

## CARPHA SITUATION REPORT NO. 52

JUNE 1, 2020

### Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic

#### Summary

This is an update to the CARPHA Situation Report published on May 29, 2020, in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

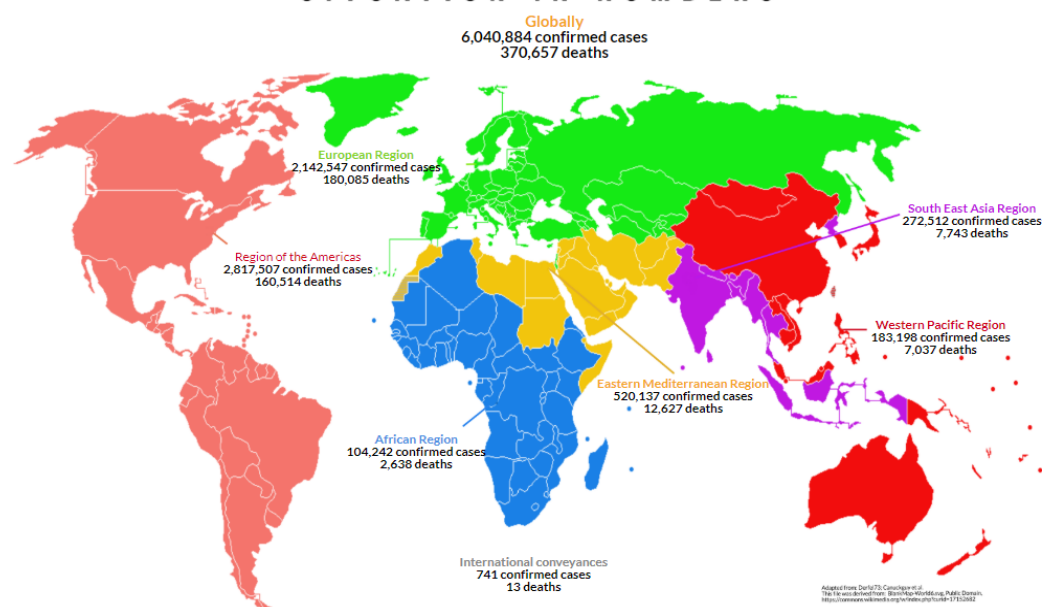
To date, there are 27,920 cases in 33 countries/territories (including 24 CARPHA Member States), in the Caribbean Region. The risk of further importation of cases to the rest of the Caribbean remains **Very High**. The overarching goal is for all countries to control the pandemic by slowing down the 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
- CARPHA's Medicines Quality Control and Surveillance Department and COVID-19

#### SITUATION IN NUMBERS



#### Numbers at a Glance\*

##### Globally

6,040,884 cases (383,220 new)\*\*

##### Caribbean Region

33 countries, areas, or territories (0 new)

27,920 cases (2,359 new)\*\*

13,976 recovered (1,788 new)

885 deaths (31 new)

##### Rest of the World

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

6,012,964 cases (380,861 new)

2,656,789 recovered (215,691 new)

370,657 deaths (14,372 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.*

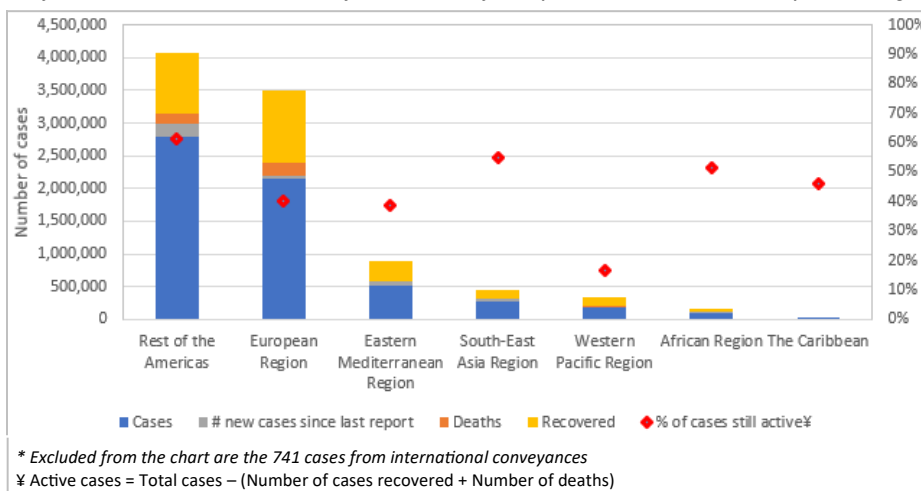
## SITUATION UPDATE

#### COVID-19 in the Caribbean

Since the previous report on May 29, 2020, an additional 2,359 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 15 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region's total confirmed cases to 27,920 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents a 9% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 885 deaths recorded in the Caribbean region as at June 1, 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.

