

CARPHA SITUATION REPORT NO. 103

OCTOBER 22, 2020

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic

Summary

This is an update to the CARPHA Situation Report published on October 19, 2020, in relation to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

To date, there are 258,702 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**. Countries must continue to focus on interrupting viral transmission and reducing mortality associated with COVID-19.

CARPHA is leading the regional health response, actively working with CARICOM Member States and key partners on region-wide approaches to the COVID-19 response. At this time, some Member States are continuing to report an increase in positive cases as a result of re-opening borders and continued repatriation of nationals. Other countries continue to also report clusters and community transmission. In all countries, it remains critical that active surveillance and COVID-19 prevention measures, including physical distancing, hand hygiene, wearing of masks in public or crowded areas are maintained.

COVID-19 in the Caribbean

Since the previous report on October 19, 2020, an additional 4,615 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 22 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region's total confirmed cases to 258,702 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents a 2% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 4,345 deaths recorded in the Caribbean Region as at October 22, 2020.

New in this Report

- [Surveillance and Epidemiology of COVID-19 in 24 Member States](#)
- [Update on CARPHA COVID-19 Health Rounds Education and Training Series](#)

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE*

Total (new cases since last report)

Globally

41,105,323 cases (1,160,140)

CARPHA Member States

24 countries/areas/territories

48,775 cases (1,117)

35,435 recovered (1,186)

998 deaths (26)

Caribbean Region including CMS

33 countries/areas/territories

258,702 cases (4,615)

155,006 recovered (3,383)

4,345 deaths (49)

Rest of the World

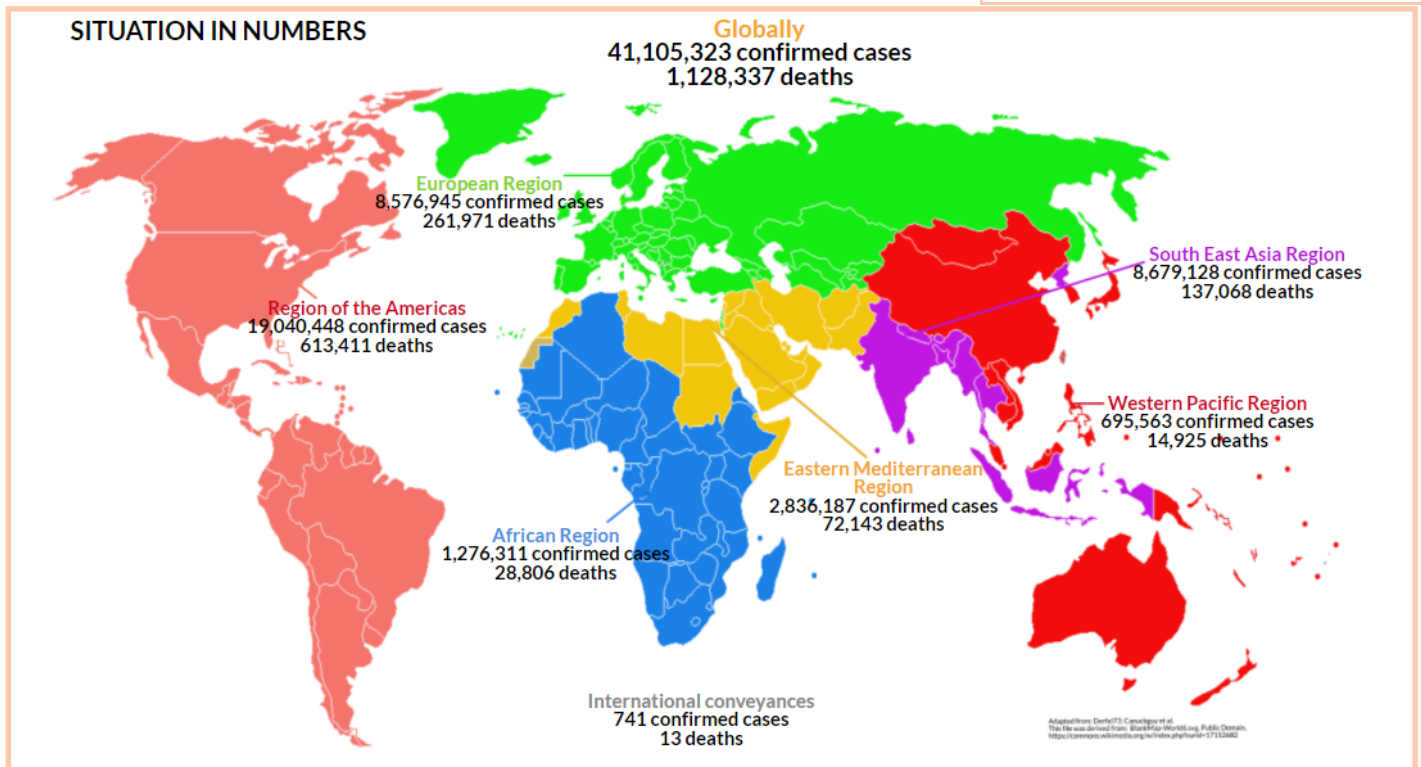
184 countries/areas/territories and international conveyances

