

CARPHA SITUATION REPORT NO. 47

MAY 18, 2020

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic

Summary

This is an update to the CARPHA Situation Report published on May 15, 2020, in relation to the outbreak of COVID-19.

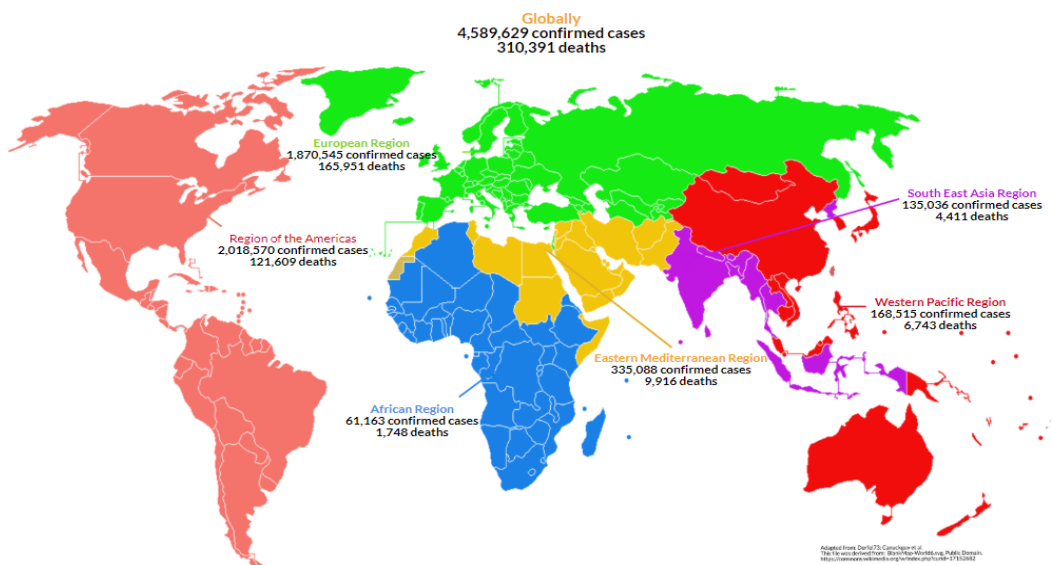
To date, there are 19,476 cases in 33 countries/territories (including 24 CARPHA Member States), in the Caribbean Region. The risk of further importation of cases to the rest of the Caribbean remains **Very High**. The overarching goal is for all countries to control the pandemic by slowing down the transmission and reducing mortality associated with COVID-19.

The Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Health Security (RCM-HS) is actively working with CARICOM Heads of Government and key partners on region-wide approaches to the COVID-19 response. Most Member States have begun a phased lifting of restrictions in country and some have initiated repatriation of nationals under advised protocols. Active surveillance and continued implementation of population social distancing measures are critical at this time.

New in this Report

- Surveillance and Epidemiology COVID-19 in Member States
- CARPHA Interim Guidance on the Evaluation and Selection of Diagnostic Tests for COVID-19
- Highlights of the Address to 73rd World Health Assembly by Chair of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM on 18 May 2020

SITUATION IN NUMBERS



Numbers at a Glance*

Globally

4,589,629 cases (282,295 new)**

Caribbean Region

33 countries, areas, or territories
(0 new)

19,476 cases (1,498 new)**

8,555 recovered (2,647 new)

770 deaths (15 new)

Rest of the World

182 countries, areas, or
territories and Other***

4,570,153 cases (280,797 new)

1,735,602 recovered (152,652
new)