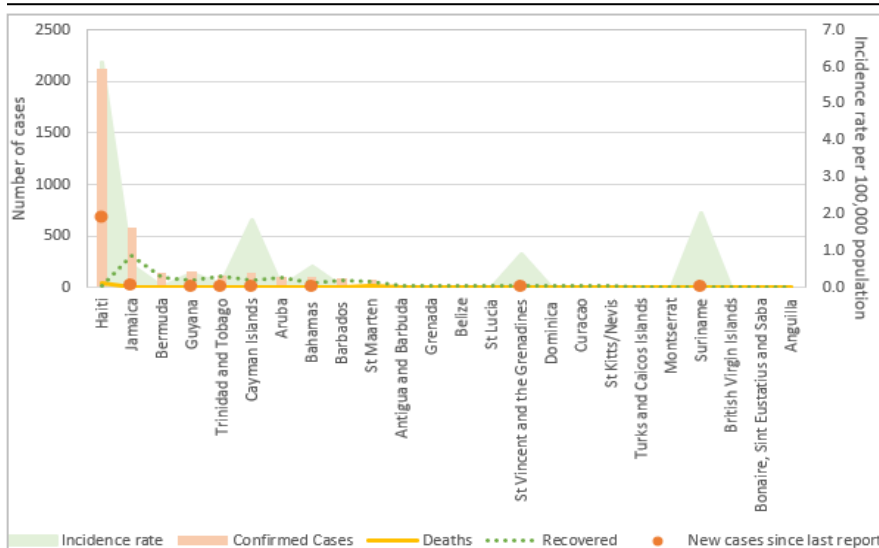


As of June 1, 2020, the WHO reported 6,040,609 cases of patients with COVID-19. A total of 216 countries, areas or territories have confirmed at least one case among travellers exposed while abroad and/or person-to-person contact.

No new countries reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19 since the last Situation Report on May 29, 2020. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of cases by Region.

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

## ANALYSIS OF CASES AMONG CARPHA MEMBER STATES



As of June 1, 2020, there have been 3,859 cases confirmed from CARPHA Member States (CMS), the highest number was reported on May 30, 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 June 1, 2020

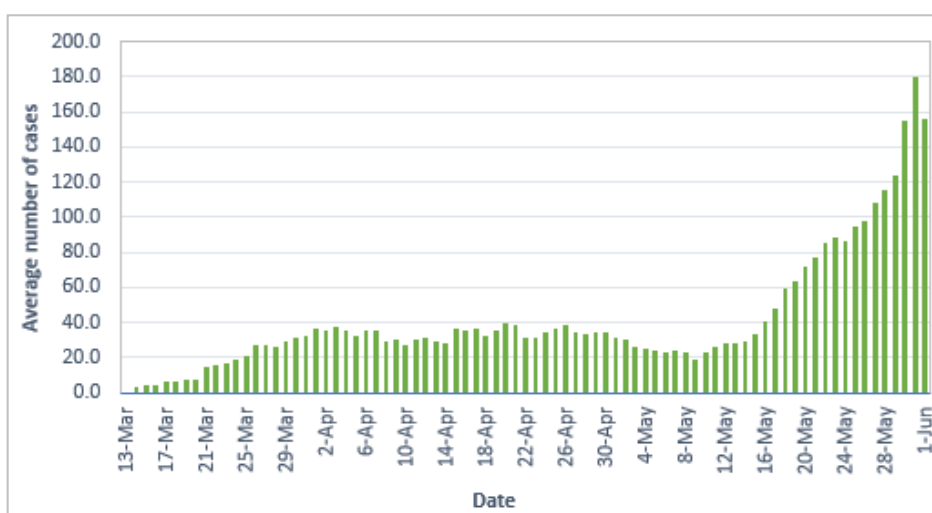
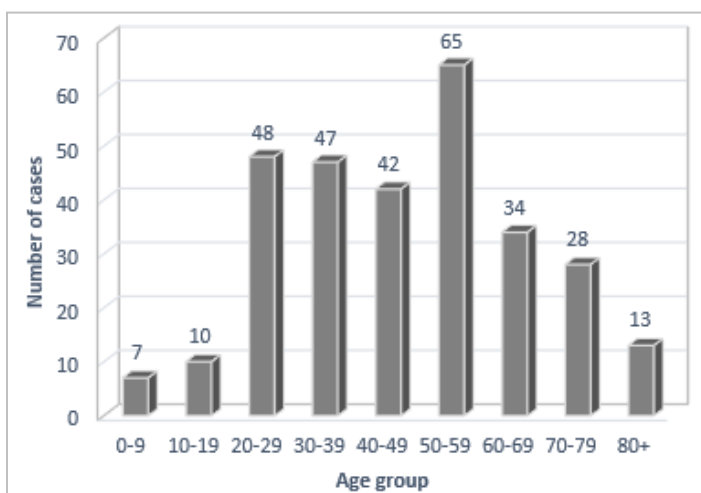


Figure 3 shows the 7-day moving average among CMS. The value for each day represents the average number of cases for 7 days calculated using number of confirmed cases for the current day and the six days prior to the current day.