40,846,621 cases (1,155,525)

28,088,942 recovered (642,711)

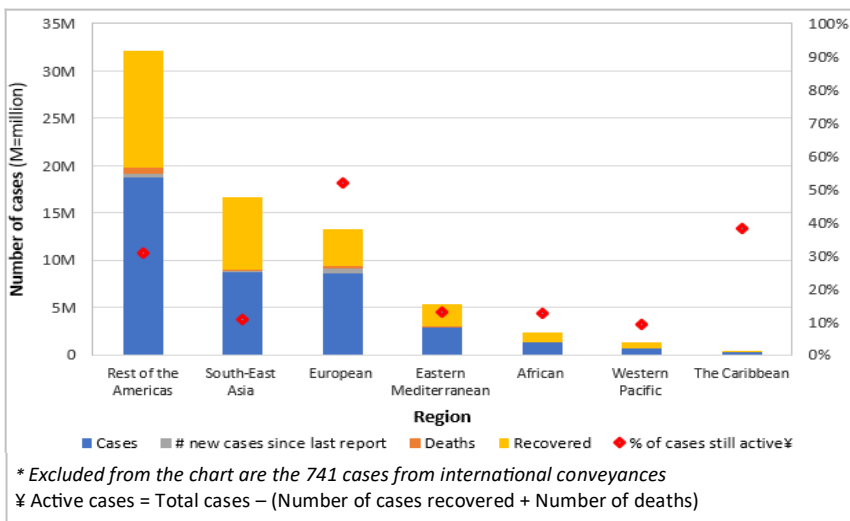
1,123,992 deaths (16,284)

** Figures reported by WHO supplemented with additional data from local country reports.*



COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

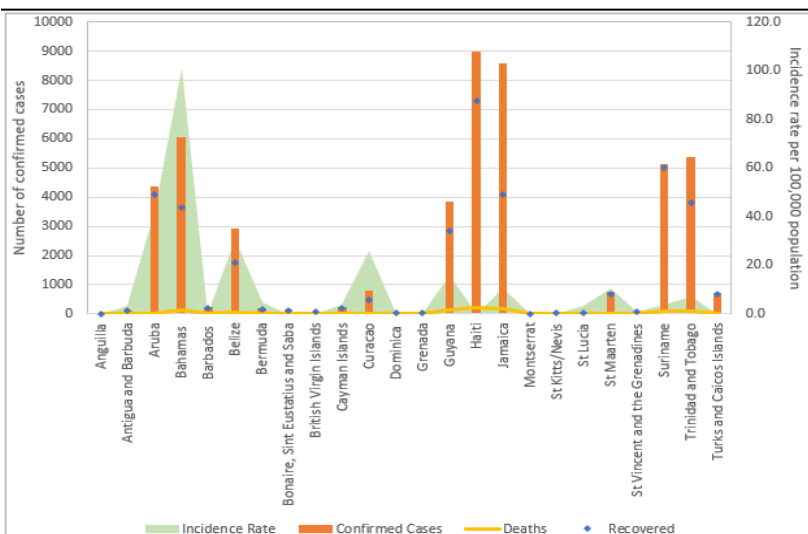
For full details on all countries' data see References section of this report. Please note that data are updated throughout the day and may vary from what is listed at time of publishing.



As of October 22, 2020, the WHO reported 41,104,946 cases of patients with COVID-19. A total of 217 jurisdictions have confirmed at least one case among travellers exposed while abroad and/or person-to-person contact.

Since the last Situation Report on October 19, 2020, no new countries/areas/territories reported a first confirmed case of COVID-19, while 26 reported no new cases. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of cases by WHO Regions.

