

CARPHA SITUATION REPORT NO. 54

JUNE 5, 2020

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic

Summary

This is an update to the CARPHA Situation Report published on June 3, 2020, in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To date, there are 30,442 cases in 33 countries/territories (including 24 CARPHA Member States), in the Caribbean Region. The risk of further cases occurring in 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
- World Environment Day—Biodiversity and COVID-19
- CARPHA's Medicines Quality Control and Surveillance Department and COVID-19

Numbers at a Glance*

Globally

6,515,837 cases (243,456 new)**

Caribbean Region

33 countries, areas, or territories
(0 new)

30,442 cases (1,381 new)**

15,134 recovered (539 new)

917 deaths (13 new)

Rest of the World

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

6,485,395 cases (242,075 new)

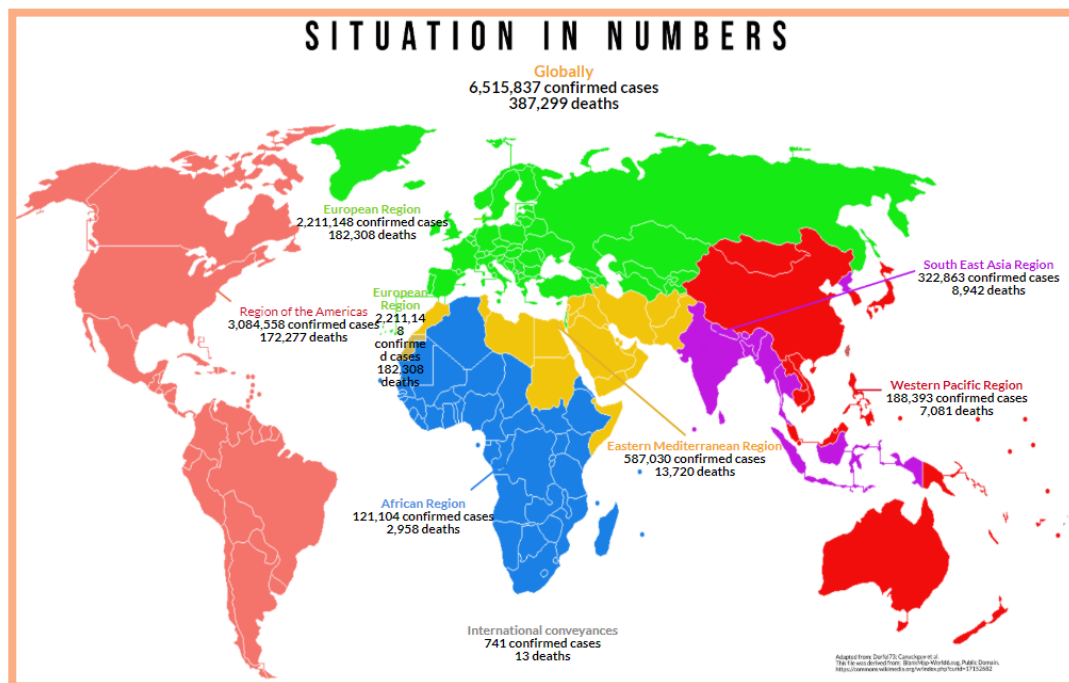
2,876,913 recovered (140,617
new)

386,382 deaths (8,242 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.



