

CARPHA SITUATION REPORT NO. 66

JULY 6, 2020

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic

Summary

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

To date, there are 62,325 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 controlling the pandemic by slowing down 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. The majority of Member States are continuing with a phased lifting of in-country restrictions, repatriation of nationals and receipt of incoming travellers. It remains critical that active surveillance and COVID-19 prevention measures, including physical distancing, hand hygiene and wearing of masks in public are maintained.

New in this Report

- Surveillance and Epidemiology of COVID-19 in 24 Member States
- CMML Laboratory Update 15
- CARPHA's HR Department COVID-19 response: Safeguarding our most valuable asset

Numbers at a Glance*

Globally**

11,301,910 cases (581,372 new)

Caribbean Region

33 countries, areas, or territories
(0 new)

62,325 cases (4,385 new)**

26,875 recovered (1,127 new)

1,303 deaths (35 new)

Rest of the World

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

11,239,585 cases (576,987 new)

6,190,888 recovered (419,430
new)

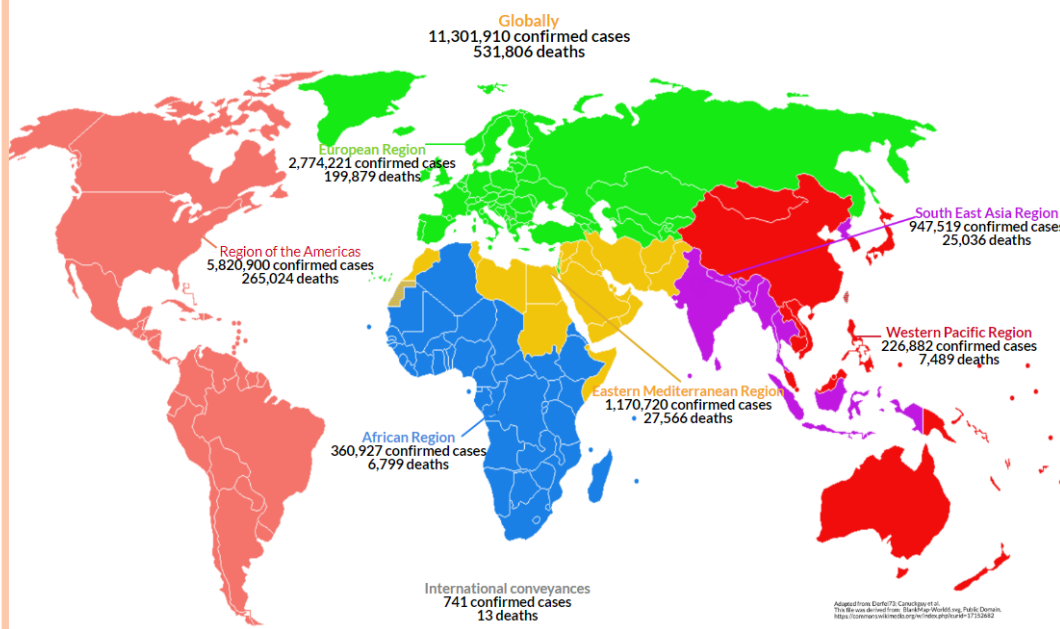
530,503 deaths (14,426 new)

