

## CARPHA SITUATION REPORT NO. 49

MAY 22, 2020

### Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic

#### Summary

This is an update to the CARPHA Situation Report published on May 20, 2020, in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

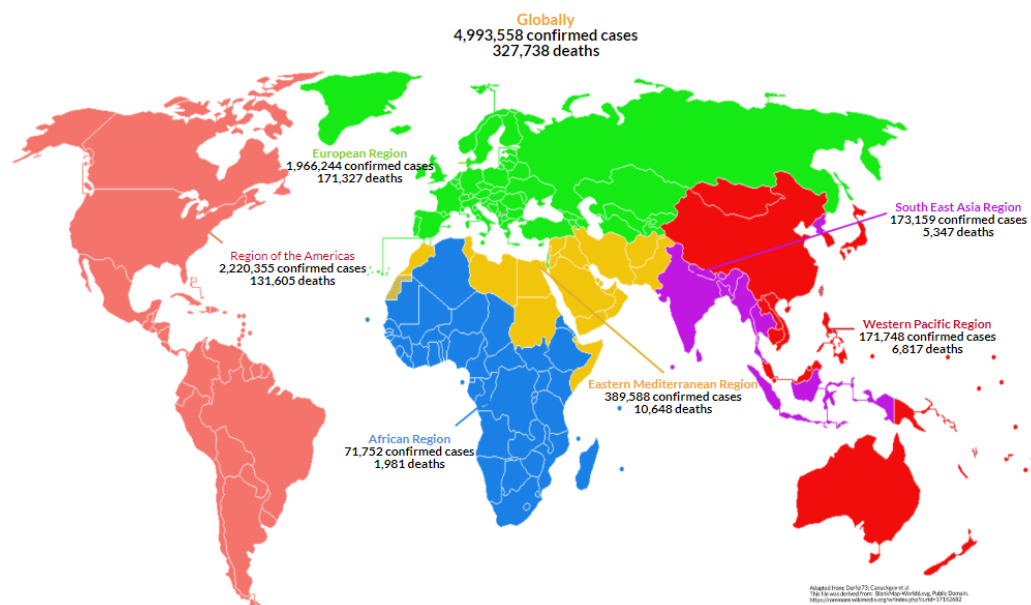
To date, there are 21,498 cases in 33 countries/territories (including 24 CARPHA Member States), in the Caribbean Region. The risk of further importation of cases to the rest of the Caribbean remains **Very High**. The overarching goal is for all countries to control the pandemic by slowing down the 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 24 Member States
- CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory resumes routine molecular and serological tests
- Statement by the WHO Civil Society Working Group (CSWG) on Non-communicable Diseases

#### SITUATION IN NUMBERS



#### Numbers at a Glance\*

##### Globally

4,993,558 cases (231,916 new)\*\*

##### Caribbean Region

33 countries, areas, or territories  
(0 new)

21,498 cases (756 new)\*\*

10,288 recovered (885 new)

796 deaths (11 new)

##### Rest of the World

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

4,972,060 cases (231,160 new)

1,955,847 recovered<sup>§</sup>

326,942 deaths (9,413 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

<sup>§</sup> Number recoveries were not available for all countries at the time this report was developed.

## SITUATION UPDATE

#### COVID-19 in the Caribbean

Since the previous report on May 20, 2020, an additional 1,722 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 10 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region's total confirmed cases to 20,742 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents an 9% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 785 deaths recorded in the Caribbean region as at May 22, 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.