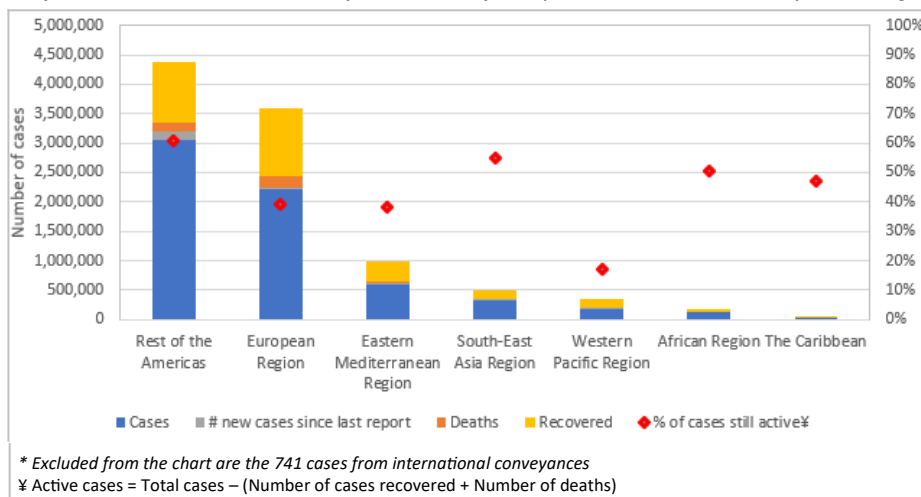
SITUATION UPDATE

COVID-19 in the Caribbean

Since the previous report on June 3, 2020, an additional 1,381 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 10 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region's total confirmed cases to 30,442 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents a 5% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 917 deaths recorded in the Caribbean region as at June 5, 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.

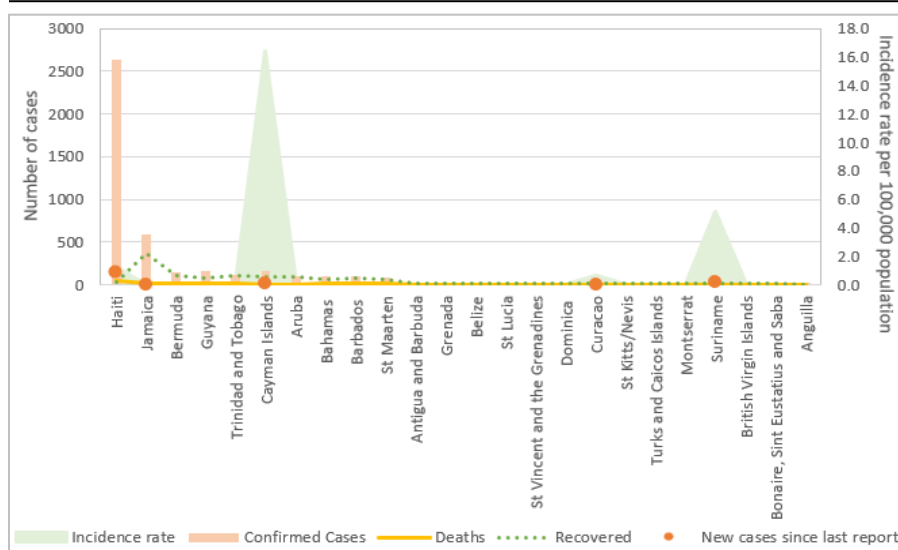


As of June 5, 2020, the WHO reported 6,515,796 cases of patients with COVID-19. A total of 216 countries, areas or territories have confirmed at least one case among travellers exposed while abroad and/or person-to-person contact.

Since the last Situation Report on June 3, 2020, no new countries reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19, while 59 countries reported no new cases. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of cases by WHO Region.

Figure 1: Reported Cases of COVID-19 by Region as of June 5, 2020*

ANALYSIS OF CASES AMONG CARPHA MEMBER STATES



As of June 5, 2020, there have been 4,460 cases confirmed from CARPHA Member States (CMS), the highest number was reported on May 30, 2020. Figure 2 shows a distribution of the confirmed cases and incidence rate per 100,000 population in CMS to date.

