

CARPHA SITUATION REPORT NO. 51

MAY 29, 2020

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic

Summary

This is an update to the CARPHA Situation Report published on May 26, 2020, in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

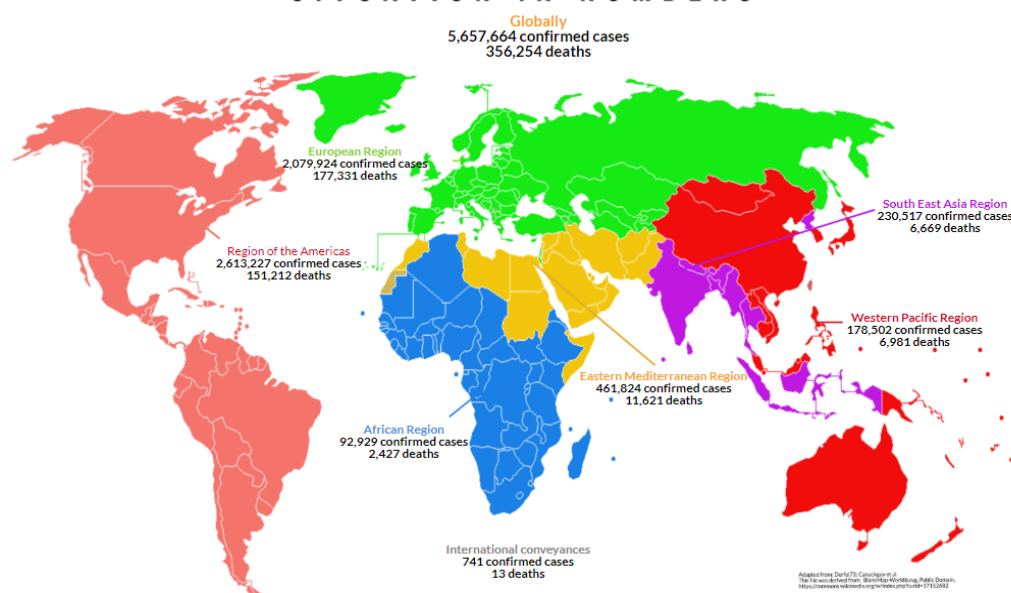
To date, there are 25,561 cases in 33 countries/territories (including 24 CARPHA Member States), in the Caribbean Region. The risk of further importation of cases to the rest of the Caribbean remains **Very High**. The overarching goal is for all countries to control the pandemic by slowing down the 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's COVID-19 Response and Activities
- Tobacco Use and COVID-19

SITUATION IN NUMBERS



Numbers at a Glance*

Globally

5,657,664 cases (287,172 new)**

Caribbean Region

33 countries, areas, or territories
(0 new)

25,561 cases (1,769 new)**

12,188 recovered (783 new)

854 deaths (35 new)

Rest of the World

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

5,632,103 cases (285,403 new)

2,427,122 recovered (184,876
new)

355,400 deaths (11,765 new)

**Clinically diagnosed and laboratory
confirmed cases*

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

****Includes persons reported from
international conveyances.*

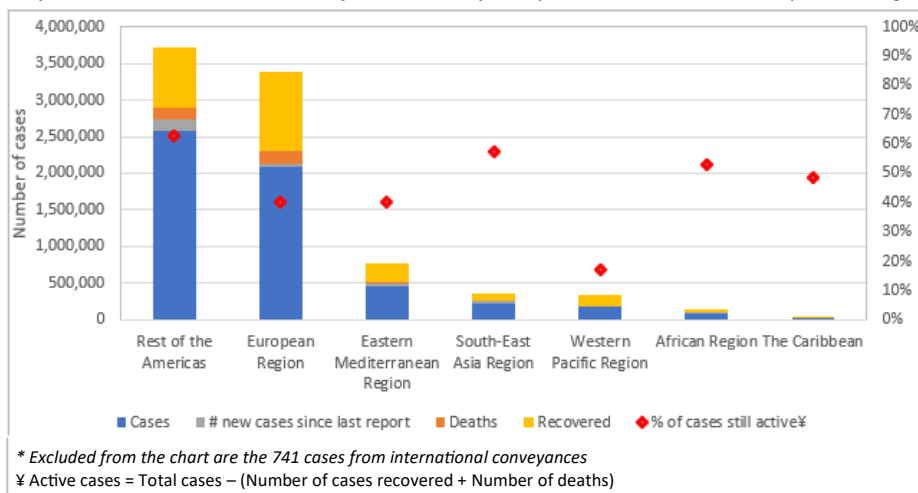
SITUATION UPDATE

COVID-19 in the Caribbean

Since the previous report on May 26, 2020, an additional 1,769 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 13 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region's total confirmed cases to 25,561 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents a 7% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 854 deaths recorded in the Caribbean region as at May 29, 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.