ANALYSIS OF CASES AMONG CARPHA MEMBER STATES



As of October 22, 2020, there have been 48,775 cases confirmed from CARPHA Member States (CMS); the highest number was reported on September 18, 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 published reports by the WHO and CARPHA Member States Ministries of Health Official websites.

Numbers may vary based on the time the information was extracted. See References.

Figure 2: Confirmed Cases in CARPHA Member States as of October 22, 2020

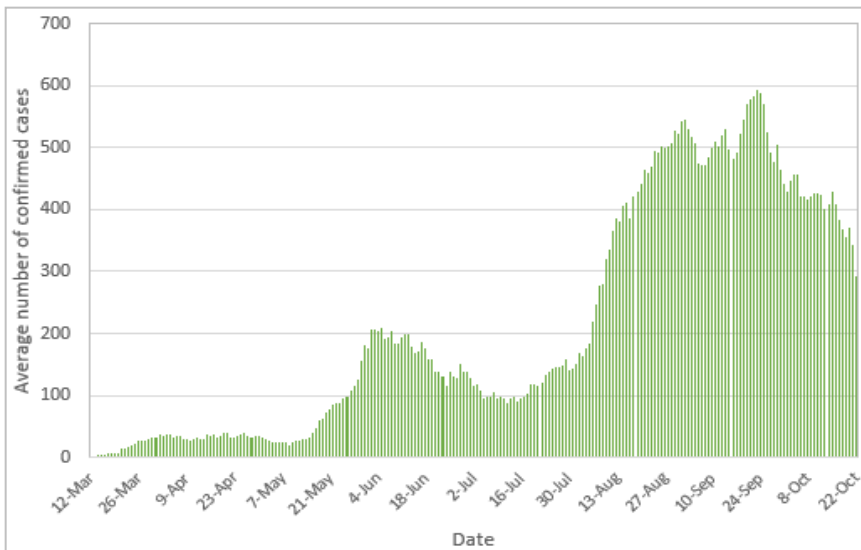


Figure 3 shows the 7-day moving average among CMS. The value for each day represents the average number of cases for 7 days calculated using number of confirmed cases for the current day and the six days prior to the current day.

The highest 7-day average was observed on September 23, 2020.

Figure 3: 7-day Moving Average Number of Cases of COVID-19 in CMS as of October 22, 2020

Among cases in CMS for whom sex was reported, 54% were female and 46% were male as of October 22, 2020 (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Percentage of reported Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 by Sex in CMS, n=9,178

For the cases for which data were available, the majority were between 20 and 59 years, with 30-39 being the modal age group. There was no age reported for the majority of cases (48,108) which are excluded from Figure 5, as of October 22, 2020 .

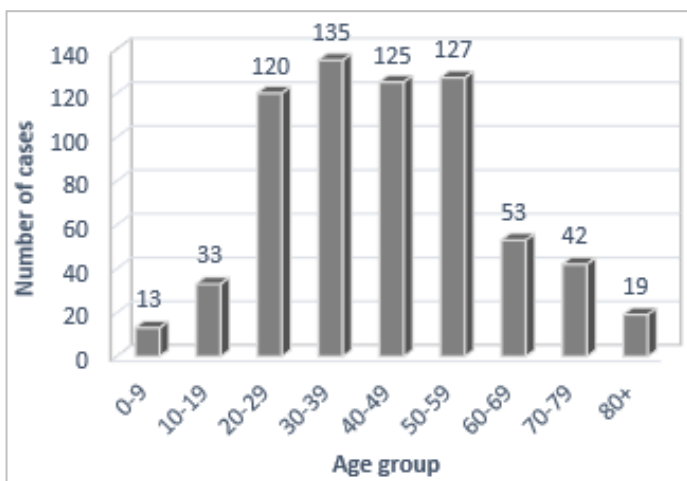
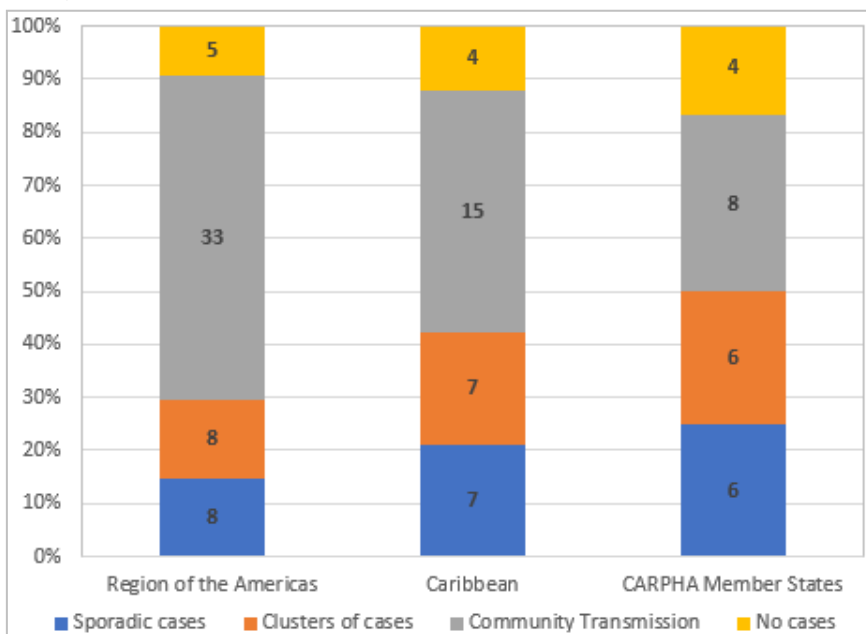