Data in Figure 2 were 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 5, 2020

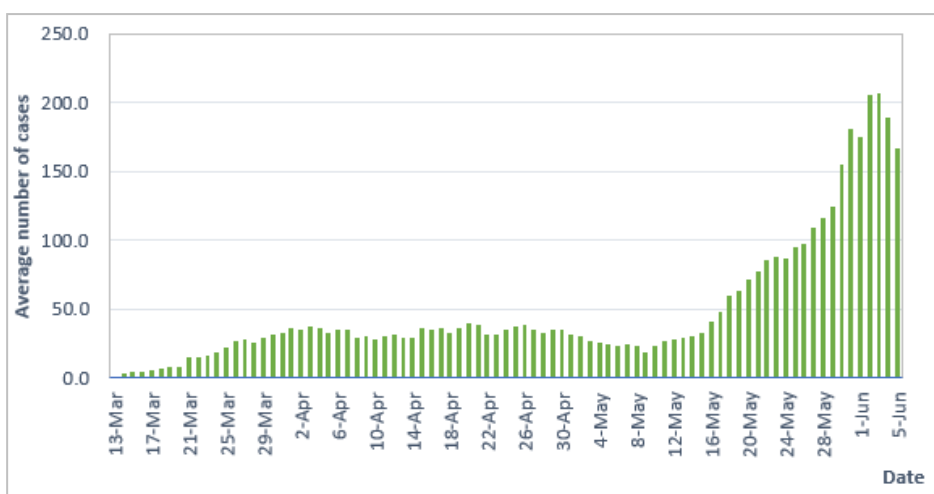


Figure 3 shows the 7-day moving average among CMS. The value for each day represents the average number of cases for 7 days calculated using number of confirmed cases for the current day and the six days prior to the current day.

The highest 7-day average was observed on June 3, 2020.

Figure 3. 7-day moving average number of cases of COVID-19 in CMS as of June 5, 2020

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

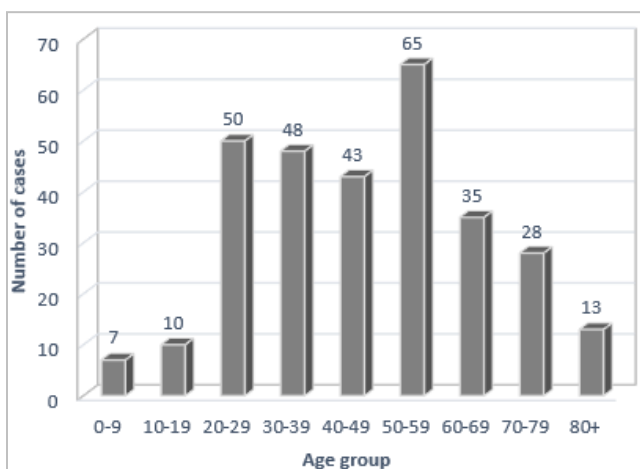
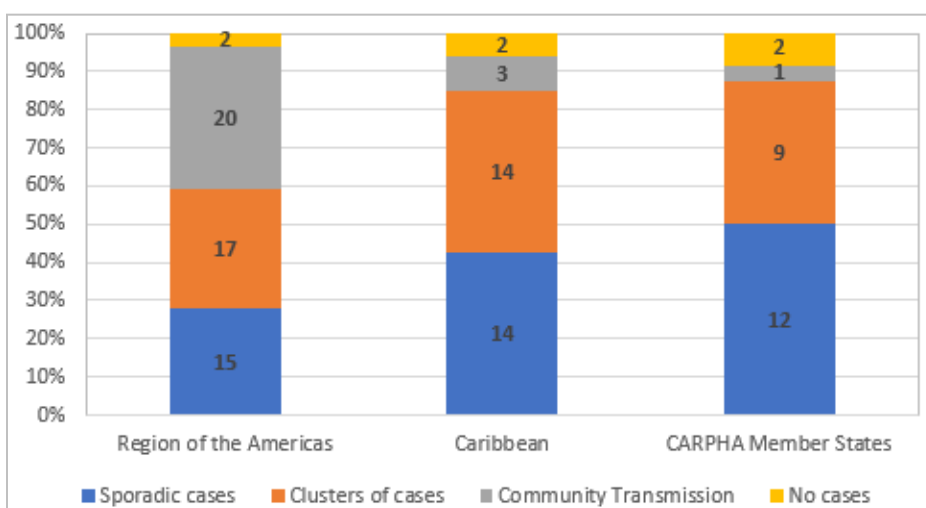


Figure 4. Percentage of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 by sex in CMS, n=854

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 (4,161) which are excluded from Figure 5.