The highest 7-day average was observed on May 31, 2020.

Figure 3. 7-day moving average number of cases of COVID-19 in CMS as of June 1, 2020

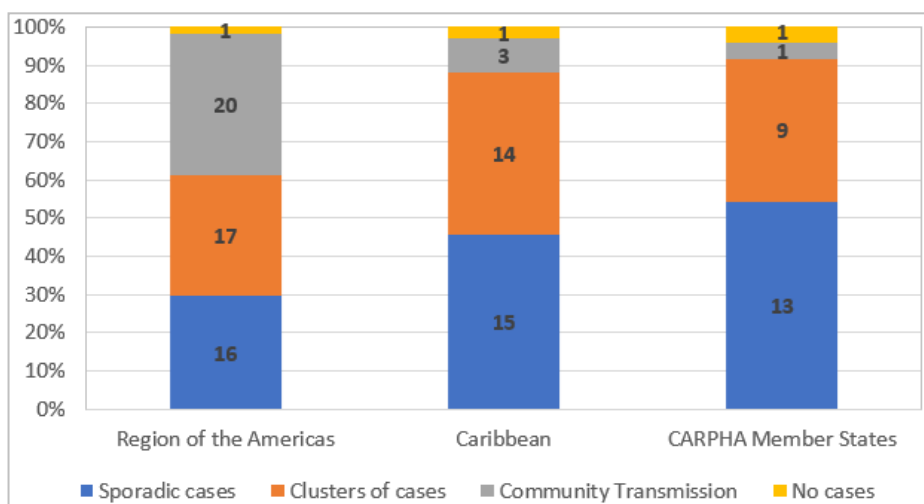
Among cases for whom sex was reported, 55% were female and 45% were male. (Figure 4).



**Figure 4. Percentage of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 by sex in CMS, n=849**

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 (3,565) which are excluded from Figure 5.

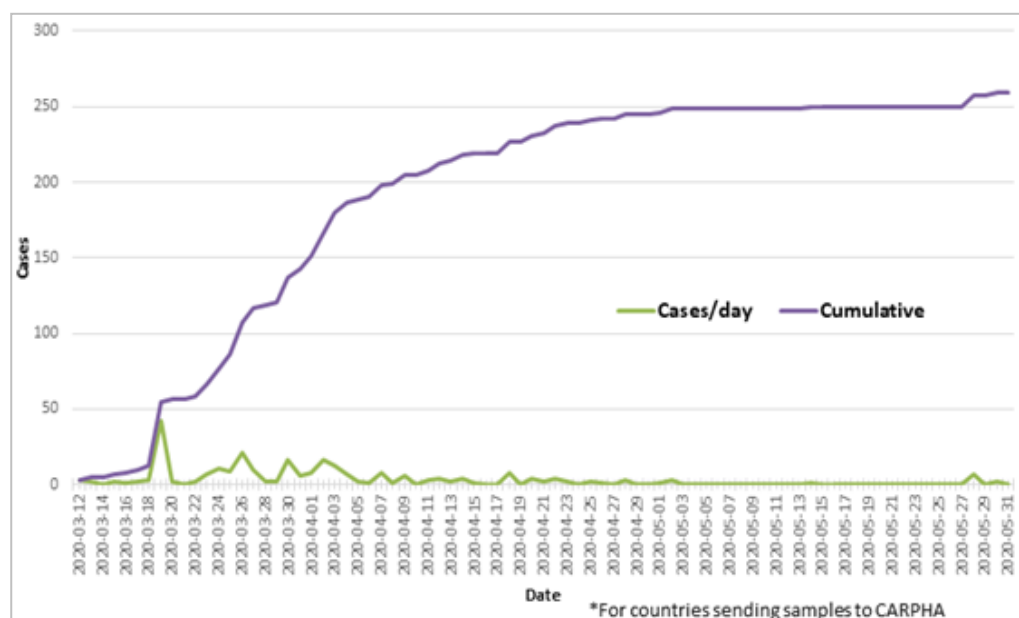
**Figure 5. Reported confirmed cases of COVID-19 by age group in CMS, n=294**



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 31, 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 31, 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) has received 4,862 samples from 16 CMS, 453 (9.3%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak, 259 results (5.3%) correspond to unique 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 – 132 Accessed 1 June, 2020. Available [here](#).

