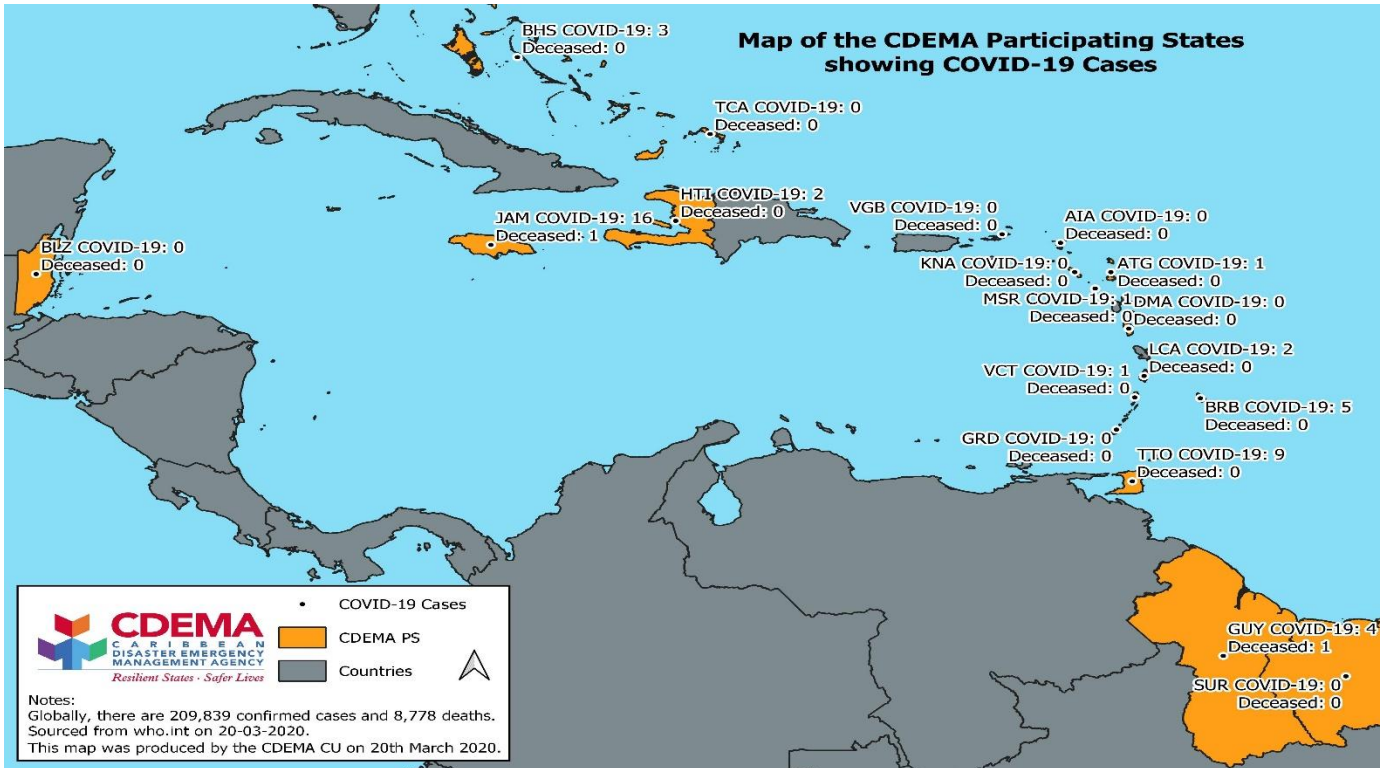


COVID-19 OUTBREAK IN CDEMA PARTICIPATING STATES

SITUATION REPORT No. 2

AS OF 11:00PM ON MARCH 20, 2020

Ten (10) CDEMA Participating States record confirmed cases of the COVID-19 Disease



SITUATION

According to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) Situation Report No. 24 (issued on March 18, 2020), in a statement on 11 March, the WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak to be a pandemic. Since then, more than 16 countries in the Caribbean region have reported the importation of at least one confirmed case of COVID-19. The risk of further importation of cases to the Caribbean Region remains **Very High**. Overall, 91% of all cases reported globally so far are from just nine countries.

The aim for all countries now, is to stop transmission and prevent the spread of the virus. Based on the Draft CARPHA Health Sector Response Guidelines for COVID-19 circulated to Member States, most countries are encouraged to implement actions in keeping with the Initial or Targeted Action in the Response Phase.

As of 20 March, WHO reported 209,839 confirmed cases of patients with COVID-19, with the total number of deaths at 8,778 globally.