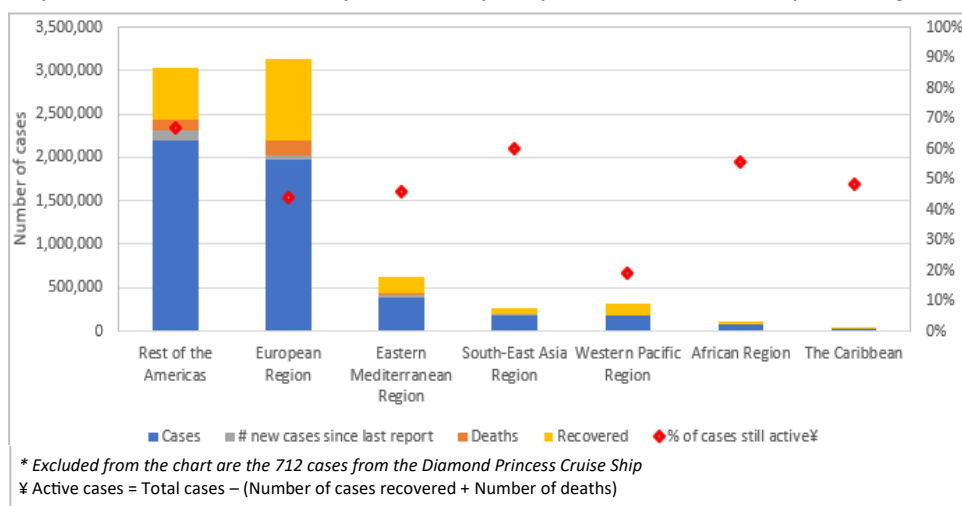


Figure 1: Reported Cases of COVID-19 by Region as of 22 May, 2020\*

As of May 22, 2020, the WHO reported 4,993,470 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 20, 2020. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of cases by Region.

## ANALYSIS OF CASES AMONG CARPHA MEMBER STATES

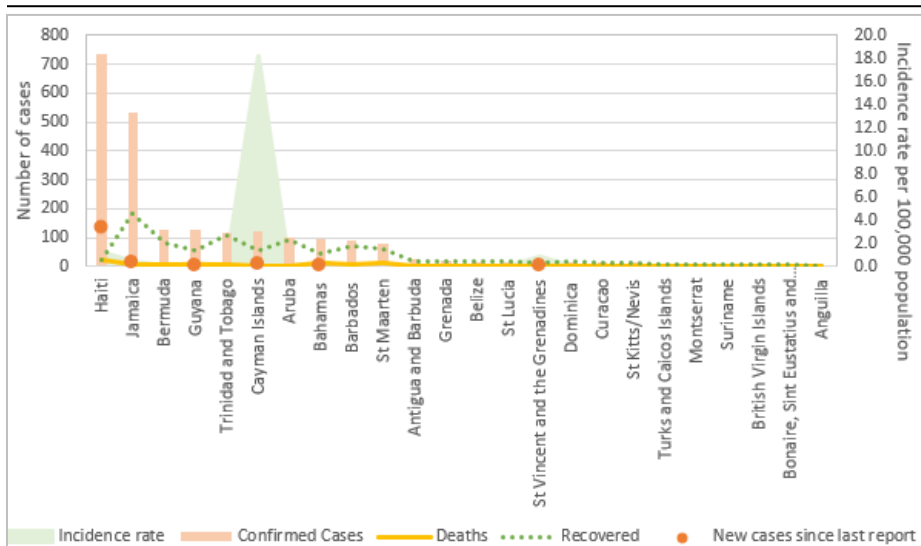


Figure 2. Confirmed Cases in Member States as of May 22, 2020

As of May 22, 2020, there have been 2,322 cases confirmed from CARPHA Member States (CMS), the highest number was reported on May 18, 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.