Figure 5. Reported confirmed cases of COVID-19 by age group in CMS, n=299



Among the 24 Member States, 50% (12/24) have been classified as having sporadic transmission of COVID-19 among cases, 38% (9/24) have reported clusters, 4% (1/24) has reported community transmission and 8% (2/24) currently have no cases.

Figure 6 is based on data received by the WHO from national authorities by 10:00 CEST, June 4, 2020¹.

Figure 6. Categories of Transmission Classification within the Region

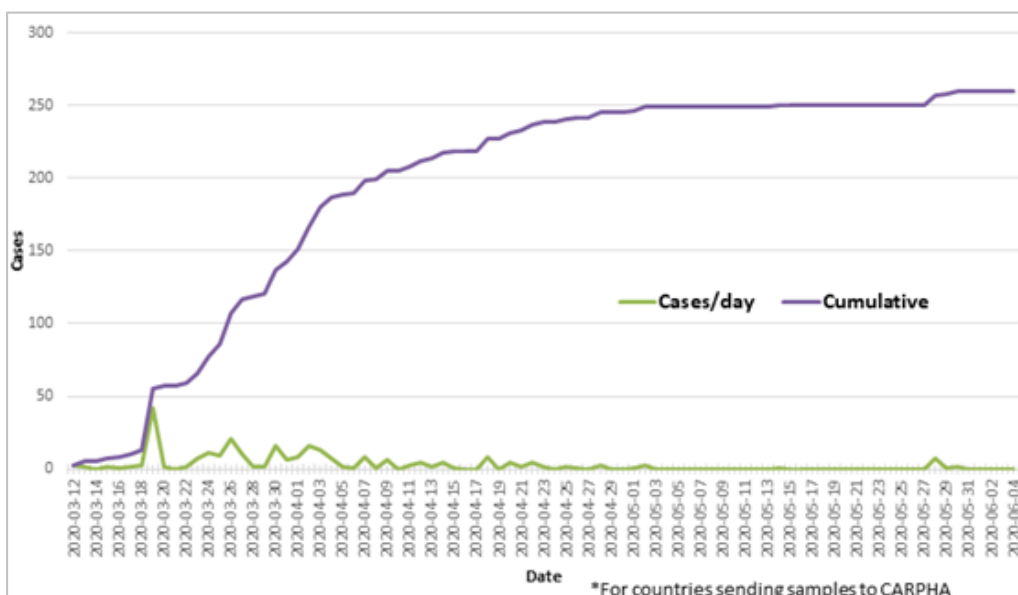


Figure 7. COVID-19 Progression in CMS*. Laboratory Confirmed New Cases. Feb—Jun

Laboratory

Since February 10, 2020 and as of June 4, 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) has received 4,979 samples from 16 CMS, 454 (9.1%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak, 260 results (5.2%) correspond to unique cases.

Figure 7 shows the progression of COVID-19 cases which have been confirmed in CMS from February – June 2020.

¹ WHO. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 136 Accessed June 5, 2020. Available [here](#).

CARPHA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

Laboratory Update

- **June 3, 2020:** CARPHA's Medical Microbiology Laboratory distributed Laboratory Update 14 highlighting the release of "CARPHA Interim Guidance for the Evaluation and Selection of Diagnostic Tests for the COVID-19 Response, Revised Version". 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. The updated document can be found [here](#).