Updates from CDEMA Participating States

On March 18th 2020 the CDEMA CU facilitated a meeting with the National Disaster Coordinators to provide an update on the actions taken thus far and status of COVID-19 situation in each Participating State. The following were reported:



ANGUILLA – Department of Disaster Management (DDM)

- No confirmed cases of COVID 19 as at March 18, 2020
- Health Authority is leading and the DDM has been offering support through the NEOC
- The Premier has been giving daily press briefings
- Convened meetings of emergency personnel to discuss preparations
- Primary schools have been closed for this week and may be closed for the next 2 weeks (until April 3rd, 2020)
- The Ferry Port has been partially closed; all Passenger Ports will close entirely on Friday March 20, 2020 at 11:59 PM; Cargo is still allowed.
- Established a health hotline.
- The Department of Agriculture met to discuss food security
- Identified 5 quarantine sites and reconfigured a wing of the hospital for persons who need to be isolated
- By the first week in April the hospital should be able to house / isolate 10 persons.



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA – National Office of Disaster Services (NODs)

- Announcement of first case of Covid-19 by Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne in an address to the nation on March 13, 2020
- National Covid-19 Task Force established with representatives from various ministries and sectors; four meeting held so far
- Public education and awareness material and programmes developed and distributed
- Port Health Office established at the Airport with two nurses per shift
- Public Health Office at National Parks in the Nelsons Dockyard has been enhanced with collaboration from Ministry of Trade, Immigration Department, Barbuda Council and the Coast Guard
- Hotline established, manned by the Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Hotline number is 46COVID (462-6849)
- Government announced closure of schools from March 16 – 27, 2020
- Prison visits suspended for two weeks effective March 16.
- Some major events cancelled including the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta.
- Ban on all fetes, church crusades for 30 days. Gatherings limited to 50 persons.

Updates from CDEMA Participating States



THE BAHAMAS – National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

- As of Tuesday, 18 March, 2020, there are three (3) confirmed cases of COVID -19 in Nassau, The Bahamas
- Eleven (11) persons in quarantine as at Wednesday March 18 and thirty-one (31) persons were released from quarantine
- Contact tracing efforts are ongoing
- Ministry of Health EOC activated on Monday 16, March 2020
- The Government of The Bahamas has declared a State of Emergency effective March 17, 2020 for a period of 14 days in the first instance
- The Government has announced the closure of all public schools starting Monday, 16 March, 2020 and will re-open on Tuesday, 14 April, 2020
- Ministry of Tourism has expanded the list of restricted travel countries to include Europe, the UK and Ireland take effect on Thursday, 19 March, 2020. Restrictions are already in place for China, Iran, Italy and South Korea
- Doctor's Hospital on Blake Road has been approved to be used as a facility to treat individuals who test positive for COVID-19
- All national sporting events have been postponed until further notice and permits for the use of public open spaces have been suspended indefinitely
- The Water and Sewerage Corporation has ceased the disconnection of water services due to COVID-19 until further notice
- The University of the Bahamas has confirmed closure due to COVID-19 until further notice
- The Bahamas Carnival Film Festival is postponed until further notice
- The Bahamas Department of Corrections has suspended visits due to COVID-19 until further notice

Updates from CDEMA Participating States



BARBADOS – Department of Emergency Management (DEM)

- Five (5) confirmed cases as at March 19, 2020
- The Health EOC remains activated
- The DEM is embedded in the Health EOC
- The DEM is part of the extended National Security Council , chaired by the Hon. Prime Minister
- Contact tracing and surveillance is ongoing
- Daily briefings and press conferences are being held
- The Updated National Pandemic Plan was submitted to Cabinet; updates to the plan are being undertaken
- The Government is facilitating persons on cruise ships who need to get back home



HAITI – The Civil Protection Directorate

- Two (2) COVID-19 cases officially confirmed by the Government of Haiti and the Ministry of Public Health on Thursday March 19th 2020
- A total of forty-six (46) suspected patients are in isolation
- The Government declared all schools, Universities, factories closed countrywide until further notice and all public mass gathering suspended
- Commercial flights for passengers have been cancelled and the border with the neighbouring Dominican Republic has been closed (except for limited commercial exchanges)
- The National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) has been partially activated
- The government has indicated that staff in the public administration will work on a rotating basis
- Starting Friday 20th March a curfew is established [from 8:00 PM to 5:00 AM](#)
- The Civil Protection Directorate Staff in the ten (10) Geographical regions of the country is supporting the ongoing public awareness campaign launched by the Ministry of Public Health and effectively supporting the aforementioned ministry in coordination efforts

Updates from CDEMA Participating States



JAMAICA – Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM)

