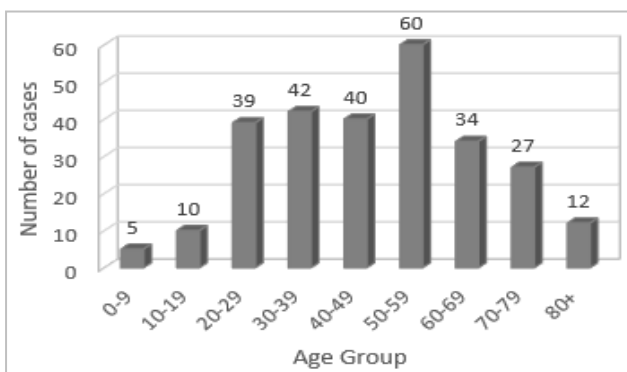
Figure 3. 7-day moving average number of cases of COVID-19 in CMS as of May 15, 2020

Figure 3 shows the 7-day moving average among CMS. The value for each day represents the average number of cases for 7 days calculated using number of confirmed cases for the current day and the six days prior to the current day.

Among cases for whom sex was reported, 58% were female and 42% were male. (Figure 4).

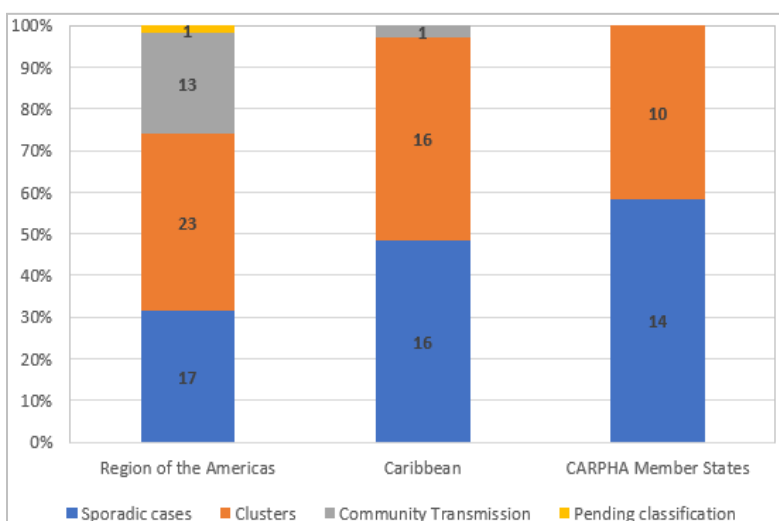


**Figure 4. Percentage of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 by sex in CMS, n=767**



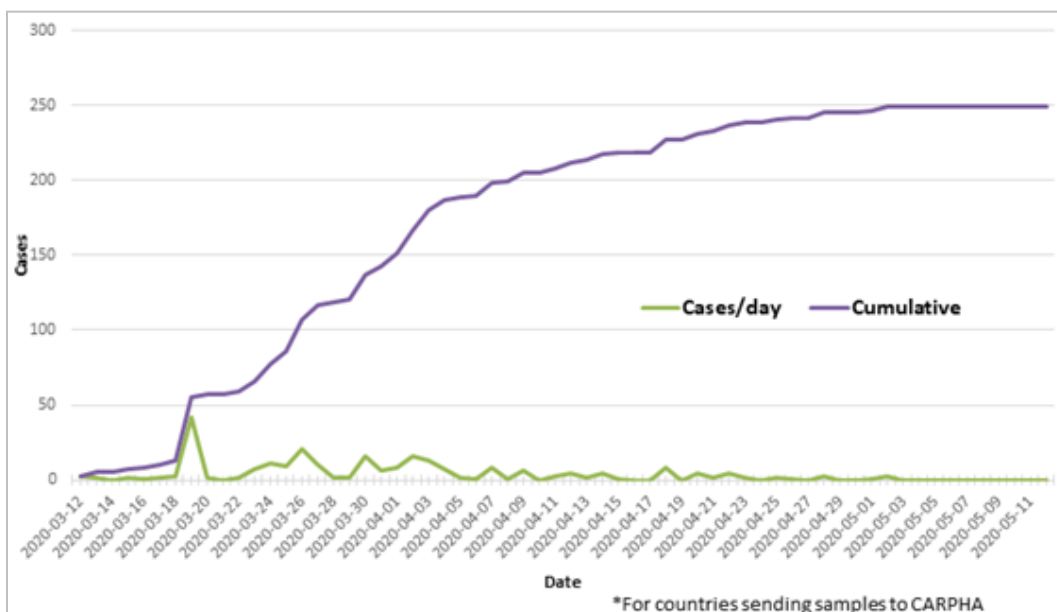
**Figure 5. Reported confirmed cases of COVID-19 by age group in CMS, n=269**

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 (1,510) which are excluded from 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 14, 2020<sup>1</sup> (Figure 6).