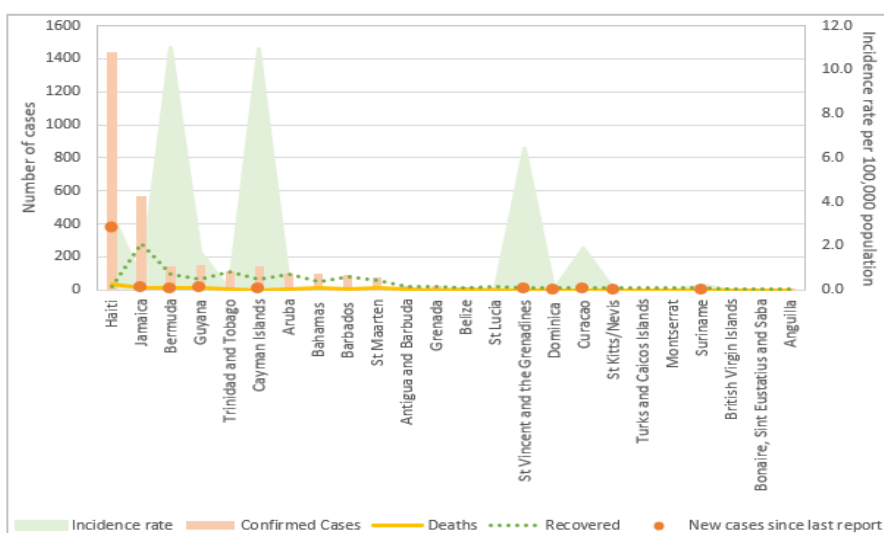


As of May 29, 2020, the WHO reported 5,657,529 cases of patients with COVID-19. A total of 216 countries, areas or territories have confirmed at least one case among travellers exposed while abroad and/or person-to-person contact.

No new countries reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19 since the last Situation Report on May 26, 2020. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of cases by Region.

Figure 1: Reported Cases of COVID-19 by Region as of May 29, 2020*

ANALYSIS OF CASES AMONG CARPHA MEMBER STATES



As of May 29, 2020, there have been 3,142 cases confirmed from CARPHA Member States (CMS), the highest number was reported on May 25, 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 29, 2020

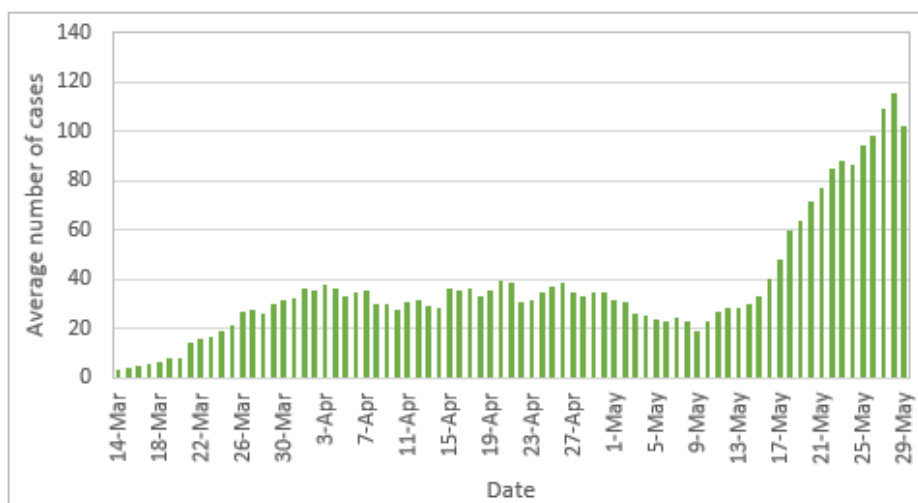


Figure 3 shows the 7-day moving average among CMS. The value for each day represents the average number of cases for 7 days calculated using number of confirmed cases for the current day and the six days prior to the current day.