309,621 deaths (15,275 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*

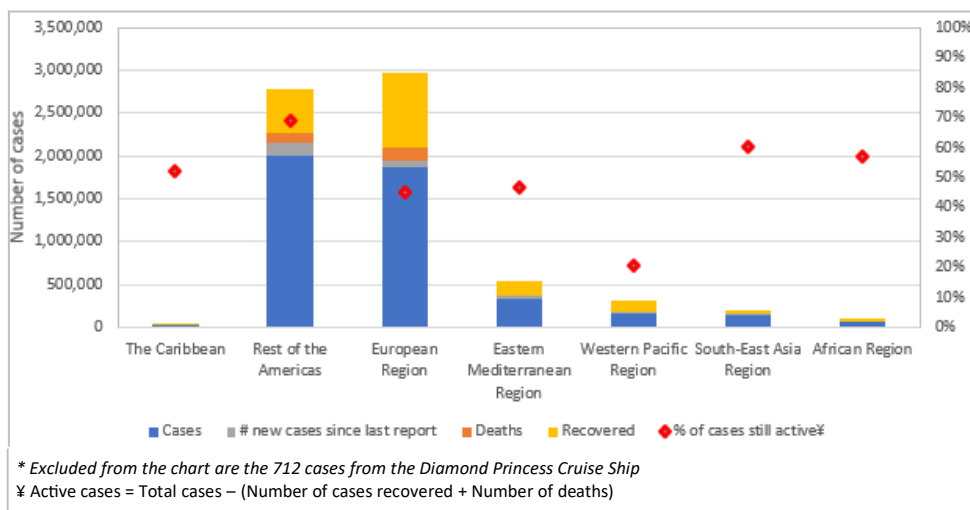
SITUATION UPDATE

COVID-19 in the Caribbean

Since the previous report on May 15, 2020, an additional 1,498 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 13 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region's total confirmed cases to 19,476 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents an 8% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 770 deaths recorded in the Caribbean region as at May 18, 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.

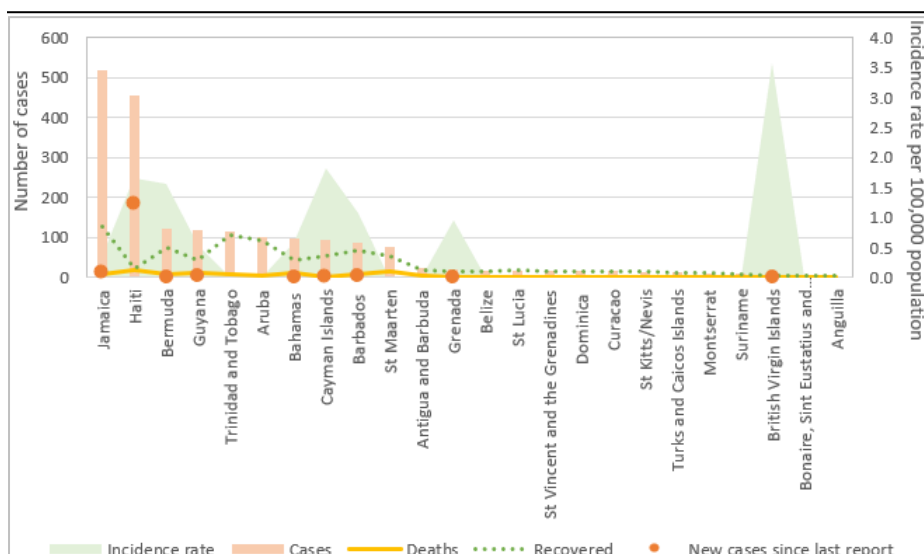


As of May 18, 2020, the WHO reported 4,589,526 cases of patients with COVID-19. A total of 216 countries, areas or territories have confirmed at least one case among travellers exposed while abroad and/or person-to-person contact.

No new countries reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19 since the last Situation Report on May 15, 2020. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of cases by Region.

Figure 1: Reported Cases of COVID-19 by Region as of 18 May, 2020*

ANALYSIS OF CASES AMONG CARPHA MEMBER STATES



As of May 18, 2020, there have been 1,986 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 2. Confirmed Cases in Member States as of May 18, 2020