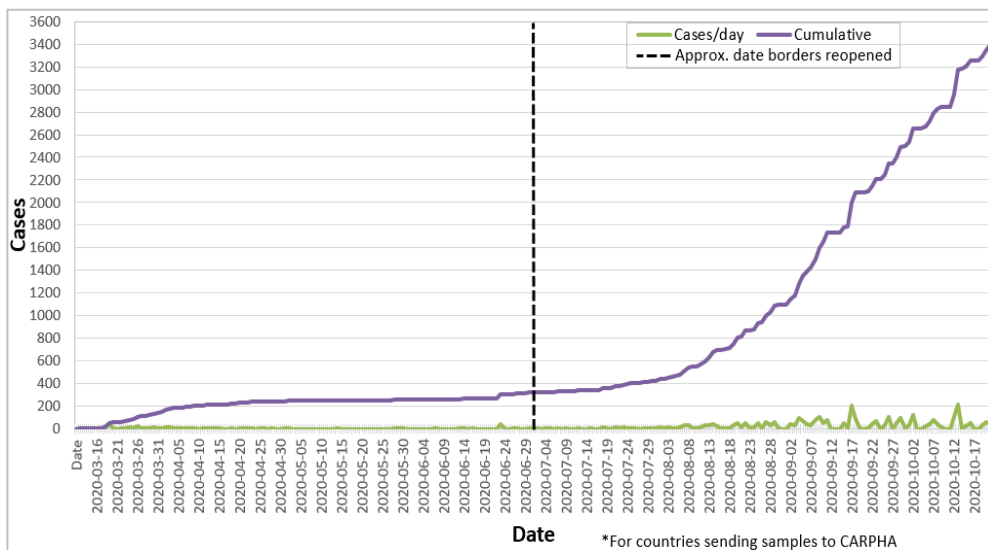
Figure 5: Reported Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 by Age Group in CMS, n=667



Among the 24 Member States, 25% (6/24) have been classified as having sporadic transmission of COVID-19 among cases, 25% (6/24) have reported clusters, 33% (8/24) reported community transmission and 17% (4/24) currently have no cases as of October 22, 2020 (Figure 6).

Figure 6 is based on data reported on the WHO Dashboard. See references.

Figure 6: Categories of Transmission Classification within the Region



Laboratory

Between February 10, 2020 and October 21, 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) received 27,373 samples from 17 CMS, 3,829 (14.0%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak and 3,393 results (12.4%) correspond to unique cases.

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

Figure 7: COVID-19 Progression in CMS*. Laboratory Confirmed New Cases: February 10 — October 21, 2020

CARPHA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

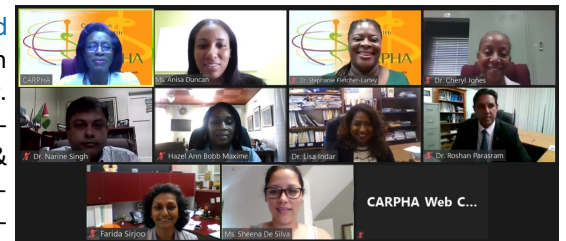
CARPHA COVID-19 Health Rounds Education and Training Series

The Caribbean Public Health Agency has developed an educational and capacity building webinar series titled “CARPHA COVID-19 Health Rounds”. Recordings of previous sessions can be found [here](#).