The highest 7-day average was observed on May 28, 2020.

Figure 3. 7-day moving average number of cases of COVID-19 in CMS as of May 29, 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=830

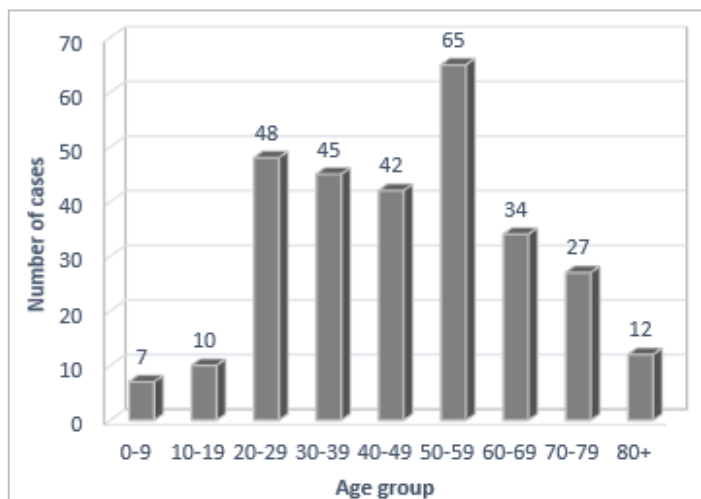


Figure 5. Reported confirmed cases of COVID-19 by age group in CMS, n=290

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 (2,852) which are excluded from Figure 5.

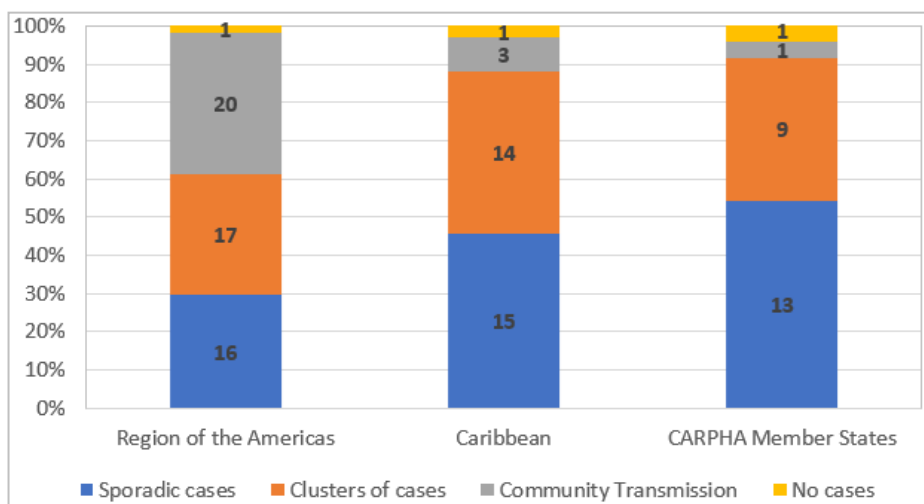


Figure 6. Category of Countries by Transmission Classification

Among the 24 Member States, 54% (13/24) have been classified as having sporadic transmission of COVID-19 among cases, 38% (9/24) have reported clusters and 4% (1/24) currently have no cases.

Figure 6 is based on data received by the WHO from national authorities by 10:00 CEST, May 28, 2020¹.