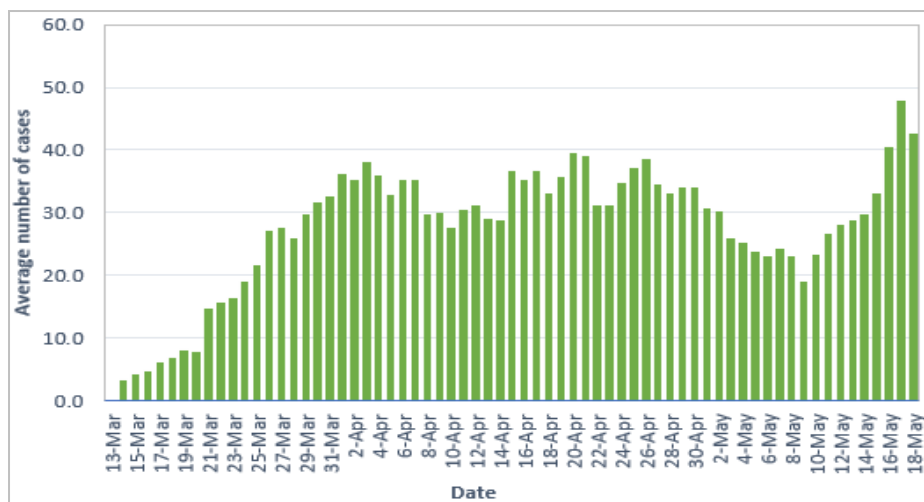


Figure 3 shows the 7-day moving average among CMS. The value for each day represents the average number of cases for 7 days calculated using number of confirmed cases for the current day and the six days prior to the current day.

The highest 7-day average was observed on May 17, 2020.

Figure 3. 7-day moving average number of cases of COVID-19 in CMS as of May 18, 2020

Among cases for whom sex was reported, 57% were female and 43% were male. (Figure 4).

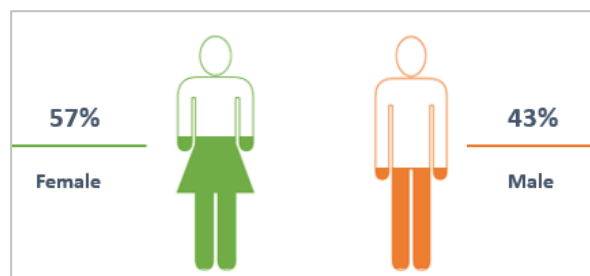
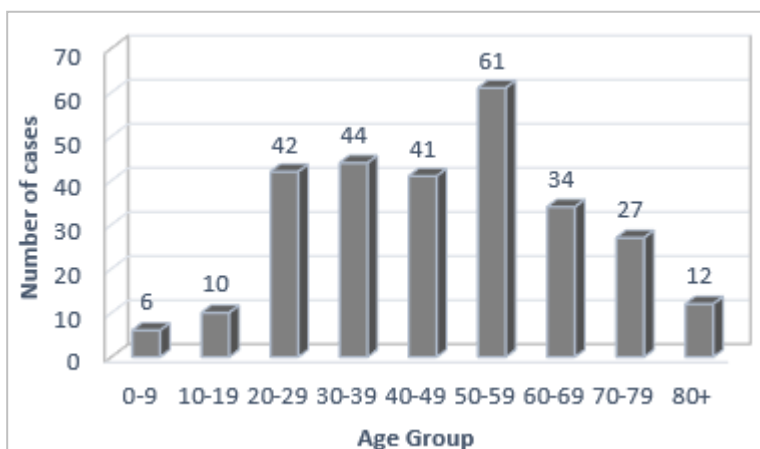
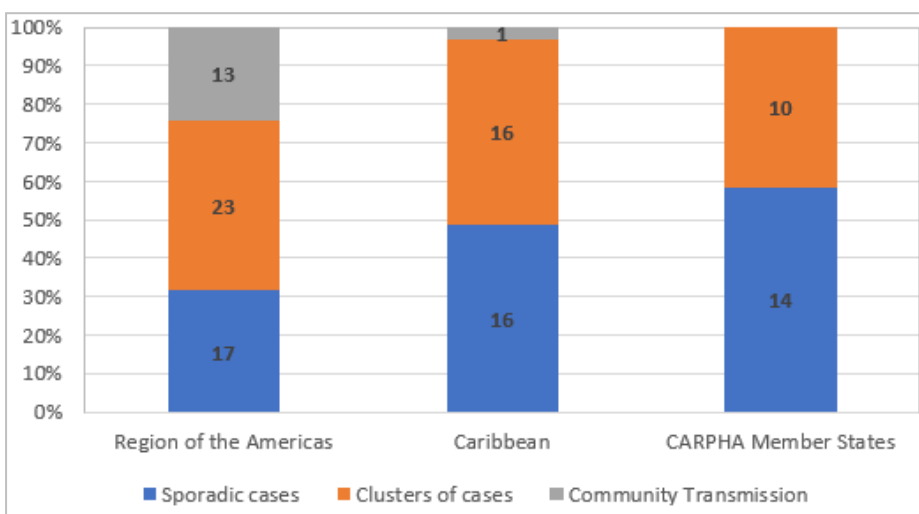