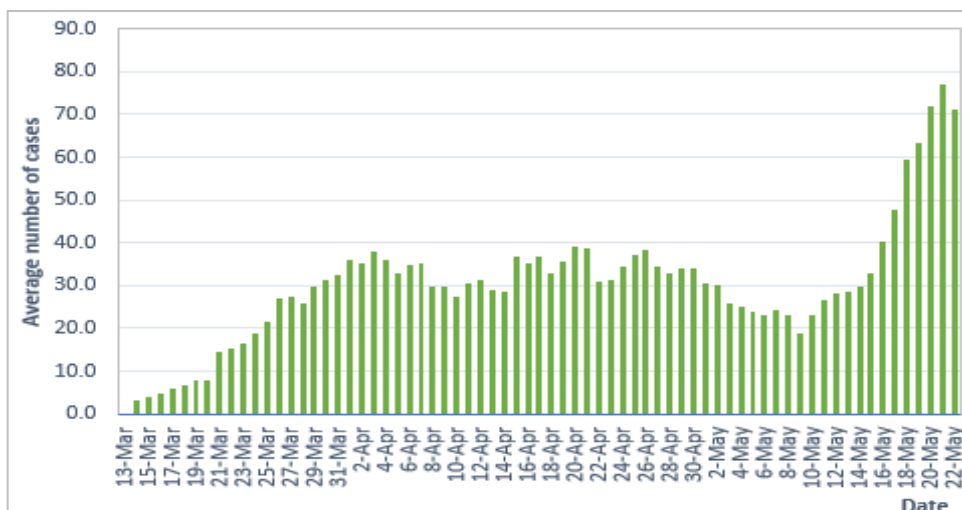
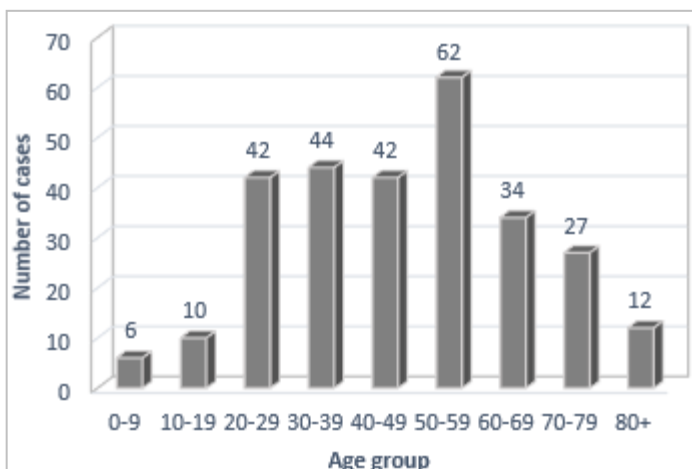


Figure 3. 7-day moving average number of cases of COVID-19 in CMS as of May 22, 2020

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 21, 2020.

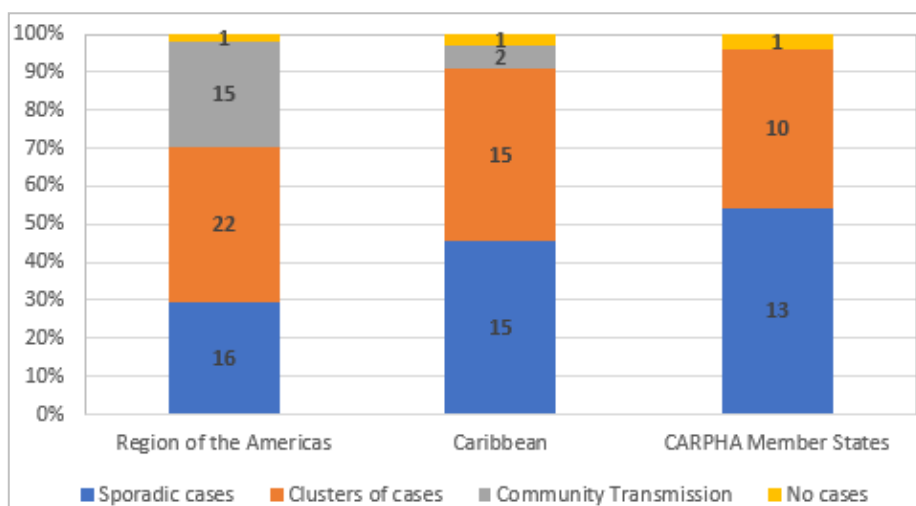
Among cases for whom sex was reported, 56% were female and 44% were male. (Figure 4).