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

## Laboratory

Since February 10, 2020 and as of May 14, 2020, CARPHA has received 4,066 samples from 16 CMS, 428 (10.6%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak, 250 results (6.2%) correspond to unique new cases.

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

<sup>1</sup> WHO. Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 115 Accessed 15 May, 2020. Available [here](#).

# CARPHA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

## Laboratory Update

### CARPHA Interim Guidance on the Evaluation and Selection of Diagnostic Tests for COVID-19

CARPHA has designed a simple, user-friendly instrument consisting of 14 parameters to assist national and other stakeholders in the evaluation and selection of diagnostic tests to be used for the COVID-19 response in CMS. More details can be found in the CARPHA Laboratory Update #12 issued May 15, 2020.

Please also check out our video: [The CARPHA COVID-19 Testing Process](#)

### Incidence Management Team - Emergency Response Update

- **May 12, 2020:** CARPHA staff from all three campuses (Jamaica, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago) participated in an online sensitization and demonstration session on the proper use of face masks. The session included an interactive Question and Answer component and demonstration of proper hand hygiene technique.

### CARPHA's Technical Cooperation

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



Picture 1: Ms. Wallace-Sankarsingh conducts a practical demonstration on hand hygiene and the proper use of masks to members of CARPHA's staff .

More than 500 law enforcement professionals from across 17 CARPHA Member States (15 CARICOM Members and 2 Associate States) attended the virtual session in addition to other regional organizations - the OECS and the RSS. Countries represented included 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:** Dr. Joy St. John was guest of Mr. Will Grant - Mexico, Central America and Cuba Correspondent on BBC News - about the CARICOM regional experience with COVID-19.

### Stakeholder Engagement

CARPHA is working closely with various stakeholders for a coordinated regional response, and as such has engaged with multiple stakeholders in multiple ways, including the following meetings that Dr. St. John and Dr. Indar participated in:

- **May 15, 2020:** Dr. St. John and Dr. Indar participated in Core Coordination meeting with PAHO and CDEMA
- **May 14, 2020:** Dr. St. John participated in COVID discussions with Association of Caribbean States and OECS.
- **May 13, 2020:** Dr. St. John and Dr. Indar participated in the Meeting of International Airlines and Travel Partners – CARICOM on common position re COVID-19 and in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Vessel Sanitation program to discuss repatriation by cruise ships. Dr. St. John also participated in the Caribbean Network of Research and Ethics Committee meeting.
- **May 12, 2020:** Caribbean COVID-19 Tourism Task Force to discuss re-opening of borders proactive COVID-19 tourism measures.
- **May 11, 2020:** 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:** "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 .

# NEWS AND INFORMATION

## Addressing COVID-19 through CARPHA's Regional Tourism & Health Programme (THP)

CARPHA's novel multisectoral regional THP is addressing COVID-19 through the provision of a package of "COVID-19 Proactive Measures" for the hospitality sector to build traveller's assurance to return to the Caribbean. This includes:

- Real time monitoring of symptoms/ illnesses through the implementation of the early warning and response Tourism Health Information System (THIS), in hospitality facilities [this.carpha.org](https://this.carpha.org)
- Hospitality Health, Safety and Environmental Sanitation Standards
- Regional Guidelines for Response to Illness in the Hospitality Sector
- Advanced Food Safety Training and Certification
- Voluntary self-reporting of cases via THIS OR CARPHA COVID 19 app.
- Enhanced and relevant community engagement and public health messaging
- Protocols in accommodation settings for response to the COVID-19 outbreak

The **COVID Tourism Task Force** was established between CARPHA, Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO), Caribbean Tourism and Hotel Association (CHTA) and the Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Center (GTRCMC) for joint and coordinated implementation of the above proactive measures, capacity building, training, advocacy and public health messages

More information on the THP can be found [here](#) and the full version of the THP brochure can be found [here](#).



## CARPHA PRODUCTS

- [Caribbean Countries that have issued Travel Advisories due to COVID-19](#) – May 15, 2020
- [Precautionary prevention measures implemented by Caribbean Countries \(outside travel-related measures\)](#) – 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 8:20am 15 May 2020. Available from: <https://who.sprinklr.com/>
- (2) Johns Hopkins University's Centre for Science and Engineering Accessed at 8:20am. 15 May 2020. Available from: <https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>
- (3) <https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?useExisting=1&layers=c0b356e20b30490c8b8b4c7bb9554e7c&layerId=1>
- (4) Haiti Ministry of Health and Population. COVID-19 Dashboard. Available at <https://www.coronahaiti.org/> Accessed 15 May 2020
- (5) Bermuda Government Ministry of Health. <https://www.gov.bm/articles/14-may-covid-19-update> Accessed 15 May 2020
- (6) Cayman Islands. Ministry of Health, environment, culture and housing COVID-19 dashboard. <http://www.gov.ky/portal/page/portal/cighome/pressroom/archive/202005/COVID-19%20Testing%20Update%20-%20Thursday%2014%20May> Accessed 15 May 2020