*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 IN NUMBERS



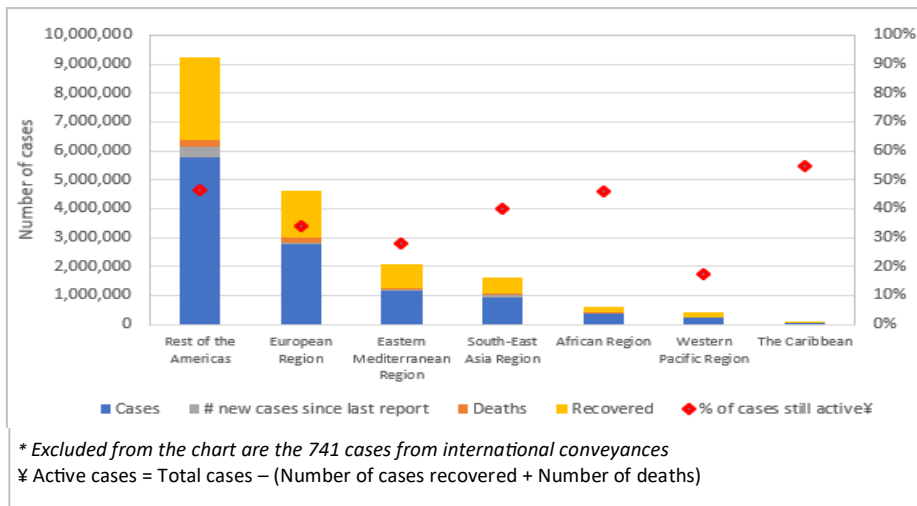
SITUATION UPDATE

COVID-19 in the Caribbean

Since the previous report on July 3, 2020, an additional 4,385 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 19 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region's total confirmed cases to 62,325 in 33 countries/territories. This new total represents an 8% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 1,303 deaths recorded in the Caribbean region as at July 6, 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.

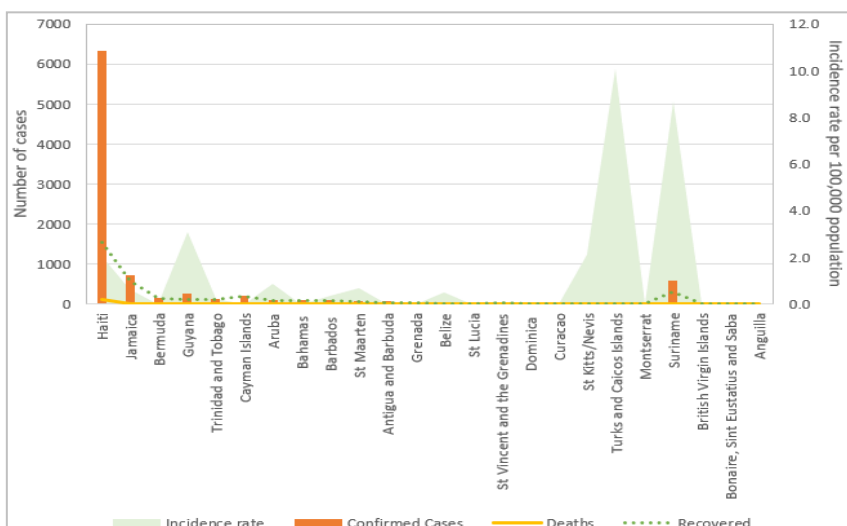


As of July 6, 2020, the WHO reported 11,301,850 cases of patients with COVID-19. A total of 216 countries, areas or territories have confirmed at least one case among travellers exposed while abroad and/or person-to-person contact.

Since the last Situation Report on July 3, 2020, no new countries, areas or territories reported their first confirmed case of COVID-19, while 43 reported no new cases. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of cases by WHO Regions.

Figure 1: Reported Cases of COVID-19 by Region as of July 6, 2020*

ANALYSIS OF CASES AMONG CARPHA MEMBER STATES



As of July 6, 2020, there have been 9,105 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 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 Member States as of July 6, 2020