**Figure 4. Percentage of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 by sex in CMS, n=799**

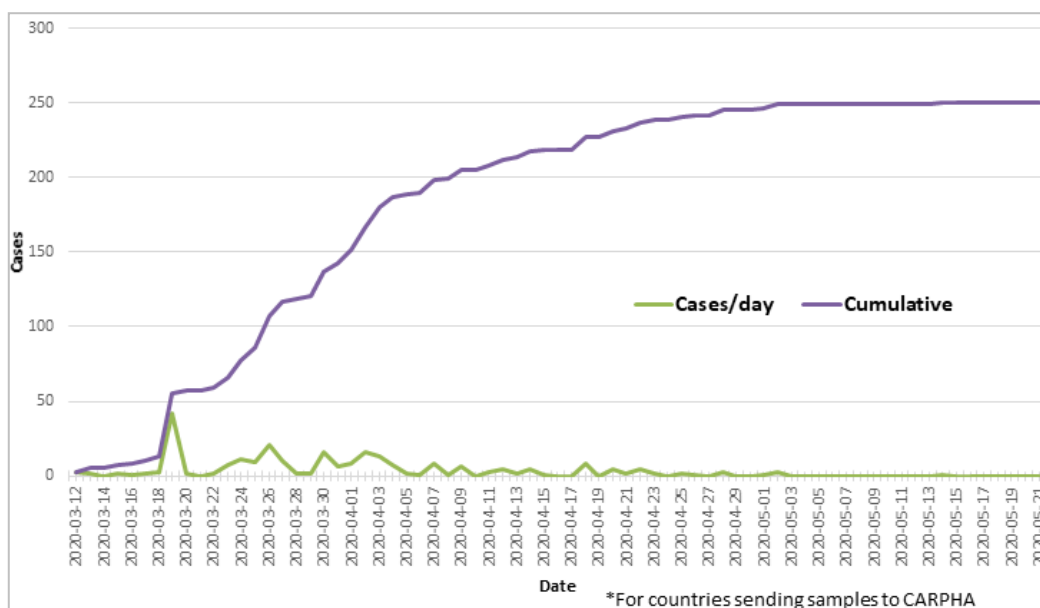
For the cases for which data were available, the majority were between 20 and 59 years old, with 50-59 being the modal age group. There was no age reported for the majority of cases (2,043) which are excluded from Figure 5.

**Figure 5. Reported confirmed cases of COVID-19 by age group in CMS, n=279**



Among the 24 Member States, 54% (13/24) have been classified as having sporadic transmission of COVID-19 among cases, 42% (10/24) have reported clusters and 4% (1/24) currently has no cases. Figure 6 is based on data received by the WHO from national authorities by 10:00 CEST, May 21, 2020<sup>1</sup>.

**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 21, 2020, CARPHA has received 4,268 samples from 16 CMS, 433 (10.2%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak, 250 results (5.9%) 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 – 122 Accessed 21 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 (see below) 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. Click [here](#) to access the complete document.

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.

## 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 in which CARPHA participated:

- **May 22, 2020:** Dr. St. John and Dr. Indar attended a CARICOM Meeting with Cruise Lines Execs to discuss Repatriation
- **May 22, 2020** Ms. Binta Dalrymple presented at a meeting of the CARICOM Human Resources cluster on CARPHA'S Human Resource actions with reference to the COVID-19 Response.
- **May 21, 2020:** Dr. St. John and Dr. Indar attended CARICOM Sub-Committee of the Heads of Government to Advise on Uniform Protocol related to the Repatriation of Cruise Ship Crew Members. Dr Indar presented on guidelines for repatriation.
- Dr. St. John appeared on Mornin' Barbados to provide an update on COVID-19.
- **May 19, 2020:** Dr. Stephanie Fletcher-Lartey participated in the UNESCO/CARICOM Caribbean webinar #2 "Safe Return to Schools: Challenges and Perspectives for the Continuity of Teaching and Learning in the Caribbean". She presented on Health and Safety Considerations for Returning to Schools to nearly 300 participants.
- **May 19, 2020:** Dr Laura-Lee Boodram and Mr. Peter Williams attended the Steering Committee meeting for the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) Review convened by CDEMA.
- **May 15, 2020:** Dr. St. John and Dr. Indar participated in Core Coordination meeting with PAHO and CDEMA.