# CARPHA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

## Laboratory Update

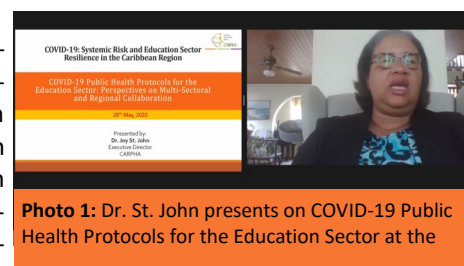
### CARPHA Interim Guidance on the Evaluation and Selection of Diagnostic Tests for COVID-19

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:

- June 1, 2020:** Dr. St. John was a speaker at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) Action Network Preparedness Series Kickoff: COVID-19's Effect on Hurricane Preparedness and Responses. The virtual call series takes place organized by the CGI, the disaster response nonprofit Airlink, and other partners was launched to convene leaders this week from the public sector, business community, and philanthropy from across the Caribbean to discuss preparedness for the upcoming hurricane season, amidst the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak.
- May 29, 2020:** Dr St John and Dr Indar convened a meeting with the Chief Medical Officers from across the region to hear their concerns and provide feedback in charting the way forward for their countries as they prepare to ease COVID-19 related restrictions.
- 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.

# NEWS AND INFORMATION

## Observing the clinical landscape for a potential COVID-19 Treatment at CARPHA's Medicines Quality Control and Surveillance Department (MQCSD)

The identification of a safe and effective medicine or vaccine against COVID-19 is a high priority in the effort to contain and end the pandemic, particularly as countries in the Caribbean and around the world look to ease lockdowns and gradually reopen their borders. MQCSD continues to review the scientific landscape for potential COVID-19 treatments. A summary of reports from the WHO, PAHO, peer reviewed scientific journals and other sources is sent to the CARPHA Expert Advisory Group and IMT-ER on a weekly basis covering the following topics:

- Potential COVID-19 medicines and vaccines under research and development.
- Clinical trials launched: medicines under investigation and results to date.
- Updates on regulation of COVID-19 diagnostic kits.
- Ongoing notable research and information.
- Guidance/Warnings issued by medicines regulatory agencies such as US Food and Drug Administration, European Medicines Agency, WHO, PAHO.

To date, over 300 treatments and vaccines are at varying stages of development as shown by tracker created by the Milken Institute (Figure 8) which can be found [here](#). More than 1,000 clinical trials are in progress and can be tracked from a real time dashboard created by the Lancet Journal at <https://www.covid-trials.org/>.

As an ISO/IEC 17025 accredited laboratory, MQCSD verifies the quality of medicines on the Caribbean market through its risk-based post market surveillance programme and submissions from CARPHA Member States. Its work supports and strengthens medicines regulation in the Region. This becomes more crucial as the pandemic has negatively impacted the global pharmaceutical industry and supply chain, creating the potential for increased prevalence of substandard/falsified medicines. More information on MQCSD can be found [here](#).

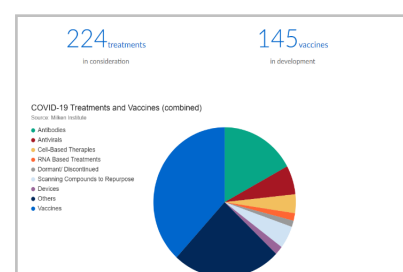


Figure 8. Current count of treatments and vaccines against COVID-19

## Highlights from the WHO last week

- [Ethical considerations to guide the use of digital proximity tracking technologies for COVID-19 contact tracing. Interim guidance](#)—May 28, 2020.
- [Clinical Management of COVID-19, Interim guidance](#)—May 27, 2020.
- [PAHO Director says fight against COVID-19 pandemic must include chronic disease care](#)—May 26, 2020
- [Smoking and COVID-19. Scientific Brief](#)—May 26, 2020
- [Population-based age-stratified seroepidemiological investigation protocol for coronavirus 2019 \(COVID-19\) infection, 26 May 2020, version 2.0](#) —May 26, 2020

## RECENT CARPHA PRODUCTS

- [Caribbean Countries reopening plans/initiatives post COVID-19](#)—May 29, 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 9:00am 1 June 2020. Available from: <https://who.sprinklr.com/>
- (2) Johns Hopkins University's Centre for Science and Engineering Accessed at 9:00am. 1 June 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) Haiti Ministry of Health and Population. COVID-19 Dashboard. <https://www.coronahaiti.org/> Accessed 1 June 2020
- (5) Jamaica Ministry of Health and wellness. Press release dated May 31 2020. Available [here](#) Accessed 1 June 2020
- (6) Guyana Ministry of Public Health. <https://dpi.gov.gy/three-more-recover-from-covid-19/> Accessed 1 June 2020
- (7) Bahamas Information Services. Press release dated May 29 2020. Available [here](#). Accessed 6 May 2020
- (8) Suriname Government Ministry of Health. COVID 19 Dashboard. <https://covid-19.sr/> Accessed 1 June 2020