This Week's Webinars: October 20, 2020: CARPHA's Tourism and Health Programme in collaboration with the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Tourism Authority, conducted a training entitled “COVID 19 Proactive Health Guidelines for Hospitality (Tourism 101) and The Tourism and Health Information System (THIS)” presented to the hospitality sector in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. A total of 79 persons from the accommodation sector participated in the training session. Certificates of participation will be provided for individuals that attended the session.



October 21, 2020: Tackling Community Spread of COVID-19: Surveillance and Control Strategies. This webinar included presentations from Dr. Roshan Parasram, Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Narine Singh, Chief Medical Officer (ag.), Ministry of Health, Guyana, Dr. Stephanie Fletcher-Lartey, Consultant, Health Information, Communicable Diseases & Emergency Response, CARPHA and Dr. Cheryl Jones, Behavioural Scientist, CARPHA. The presenters shared their experiences, strategies, challenges, and lessons being learned during in-country response to tackling community spread of COVID-19, and also discussed strategies for the way forward. The meeting was also attended by over 100 participants including several Chief Medical Officers from CARPHA Member States, National Epidemiologists, Surveillance Officers, Environmental Health Officers, International Health Regulations focal points, and other personnel involved in public health emergency surveillance.



Next Webinars: October 28, 2020 “COVID-19 Health Guidelines for Reopening Hospitality Sector - Accommodations” presented by Dr. Lisa Indar and Ms. Ornella Cyrus and October 29, 2020, “Under Pressure: NCDs & COVID-19 Part II” with presenters Ms. Angela Hinds and Dr. Tamu Davidson of CARPHA as well as Dr. Trevor Ferguson and Ms. Sharmaine Edwards. The previously mentioned “Virtual Workshop for Environment Health Officers: Information Exchange on the COVID-19 Response, Hurricane and Vector Borne Disease Preparedness” has been postponed to a date to be determined.

Stakeholder Engagement and Communication

CARPHA is working closely with various stakeholders for a coordinated regional response. Recent key highlights include:

- **October 22, 2020:** Dr. St. John was the keynote speaker at Tuskegee University's 21st Annual One Health Symposium where she presented on the topic “International Challenges with COVID-19 Recovery.”
- **October 21, 2020:** Dr. St. John participated and presented in a meeting with the Defeat-NCD partnership to discuss possible MOU between the organization and CARPHA.
 - ⇒ Dr. Gabriel Gonzalez-Escobar presented the “Caribbean's Experience in Regional Networking for Laboratory Preparedness & Responses for COVID-19”, to an international audience during a virtual Global Health Security Agenda (GHS) Side Meeting 7 for Action Package Detect 1: Laboratory Systems titled “Sharing Best Practices/Experiences of Lab Diagnostic Responses for COVID-19.” Further details are available at: <https://www.ghsamm2020.com/sessions>
- **October 20, 2020:** Dr. St. John participated and presented in the PAHO NCD Technical Advisory Group Meeting and the Meeting with CDC and CARPHA on CDC Travel Advisory.
 - ⇒ CARPHA News Release “Caribbean Public Health Agency Launches Unique Health Assurance Stamp, and Mobile App to Protect Tourism Industry” published. Click [here](#) to access it.
- **October 19, 2020:** Dr Indar joined Dr. Roshan Parasram, Chief Medical Officer, Trinidad and Tobago at the virtual media conference to discuss the importance of public health measures as Caribbean countries begin reopening their economies, following the restrictions brought on by COVID-19. Click [here](#) to access a link to the conference.
 - ⇒ Dr. St. John was on the opening plenary for the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) 29th Annual Conference & Exhibition, participated in PAHO's Webinar-Launch of the First Caribbean Congress Adolescent and Youth Health Road Map and was interviewed on Mornin' Barbados Television Programme.