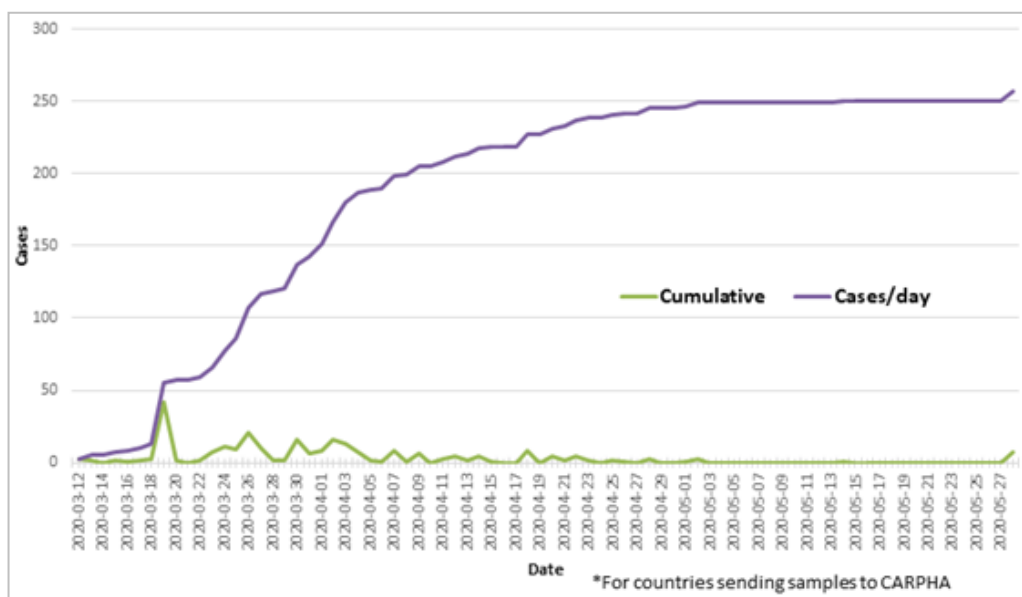


Figure 7. COVID-19 Progression in CMS*. Laboratory Confirmed New Cases. Feb—May

Laboratory

Since February 10, 2020 and as of May 28, 2020, CARPHA has received 4,809 samples from 16 CMS, 449 (9.3%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak, 257 results (5.3%) 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 – 129 Accessed 29 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, 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](#)

Communication and Information

- May 28, 2020:** Dr. St. John presented on "Multi-sectoral collaboration for developing and implementing the COVID-19 Public Health Protocols for the Education Sector" at the Systemic Risk and Education Sector Resilience in the Caribbean Region Webinar jointly hosted by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) – Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean, and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). The interactive panel discussion included presenters from Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector (GADRRRES); CDEMA, and UNDRR.

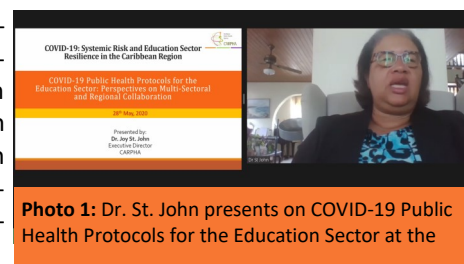


Photo 1: Dr. St. John presents on COVID-19 Public Health Protocols for the Education Sector at the

- May 27, 2020:** Dr. Laura-Lee Boodram, Head Vector Borne Diseases, CARPHA participated in a Facebook webinar organised by the Caribbean Tourism Organisation together with representatives from CDEMA, the Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre (GTRCMC) and Zapwater Communications. The purpose of the webinar was to review the Caribbean's state of readiness for the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season, with the additional layer of managing the COVID-19 pandemic. Panel members shared agency preparedness plans for the upcoming storm season, which included modifications to standard Disaster/Crisis Management protocols in light of the pandemic and strengthened messaging to the public on preparatory efforts. Dr. Boodram was also asked to provide additional comments on the utility of rapid tests for COVID-19 diagnosis, which are captured [here](#).



Photo 2: Dr. Boodram (top left corner) participates in the CTO Facebook webinar, "Are we truly ready". A discussion on the Caribbean's readiness to deal with

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 28, 2020:** Dr. St. John attended the CDEMA Partners meeting
- May 28, 2020:** Dr. Indar presented on "Health Requirements for Borders Reopening" at the Twenty-third Meeting of the CARICOM Joint Standing Committees of Chiefs of Immigration and Comptrollers of Customs (CICC23) and the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)
- May 27, 2020:** Dr. St. John attended Meeting of the Steering Committee for the WHO Solidarity Clinical Trial
- May 25, 2020:** Dr. St. John was a panelist at the EU-LAC Webinar about COVID-19 "Scientific Cooperation for the Management of Pandemics".
- May 24, 2020:** Dr. St. John was a speaker at The Black Sox Ethical Leadership event on COVID-19 Black Crisis: A Global Community Update.

RECENT CARPHA PRODUCTS

- [Precautionary prevention measures implemented by Caribbean Countries \(outside travel-related measures\)](#) – May 22, 2020
- [Caribbean Countries that have issued Travel Advisories due to COVID-19](#) – May 22, 2020
- [Caribbean Countries reopening plans/initiatives post COVID-19](#)—May 22, 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>

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Tobacco Use and COVID-19

The Chronic Diseases and Injury Department supports COVID-19 response by the development and dissemination of health messages on COVID-19 Risk Factors, COVID-19 and NCDs and COVID-19 and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support. The Department also assists with the preparation of technical guidance on Food Security and Nutrition e.g. a list of essential foods with meal plan and sample menus for vulnerable groups in collaboration with OECS and the clinical presentations of COVID-19.