Photo 1: Staff at CMML receive and prepare samples sent from CMS for testing.



Photo 2: Dr. Fletcher-Lartey presented at the UNESCO/CARICOM Webinar on safe return to schools.

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# NEWS AND INFORMATION

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## Statement by the WHO Civil Society Working Group (CSWG) on Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) at the 73rd World Health Assembly 18 May 2020

On May 18, 2020 at the 73rd World Health Assembly, the 36 members of the WHO CSWG in their statement on NCDs commended the WHO and Dr Tedros for his leadership on tackling the COVID-19 pandemic. They highlighted emerging evidence that persons with NCDs are at higher risk of severe illness due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was acknowledged that NCDs and their risk factors are exerting a heavy toll on health systems, draining resources and “disproportionately affecting the poorest and most vulnerable groups in all countries.”

The WHO CSWG have called on governments to ensure:

1. NCDs prevention and treatment are included in national preparedness plans.
2. The continued delivery of routine chronic care resources including medicine, screening devices and supportive care.
3. Precautionary measures are taken to protect persons predisposed to chronic, long-term morbidity due to COVID-19.
4. Healthcare workers are recruited, trained, protected, and well-resourced to meet the current and future demand for chronic care and the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. That key stakeholders are consulted and meaningfully involved in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of international, national, and local COVID responses.
6. NCD prevention and health promotion continues to be prioritised and adapted to ‘lockdown conditions’
7. Legally binding policies are created and implemented in collaboration with civil society for greater transparency, accountability, monitoring and enforcement in order to achieve good health and well-being for all, while preventing and addressing conflicts of interest.
8. The declaration of particularly harmful products (ex. tobacco and alcohol), as non-essential within pandemic responses with restrictions on availability and marketing and the promotion of physical activity and healthy diets. Measures to reduce air pollution and food security should also be considered and addressed.
9. Engagement with unhealthy commodity industries is limited or ceased.
10. Economic stimulus packages for key sectors such as health care, transport, energy, and agriculture have health protection and promotion embedded at their core to foster a green economy and promote healthy environments.
11. Digital health solutions are identified and scaled up by developing data systems that provide clear and accurate information for national health experts and the public.
12. Media are sensitised to report responsibly on health issues especially where misinformation is suspected.

For more information please see link to statement [here](#).

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## RECENT CARPHA PRODUCTS

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- [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
- The following guidelines have been updated:
  - [Interim Guidance about COVID-19 \(Coronavirus Disease\) for Hotels Workers in the Caribbean](#) - May 13, 2020
  - [Interim Guidance on COVID-19 \(novel coronavirus\) for Travellers](#) - May 13, 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>

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## REFERENCES

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- Sources: (1) WHO Situation Dashboard Accessed at 10:22am 22 May 2020. Available from: <https://who.sprinklr.com/>
- (2) Johns Hopkins University's Centre for Science and Engineering Accessed at 10:30am. 22 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 22 May 2020
- (5) Jamaica Ministry of Health and wellness. Press release dated May 21 2020. Available [here](#). Accessed 22 May 2020
- (6) Guyana Ministry of Public Health. <https://dpi.gov.gy/10-recoveries-covid-19-cases-rise-by-2/> Accessed 22 May 2020
- (7) Cayman Islands. Ministry of Health, environment, culture and housing. COVID-19 Dashboard. Available [here](#). Accessed 22 May 2020