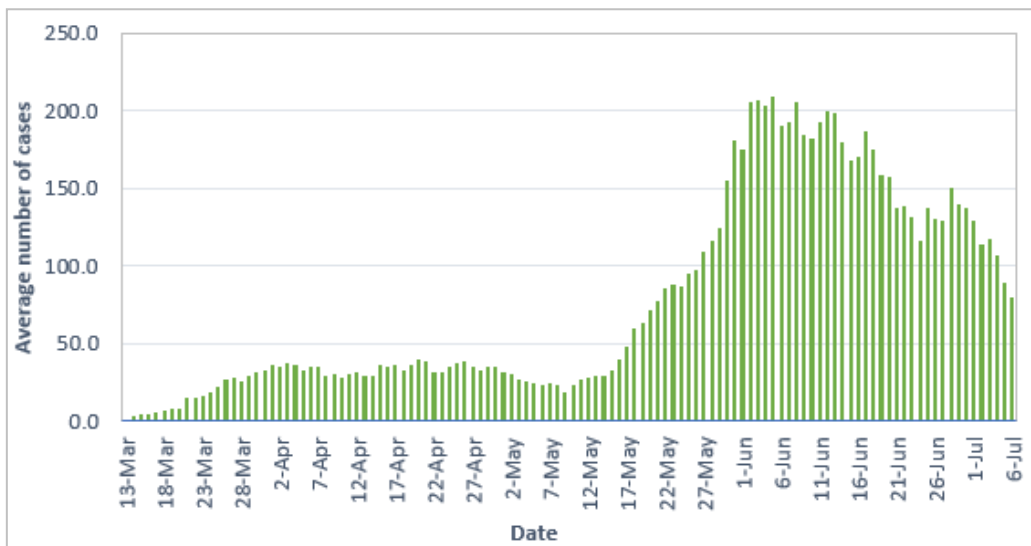


Figure 3 shows the 7-day moving average among CMS. The value for each day represents the average number of cases for 7 days calculated using number of confirmed cases for the current day and the six days prior to the current day.

The highest 7-day average was observed on June 5, 2020.

Figure 3: 7-day Moving Average Number of Cases of COVID-19 in CMS as of July 6, 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=988

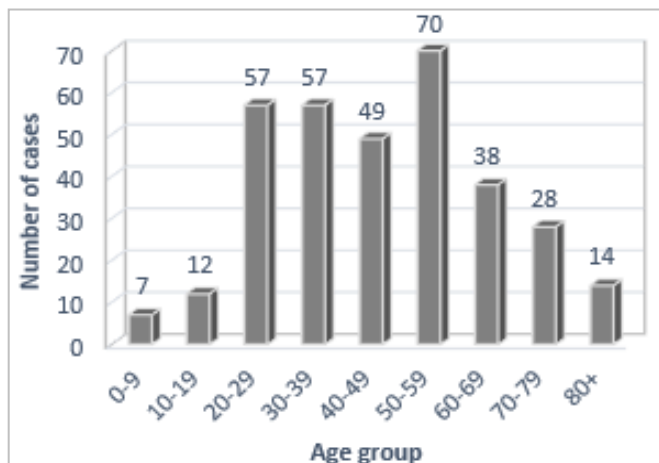
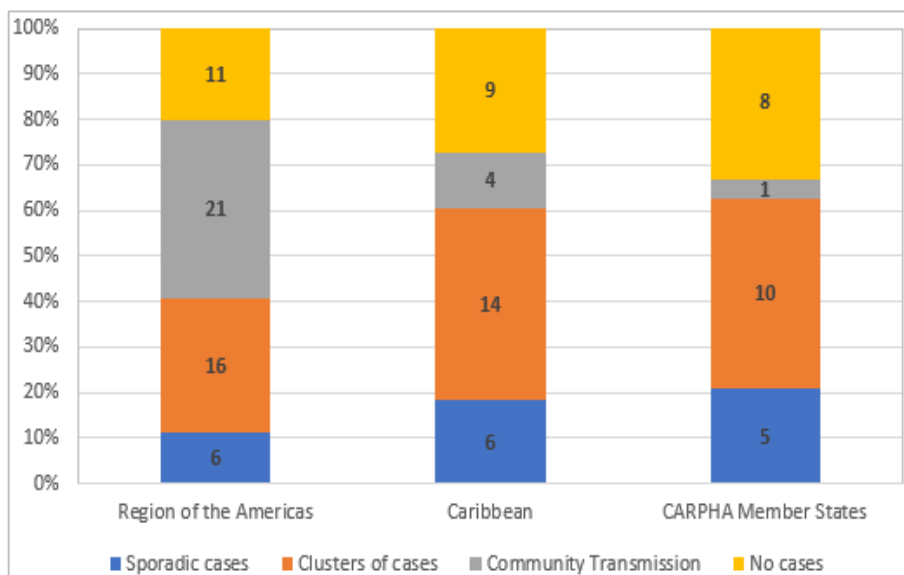


Figure 5: Reported confirmed cases of COVID-19 by age group in CMS, n=332

For the cases for which data were available, the majority were between 20 and 59 years, with 50-59 being the modal age group. There was no age reported for the majority of cases (8,773) which are excluded from Figure 5.