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

Stakeholder Engagement, Communication and Information

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 5, 2020:** Dr. St. John, Executive Director, represented CARPHA at the CARICOM Heads of Government meeting to consider the Draft CARICOM Common COVID-19 Public Health and Border Policy.
- **June 4, 2020:** CARPHA prepared to joined the global community in observing World Environment Day on June 5, 2020. In observance of this day and the year's theme of "Biodiversity", CARPHA published an e-book titled "[A Call to Action to Protect Biodiversity](#)". The book also addresses the link between Biodiversity and COVID-19 and how the threat of habitat loss and the stresses put on ecosystems as a result of human activity and climate change allows pathogens to thrive and increases the risk of zoonotic diseases like COVID-19. The e-book can be accessed [here](#).
- **June 3, 2020:** Dr. Indar participated in the second preparational meeting for the 50th Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED).
- **June 2 and 3, 2020:** CARPHA participated in the Caribbean Nations Security Conference (CANSEC) led by US Southern Command. Dr Indar presented on the current epidemiological situation of the pandemic. Dr Boodram and Mr Williams joined in the tabletop exercises to simulate hurricanes taking different paths in the Caribbean and how to coordinate a response between countries and agencies.
- **June 2, 2020:** Dr. St. John, Executive Director, represented CARPHA in the following:
 - ⇒ Presenting on CARICOM's COVID-19 response to the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI) regional Latin American Network and other agencies.
 - ⇒ Participant at the COVID-19 Core Coordination Group meeting on Revision of the Needs list.
 - ⇒ Interviewed on "COVID-19 in the Caribbean" on Caribbean WPFM FM Radio.
- **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 organized by the CGI, the disaster response nonprofit Airlink, and other partners was launched this week to convene leaders 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.

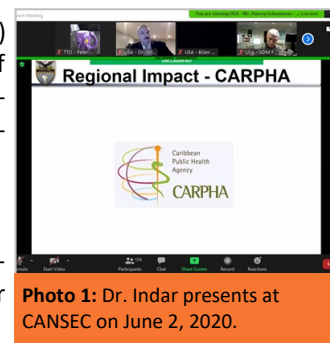


Photo 1: Dr. Indar presents at CANSEC on June 2, 2020.

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>

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 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.



Adaptation of Clinical Trials during the COVID-19 Pandemic

The pandemic has required medicines regulatory agencies worldwide to adapt current guidelines to ensure continuity of effective medicines regulation. An example is the issuance of "Guidance on Conduct of Clinical Trials of Medical Products during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency" by the US Food and Drug Administration, available [here](#). The development of medicines for other prevalent diseases remains needed. This guidance provides general considerations to assure trial participant safety, allows alternatives for patient monitoring, data collection and assessment with current technology, while ensuring continuing compliance with Good Clinical Practice and reduction of risks to trial integrity for the duration of the pandemic.



Update on the WHO SOLIDARITY Trial

WHO selected four treatments based on evidence from laboratory, animal and clinical studies: Remdesivir; Lopinavir/Ritonavir; Lopinavir/Ritonavir with Interferon beta-1a; and Hydroxychloroquine. The Hydroxychloroquine arm was temporarily suspended on May 23 due to safety concerns while data was reviewed by the trial's Data Safety and Monitoring Committee. With the Committee's recommendation of no modification to the original protocol based on current mortality data, the Executive Group approved resumption of this treatment. More information is available [here](#).

MQCSD, an ISO/IEC 17025 accredited laboratory, 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](#).

WHO Highlights

- [Basic Psychosocial Skills: A Guide for COVID-19 Responders](#)—June 1, 2020.
- [Record number of countries contribute data revealing disturbing rates of antimicrobial resistance](#)—June 1, 2020.
- The "Subject in Focus" in [Situation Report 135](#) provided a summary of the webinar hosted by the WHO and the International Labour Organization (ILO) on returning to work in the context of COVID-19.

REFERENCES

- Sources: (1) WHO Situation Dashboard Accessed at 9:15am June 5, 2020. Available from: <https://who.sprinklr.com/>
(2) Johns Hopkins University's Centre for Science and Engineering Accessed at 9:15am. June 5, 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 5 June 2020
(5) Jamaica Ministry of Health and wellness. Press release dated June 4 2020. Available [here](#) Accessed 5 June 2020
(6) Cayman Islands. Ministry of Health, environment, culture and housing. [COVID-19 Dashboard](#). Accessed 5 June 2020