Figure 4. Percentage of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 by sex in CMS, n=784

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 (1,709) which are excluded from Figure 5.

Figure 5. Reported confirmed cases of COVID-19 by age group in CMS, n=277



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 17, 2020¹ (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Category of Countries by Transmission Classification

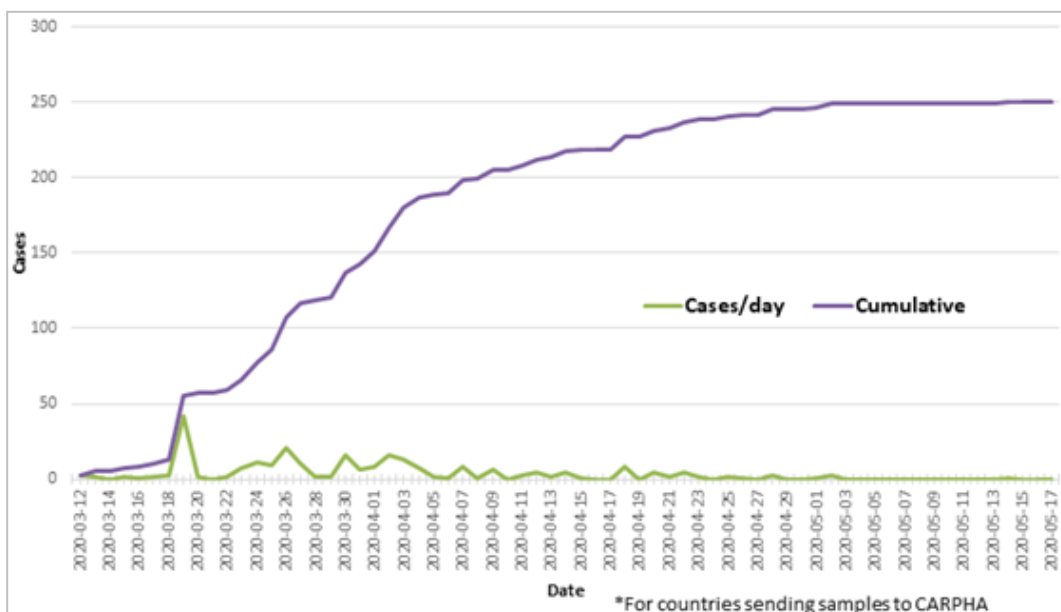


Figure 7. COVID-19 Progression in CMS*. Laboratory Confirmed New Cases. Feb—May

Laboratory

Since February 10, 2020 and as of May 17, 2020, CARPHA has received 4,125 samples from 16 CMS, 430 (10.4%) 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.

¹ WHO. Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 118 Accessed 17 May, 2020. Available [here](#).