Among the 24 Member States, 21% (5/24) have been classified as having sporadic transmission of COVID-19 among cases, 42% (10/24) have reported clusters, 4% (1/24) reported community transmission and 33% (8/24) currently have no cases.

Figure 6 is based on data received by the WHO from national authorities by 10:00 CEST, July 5, 2020¹.

Figure 6: Categories of Transmission Classification within the Region

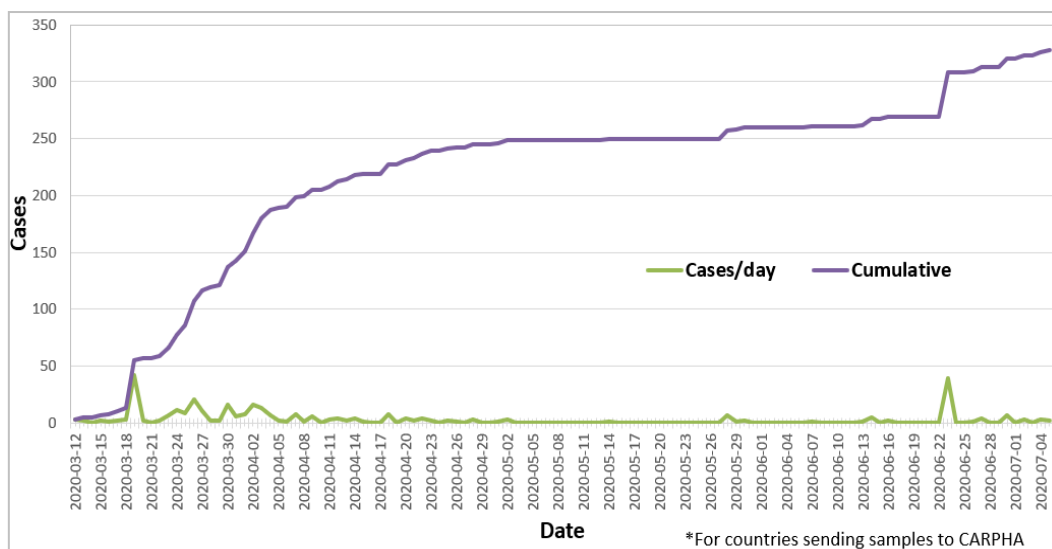


Figure 7: COVID-19 Progression in CMS*. Laboratory Confirmed New Cases. 10 Feb — 5 July, 2020

Laboratory

Since February 10, 2020 and as of July 5, 2020, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) has received 8,296 samples from 16 CMS, 546 (6.7%) of which have tested positive since the start of the outbreak: 328 results (4.0%) correspond to unique cases.

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

¹ WHO. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 167 Accessed July 6, 2020. Available [here](#).

CARPHA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

Laboratory

- **July 2, 2020:** CARPHA's Medical Microbiology Laboratory distributed Laboratory Update 15 informing stakeholders of the first approved Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) which specifically detects IgM antibodies to SARS-CoV-2. This device has received Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The kit is said to have a sensitivity of 92.5% and Specificity of 99%. Member States interested in learning more about this test can read the full update [here](#).
- CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) processed the largest number of samples during CARPHA's history in June, 2020. A total of 3,150 samples were received, which represents an average of more than 150 samples/business day. In addition, the staff met the turnaround time (TAT) with 100% compliance for all tests performed during June, for the second month in a row.

