



COVID-19

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE



GLOBALLY
6,272,381
confirmed cases



4,286
confirmed cases

CARPHA
Member States



CARIBBEAN
29,061
confirmed cases

33 countries, areas or territories

14,595 recovered

904 deaths



REST OF THE WORLD
6,243,320
confirmed cases

countries, areas or territories **182**
recovered **2,736,296**
deaths **378,140**



As of June 2 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) has received **4,911 samples** from 16 CMS, 453 (9.2%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak.

TRENDING AT CARPHA



CARPHA's Medicines Quality Control and Surveillance Department (MQCSD)

MQCSD verifies the quality of medicines on the Caribbean market and strengthens medicines regulation in the Region.

This is important, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, as there is the possibility of substandard or "fake" medicines being circulated.

Of note, the WHO highlighted the [vaccines](#) that are in progress and the [criteria](#) for a safe vaccine in their [Situation Report](#).

Three Keys to Control the COVID-19 Pandemic

[PAHO](#) emphasized that maintaining social distancing measures, improving surveillance, and strengthening health systems are the three keys to control the COVID-19 pandemic in the Americas.



IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Imported Cases

- Exposed to COVID-19 abroad
- Developed symptoms in home country
- Tested positive for COVID-19

E.g. Husband returning from a conference abroad

Local Spread/ Secondary Cases

- No travel history
- Exposed to imported case
- Developed symptoms and tested positive for COVID-19
- Able to identify source of, or link to infection

E.g. Wife of the man who attended the conference abroad

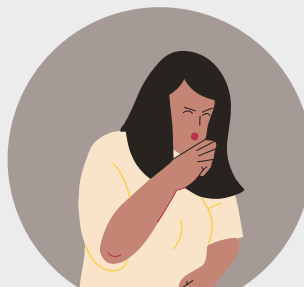
Community Spread

- Persons in the community developed symptoms and tested positive
- No travel history or contact with an imported case or confirmed COVID-19 case
- Source of, or link to infection is unknown

TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19

1 Transfers from **person to person** via tiny droplets from the nose or mouth

2 Spreads when a person with COVID-19 coughs or sneezes



3 Also spreads via **contact**

4 Touching surfaces, such as desks and door handles where the tiny droplets from an infected person have fallen

CLINICAL PRESENTATION

*Based on patients in the United States of America

Most Common:



Fever
(temperature > 37.5 °C)



Shortness of breath



Fatigue



Cough
(both dry and productive)



Muscle pain

Atypical:

Older adults and persons with medical conditions may have **delayed** presentation of fever and respiratory symptoms.



Diarrhoea and nausea may be experienced before developing fever and other symptoms.



Loss of smell and an altered sense of taste have been reported.

Illness Severity

MILD to MODERATE:

Patients present with mild symptoms up to mild pneumonia.

SEVERE:

Patients have severe difficulty breathing, low oxygen levels and >50% lung involvement on imaging.

CRITICAL:

Patients can have respiratory failure, shock and multi-organ system dysfunction.

Mild to Moderate (81%)

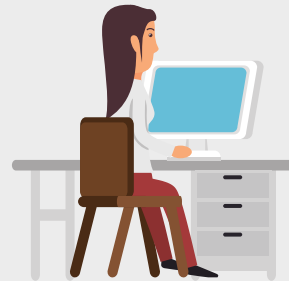
Severe (14%)

Critical (5%)

PREVENTION OF DISEASE

Social Distancing

Social Distancing can **stop or slow down** the spread of a disease in the community. It requires limiting the time we spend with persons outside of our close family and/or house mates. It means putting **more space** between persons to decrease the chance of spread and thus, infection.



Keeping at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from everyone when outside of your home

Working from home or attending online classes

Staying home unless necessary, e.g. for work

Exercising at home

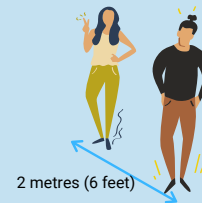
Other Precautionary Measures



Wash your hands often and carefully with soap and water or clean with an alcohol-based hand rub.



Cough or sneeze into your elbow or sleeve if tissue is not available.



Practice social distancing. Avoid contact with anyone who is coughing or sneezing.



If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical early and share previous travel history.



If you [develop symptoms](#), stay home. Avoid public transport and public spaces. Seek medical care.



Use [face masks](#) when applicable, e.g. when visiting the grocery or market.

EXPLAINING COVID-19 TO CHILDREN

COVID-19 has affected everyone, including children. Adequate time should be spent discussing this disease with the children in your household. Some tips when explaining COVID-19 with children include:



1 Remain calm and reassure them that they are safe.



2 Make time to talk and listen to their concerns. Try to answer truthfully and age appropriately.







3 Teach them actions to include in their daily routine to stay safe.










Storytelling is also an option when explaining COVID-19 to children. The excerpt below is from Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings entitled "[My Hero is You: How Kids Can Fight COVID-19!](#)"

“What does COVID-19 look like?” Sara asked her mum. “COVID-19, or the coronavirus, is so tiny we can’t see it,” said her mum. “But it spreads in the coughs and sneezes of people who are sick, and when they touch people or things around them. People who are sick get a fever and a cough and can have some trouble breathing.”

RECENT CARPHA PRODUCTS

[Caribbean Countries Reopening Plans/Initiatives post COVID-19](#) 
[Public Education Resources](#) 
[Media](#) 
[Videos](#) 

REFERENCES

- ((1) WHO Situation Dashboard. Accessed at 9:30am June 3, 2020. 
- (2) Johns Hopkins University's Centre for Science and Engineering Accessed at 9:33am June 3, 2020.  
- (3) Haiti Ministry of Health and Population. COVID-19 Dashboard. Accessed June 3, 2020. 
- (4) Jamaica Ministry of Health and wellness. Press release dated June 2 2020. Accessed June 3, 2020. 
- (5) Cayman Islands. Ministry of Health, environment, culture and housing. COVID-19 Dashboard. Accessed June 3, 2020. 
- (6) Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings. My Hero is You: How Kids Can Fight COVID-19! Accessed 2 June 2020. 
- (7) CDC. Talking with children about Coronavirus Disease 2019. Accessed on June 2 2020. 