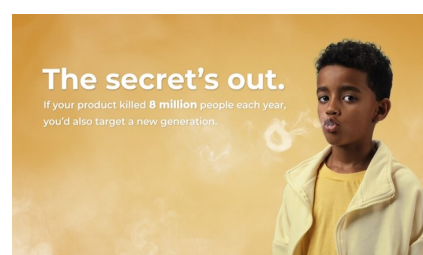
Did you know that smoking can increase your risk for severe illness due to COVID-19?

Tobacco smoking is a known risk factor for non-communicable diseases and communicable disease including respiratory infections. Tobacco use also increases the severity of respiratory diseases. The World Health Organisation convened a review of studies by public health experts on 29 April 2020 and “found that smokers are more likely to develop severe disease with COVID-19, compared to non-smokers.” For more information checkout this link: Smoking and COVID-19 Scientific brief 26 May 2020.

WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY 2020. MAY 31, 2020. PROTECTING YOUTH FROM INDUSTRY MANIPULATION AND PREVENTING THEM FROM TOBACCO AND NICOTINE USE

CARPHA encourages our Member States party to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control to scale up implementation of the 6 MPOWER measures:

- Monitor** tobacco use and prevention policies
- Protect** people from tobacco use
- Offer** help to quit tobacco use
- Warn** about the dangers of tobacco
- Enforce** bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship
- Raise** taxes on tobacco



Help us to create a Caribbean generation free from the health and other effects of tobacco, nicotine and second-hand smoke
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: <https://www.who.int/news-room/campaigns/world-no-tobacco-day/world-no-tobacco-day-2020>

Highlights from the WHO this week

- WHO Regional Director for the Americas, Dr Carissa F. Etienne said the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Region of the Americas must include chronic disease care, as 1 in 4 people are at increased risk of poor outcomes from COVID-19 due to underlying noncommunicable disease. Link to article found [here](#)
- A scientific brief has been published by WHO investigating any association between smoking and an increased risk for COVID-19. Current evidence suggests that in hospitalized COVID-19 patients, smoking is associated with increased severity of disease and death. The full brief can be accessed [here](#).
- WHO population-based age-stratified seroepidemiological investigation protocol for COVID-19 virus infection is designed to investigate the extent of infection, as determined by positive blood tests in the general population, in any country in which COVID19 virus infection has been reported, using reliable antibody testing methodologies. Click [here](#) for the full protocol.
- WHO has published an interim guidance on the clinical management of COVID-19, targeting clinicians caring for COVID-19 patients during all phases of their disease. The full guidance can be accessed [here](#).
- WHO has published an interim guidance on ethical considerations to guide the use of digital proximity tracking technologies for COVID-19 contact tracing. This document provides guidance to policy-makers and other stakeholders about the ethical and appropriate use of digital proximity tracking technologies for COVID-19. The full guidance can be accessed [here](#).

REFERENCES

- Sources: (1) WHO Situation Dashboard Accessed at 8:50am 29 May 2020. Available from: <https://who.sprinklr.com/>
(2) Johns Hopkins University's Centre for Science and Engineering Accessed at 9:00am. 29 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>
(3) Haiti Ministry of Health and Population. [https://mspp.gouv.ht/site/downloads/123%20nouvo%20ka%20konfime%20ak%20yon%20\(1\)%20nouvo%20lanmò%20anba%20COVID-19%20nan%20date%2027%20me%202020%20an%20nan%20pevi%20Dayiti.pdf](https://mspp.gouv.ht/site/downloads/123%20nouvo%20ka%20konfime%20ak%20yon%20(1)%20nouvo%20lanmò%20anba%20COVID-19%20nan%20date%2027%20me%202020%20an%20nan%20pevi%20Dayiti.pdf) Accessed 29 May 2020
(4) Guyana Ministry of Public Health. <https://dpi.gov.gy/confirmed-covid-19-cases-climb-to-150/> Accessed 29 May 2020
(5) Bermuda Government Ministry of Health. COVID 19 Dashboard. <https://www.gov.bm/coronavirus-covid19-update> Accessed 29 May 2020