Stakeholder Engagement, Communication and Information

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

- **July 3, 2020:** Dr Joy St John, Executive Director of CARPHA attended the Twentieth Special Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).
- **July 3, 2020:** Dr. Lisa Indar presented at the CDEMA Council of Ministers meeting.
- **July 2, 2020:** In recognition of Caribbean Public Health Day, CARPHA's Communications Unit released the article [Caribbean Public Health Day: In a time of COVID-19](#) which highlights the work of CARPHA in support of the region during the pandemic.
- Dr. Lisa Indar presented at the Caribbean Tourism Health Safety Training Series "COVID-19 Health Guidelines For Reopening Hospitality Sector". The target audience were persons operating in the following groups:
 1. Ground Transportation – **June 30, 2020**
 2. Accommodations: Public areas (Reception, Restrooms, Hard surfaces, Food service) – **July 1, 2020.**
- **June 26, 2020:** Ms. Sacha Wallace-Sankarsingh, Biorisk Manager, facilitated a laboratory biosafety and biosecurity training session for St. Vincent and the Grenadines as part of their implementation activities associated with the introduction of PCR testing for SARS-CoV-2 virus at the national level.

Kudos for CARPHA

July 3, 2020: On the occasion of the Twentieth Special Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, incoming Chair of CARICOM, Dr the Hon. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines said, "CARICOM, he maintained, was central to the Region's "salvation" given the explosion of pandemics, climate change and matters of global political economy. On that note, he singled out Community Institutions for praise, including the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), and CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)." Read more [here](#). Ambassador Irwin LaRocque, CARICOM Secretary-General also had high commendations for regional institutions. He outlined that 'Protocols developed by the CARPHA, IMPACS and the CARICOM Secretariat, both for managing the virus and re-opening our borders, have served as guidance to our Member States in their efforts to overcome the challenges. He closed with an acknowledgement of 'the excellent professional work of the staff of our Regional Institutions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has enabled us to save lives and keep the infections at a manageable level.' Read more [here](#).



Photo 1: (Top) Dr the Hon. Ralph Gonsalves, In-Coming Chair of CARICOM. (Bottom) Ambassador Irwin LaRocque, CARICOM Secretary-General

CARPHA PRODUCTS

- [Caribbean Countries Reopening Plans/Initiatives Post COVID-19](#)—July 3, 2020
- [Reopening of Caribbean Tourism and Travel: Guidelines and Checklist](#)
- [COVID19 Guidelines Faith-based Organisations and Community](#)
- [COVID19 Public Transportation Guidelines](#)
- 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>

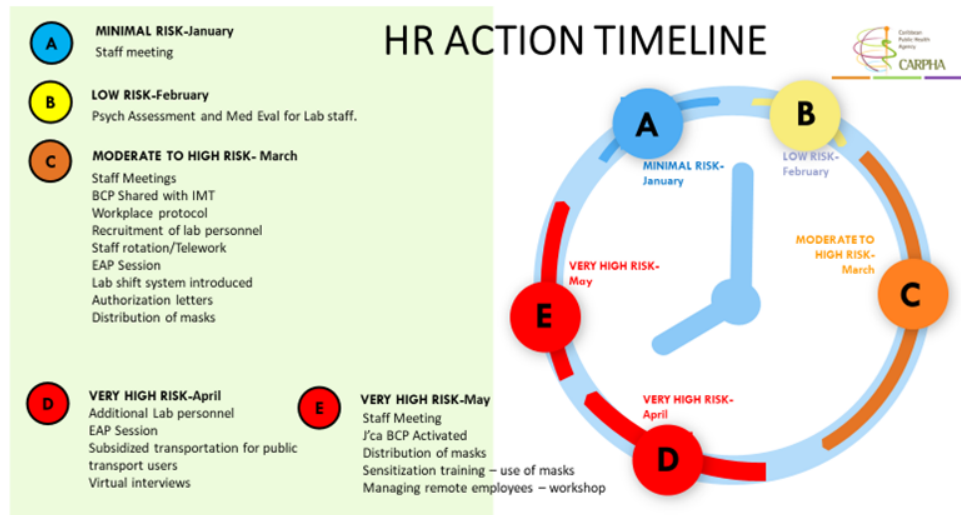
NEWS AND INFORMATION

CARPHA Human Resource (HR) Department COVID-19 Response: Safeguarding our most valuable asset