CARPHA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

Laboratory Update

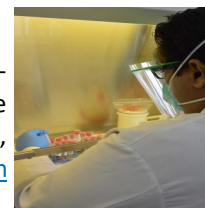
- **May 18, 2020:** CARPHA's Medical Microbiology Laboratory distributed Laboratory Update 13 advising that with immediate effect, the following testing services have been resumed:
 - * Molecular detection (PCR) of Influenza A and B viruses
 - * Molecular detection (PCR) of Non-influenza viruses: Adenovirus, Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV), Parainfluenza 1 – 3, Rhinovirus and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), Middle-East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)
 - * Serological tests (IgM ELISA) of Arboviruses: Dengue, Chikungunya and Zika virusesThese services had previously been interrupted to facilitate the COVID-19 response between March 12 and 20, 2020.
- **May 18, 2020:** The Caribbean Public Health Laboratory Network (CariPHLN) Secretariat issued its CariPHLN Bulletin #3 on Monday May 18, 2020. Topics included the recent rapid survey conducted with National Laboratory Directors in the CARPHA Member States (CMS) to identify current and planned diagnostic capacities for the detection of the SARS-CoV-2 virus; the CARPHA Interim Guidance for the Evaluation and Selection of Diagnostic Tests for the COVID-19 Response by highlighting the practical examples and a form (Click [here](#)) and the recently updated WHO Interim Laboratory Biosafety Guidance related to Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). On May 13, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued an update to the interim guidance adding recommendations on point of care (POC) or near-POC assays.

Click [here](#) to download the full document and visit the CARPHA page for more: <https://carpha.org/What-We-Do/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus>

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, inclusive of rapid test kits, 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. [Interim Guidance on the Interpretation of Test Results using the PCR-based Methods for Public Health Practitioners and General Practitioners](#)

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



Incidence Management Team (IMT) - Emergency Response Update

- **May 15 and 18, 2020.** CARPHA's IMT agreed to produce a new set of guidelines to provide health specific guidance to CMS for reopening of various sectors, commencing with travel, hospitality and food service industry.
- **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.



Picture 1: Ms. Wallace-Sankarsingh demonstrate the proper use of masks

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 meeting 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

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Highlights of the Address to 73rd World Health Assembly by Honourable Mia Mottley Prime Minister of Barbados and Chair of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM on 18 May 2020

In her address, Honourable Mia Mottley outlined the CARICOM response that they learnt from having “watched how COVID decimated rich and powerful nations with strong curative care systems – killing their people, over running their healthcare systems, and halting business.”

She also highlighted that CARICOM decided that they “cannot fight the illness, and that we had to delay the arrival of COVID-19 into the region as far as possible.”

CARICOM also mobilised all regional agencies including those that “dealt with public health like the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) or the modelling like the University of the West Indies, or with our disaster preparedness and mitigation like CDEMA and tracking the movement of persons through our borders like the Joint Regional Communications Centre (JRCC) of CARICOM.” The CARICOM Heads of Government adopted a ‘whole of government’ and ‘whole of society’ approach.



Photo 2: Honourable Mia Mottley Prime Minister of Barbados and Chair of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM addresses the 73rd World Health Assembly.

In closing she emphasised “My friends, there was life before COVID-19 and I know that there will be life after COVID-19. For this reason, even with the pandemic we must not drop the ball on those other global health priorities that are critical to our overall development. I refer specifically to the chronic NCDs – the silent killers (diabetes and cardiovascular disease, hypertension). I refer to HIV and AIDS and to the antimicrobial resistance that we are fighting and the other health-related diseases that come as a result of the climate crisis. For our populations, these challenges remain real and continue to present a silent but real and present danger. Let us use the cooperation we are trying to build to also help fight these challenges. Why? Because solidarity, unity and partnership remain enduring principles for us.”

A detailed recap of her speech can be found [here](#)

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. 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](#).

RECENT 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 15, 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.
- 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 18 May 2020. Available from: <https://who.sprinklr.com/>
- (2) Johns Hopkins University’s Centre for Science and Engineering Accessed at 9:00am. 18 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 17 2020. Available at <https://www.moh.gov.jm/covid-19-update-jamaica-now-has-520-confirmed-cases/> Accessed 18 May 2020
- (5) Haiti Ministry of Health and Population. Press Release dated May 17 2020. Available [here](#). Accessed 18 May 2020
- (6) Barbados Government Information Service. <https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/blog/covid-19-update-two-new-cases-and-one-recovery/> Accessed 18 May 2020.