Photo 1: Dr. St John presents at Tuskegee University's 21st Annual One Health Symposium.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

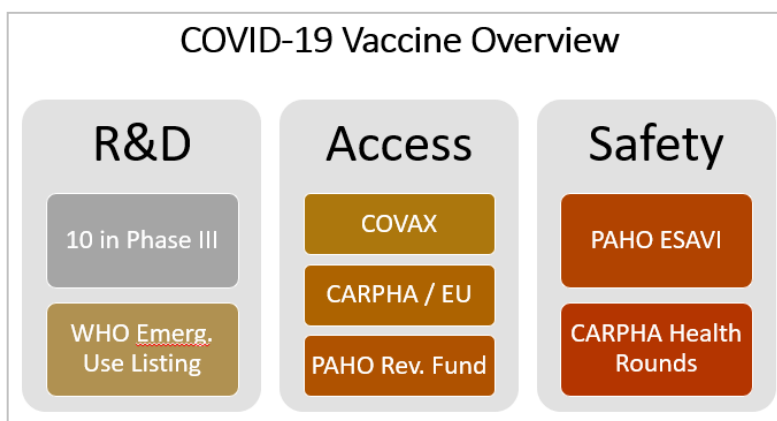
ENDING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: UPDATE ON COVID-19 VACCINES

Access to a vaccine for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is an essential tool to preventing COVID-19 infections, reducing its spread particularly among vulnerable populations, and restarting economies globally. Various manufacturers are developing candidate vaccines using novel biotechnologies, and international organizations are collaborating to ensure equitable access to all.

Research and Development: The WHO's draft landscape of COVID-19 vaccines identifies 42 candidates under clinical evaluation, and 151 vaccines in pre-clinical evaluation (studies) as of October 2, 2020. Of the 42 in clinical trials, 10 are in Phase III.¹ Thereafter, vaccines with proven safety and efficacy may be assessed by the WHO for its Emergency Use Listing (EUL).²

Access: COVAX, the vaccines pillar of the WHO's Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, aims to accelerate development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines by all countries. The facility, led by Gavi – the Vaccine Alliance, is a global risk-sharing mechanism for pooled procurement and equitable distribution of approved COVID-19 vaccines.³ To date, twelve CARPHA Member States have entered into agreements with Gavi to join the COVAX facility, where a 15% down payment is required. CARPHA is supporting Member States by providing funding of 50-100% of the down payment to registered countries, which was made possible through an EU grant of €3 million. CARPHA is also partnering with PAHO to facilitate payments for the procurement of the vaccine(s), when available, through the Revolving Fund.

Vaccine Safety Surveillance: The Pan American Health Organization will be working with national immunization programmes and regulators to support regional surveillance for Events Attributed to Vaccine Immunization (ESAVI). On November 5, 2020, as part of CARPHA COVID-19 Health Rounds, CARPHA and PAHO will jointly present health system elements needed for the surveillance of Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) against COVID-19. The CARPHA CRS' network for pharmacovigilance is poised to support regional surveillance of AEFIs through reporting and information exchange.



References:

¹ WHO. Draft landscape of COVID-19 candidate vaccines. World Health Organization, Geneva, October 2, 2020. Available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/draft-landscape-of-covid-19-candidate-vaccines>.

² WHO. Emergency Use Listing of Vaccines. World Health Organization, Geneva. Available at: https://www.who.int/medicines/regulation/prequalification/prequal-vaccines/EUL_PQ_Vaccines/en/#:~:text=The%20WHO%20Emergency%20Use%20Listing,by%20a%20public%20health%20emergency.

³ COVAX. Gavi – The Vaccine Alliance. Updated September 25, 2020. Available at: <https://www.gavi.org/covax-facility>.

CARPHA PRODUCTS

- 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 12:25pm October 22, 2020. Available from: <https://who.sprinklr.com/>
- (2) Johns Hopkins University's Centre for Science and Engineering Accessed at 12:25pm. October 22, 2020. Available from: <https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>
- (3) Aruba Government. COVID-19 dashboard. Available at <https://www.arubacovid19.org/>. Accessed October 22, 2020.
- (4) Belize Government. COVID-19 Dashboard. Available [here](#). Accessed October 22, 2020.
- (5) Curaçao Government. COVID-19 Dashboard. Available [here](#). Accessed October 22, 2020.
- (6) Guyana Government. COVID-19 Dashboard. Available [here](#). Accessed October 22, 2020.
- (7) Jamaica Government COVID-19 Clinical Management Summary for October 21, 2020. Available [here](#). Accessed October 22, 2020
- (8) St. Lucia Government. COVID-19 Dashboard. Available [here](#). Accessed October 22, 2020
- (9) St. Maarten Government. COVID-19 Dashboard. Available [here](#). Accessed October 22, 2020.
- (10) Suriname Ministry of Health. COVID-19 Dashboard. Available at <https://covid-19.sr/> Accessed October 22, 2020.
- (11) Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Health. Press release #519 dated October 21, 2020. Available [here](#). Accessed October 22, 2020.