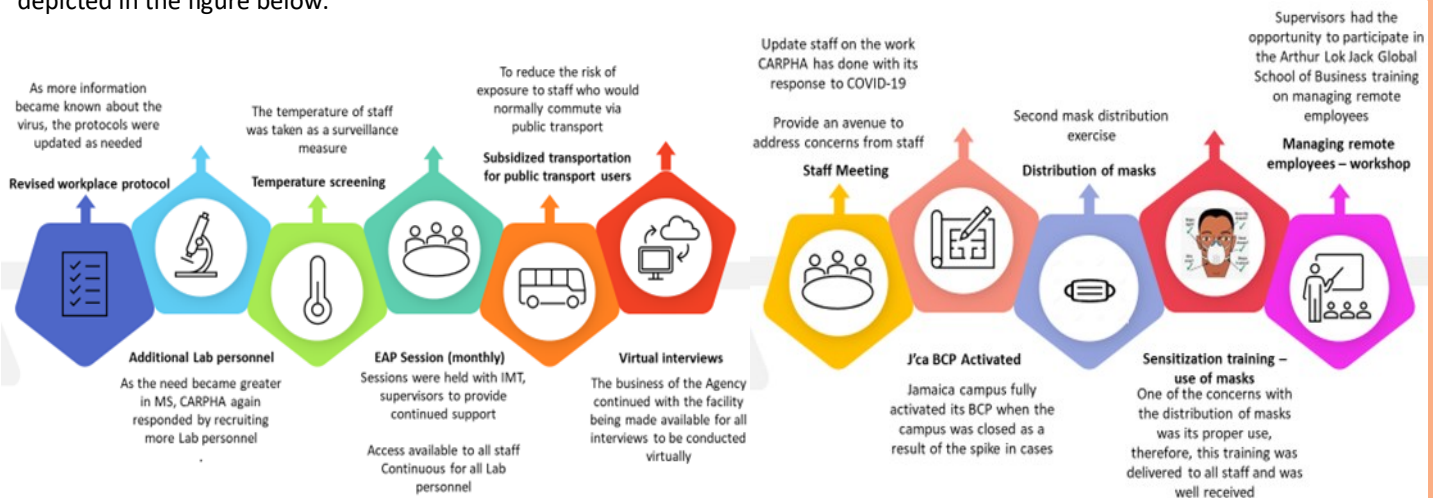
The Human Resource Department, along with CARPHA's Technical counterparts, remains at the front line of CARPHA's response to its Employees / Member States/ Stakeholders during the COVID-19 crisis.

This unprecedented crisis compelled us to adapt and quickly adjust to the needs of our staff while ensuring:

- The safety of ALL staff by institutionalising guidelines as dictated by the Governments of all three (Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Saint Lucia) duty stations.
- Staff were equipped with up-to-date protocols and guidelines both for their safety and that of their families.
- A remote workforce engagement was introduced and maintained.
- Facilitating new talent acquisition and retention of our current experts
- Preserving the Mental Health of our staff, individually and collectively.



Over the period, a number of measures and activities were implemented to ensure that our support remained robust, as depicted in the figure below.



REFERENCES

- Sources: (1) WHO Situation Dashboard Accessed at 1:20pm July 6, 2020. Available from: <https://who.sprinklr.com/>
- (2) Johns Hopkins University's Centre for Science and Engineering Accessed at 1:20pm. July 6, 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 July 6, 2020.
- (5) Suriname. Ministry of Health. COVID-19 Dashboard. Available at <https://covid-19.sr/> Accessed July 6, 2020.
- (6) Aruba Government. COVID-19 Dashboard. Available at <https://www.arubacovid19.org/> Accessed July 6, 2020
- (7) Jamaica. Ministry of Health Press Release dated July 5, 2020. Available [here](#). Accessed July 6, 2020.
- (8) Guyana Ministry of Health. Press Release dated July 5, 2020. Available [here](#). Accessed July 6, 2020.
- (9) Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Health. Press release 317 dated July 5, 2020. Available [here](#). Accessed July 6, 2020
- (10) Barbados Government Information Service. Press release dated July 5, 2020. Available [here](#). Accessed July 6, 2020
- (11) Turks and Caicos Islands. Ministry of Health COVID-19 update #117 date July 6, 2020. Available [here](#). Accessed July 6, 2020