- Jamaica now has sixteen (16) confirmed cases of COVID-19 as at March 19, 2020
- Thirty-nine (39) persons in isolation and twenty-five (25) currently quarantined at a Government facility
- Government instituted a Seven (7) Day Restriction Policy for the containment of COVID-19 starting March 18, 2020
- A total of twenty four (24) persons are in isolation within Government of Jamaica facilities
- The communities of 7 – 8 Miles Bull Bay, St. Andrew remains a quarantined area
- A meeting of the Humanitarian Committee was convened on Monday March 16, 2020 to discuss measures for the provision of welfare and relief in support of national coordinated response to COVID-19
- Meeting held between Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) and Ministry of Local Government and Community Development (MLGCD) to identify activities that the Municipal Corporations can implement to support the MOHW Public Education drive
- Donor meeting held at the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM). Participants: (Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), USAID, World Bank, Ministry of Finance and Public Service (MOFPS) and Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW)
- Critical sectors and first responder agencies including the Military continue to host response coordination meetings

Updates from CDEMA Participating States



ST. KITTS & NEVIS – National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO)

- No confirmed cases of COVID 19 as at March 18, 2020
- Continue surveillance and screening at ports
- In the process of developing a policy to limit port activity
- Quarantine act has been amended to allow the Port Officers to address emerging issues
- The Health EOC is not yet activated however it is being prepared (equipped with the necessary tools and equipment for possible activation)
- Established a COVID 19 hotline
- Travel advisory updated last week to include Spain, France and Switzerland
- Established a National Task Force, they have submitted a list of items that persons may import duty free to Cabinet
- Social distancing is a priority and upcoming social events have been postponed



ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES – National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO)

- One (1) confirmed case as at March 18, 2020
- Forty-seven (47) persons in quarantine (44 students who were on an exchange in Guadeloupe), 3 other persons
- All testing is being done at CARPHA in Trinidad and Tobago
- The NEOC is in partial activation to address matters related to COVID-19
- Ministry of Health awareness campaigns are ongoing – they have conducted training for media houses on reporting
- Government has increased the number of immigration officers to support border control
- Government has increased the number of nurses to assist in the hospitals
- The Hon. Prime Minister met with principals of primary and secondary schools
- Schools will close on Friday March 20, 2020
- PAHO visited the Ministry of Health this week to assess the health system
- The unit for isolation of patients is being retrofitted currently and should be ready in the next 3 weeks
- CARICOM IMPACS provided support to SVG with the contact tracing of suspected cases

Updates from CDEMA Participating States



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO – Office of Disaster Preparedness & Management (ODPM)

- Nine (9) confirmed cases as at Thursday March 19, 2020
- Sixty-eight (68) nationals quarantined immediately after returning from a cruise on March 18, 2020
- Government to determine whether it can revoke the licenses of bars that do not adhere to the 14-day ban, Local Government Corporations have been asked to restrict access to rivers across the country
- The Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) and other regional exams are postponed to a date to be announced
- The Government has asked the Housing Development Corporation and The Trinidad and Tobago Mortgage Finance Company Ltd. to defer rental and mortgage payments for one month in the first instance
- Commercial banks have agreed to provide all customers with the option to skip a payment for a month on loans and mortgages. During this time penalties are to be waived, and interest rates to be reduced to 10% points on credit cards
- To reduce the lending rate, the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago has reduced the reserve requirement for commercial banks from 17% to 14%
- The allocation of Foreign Exchange to be increased for the purchase of essential items such as pharmaceuticals and basic food items
- Government to increase social services grants and the number of available food cards. Students currently under the School Feeding Programme will be absorbed under the food card programme
- The Government to prioritise its payment of debt to businesses to facilitate job preservation
- Today 24,695 pieces of Personal Protection Equipment (goggles, face masks, gowns) were delivered to NIPDEC for health care workers
- Tobago will not be left behind as an allocation will be available to Tobago to assist hoteliers. The Ministers of Trade, Tourism and Finance will also travel to Tobago this week to assess the situation
- Gatherings of ten or more people should be avoided to reduce the spread of COVID-19
- Parliament will break for two weeks after this Friday's sitting
- The Government extended a special thank you to healthcare workers, security services and the heads of the business communities who continue to work during this period

TEMA - Tobago

- A Multi-sectoral COVID 19 committee was established chaired by Permanent Secretary of Health
- A comprehensive Pandemic plan has been drafted and submitted for review and approval
- The Tobago Regional Health Authority is looking at supplies of PPEs and health resources
- A 3 shift will be implemented at the EOC.

Updates from CDEMA Participating States



TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS – Department of Disaster Management & Emergencies (DDME)

- Three (3) suspected cases were submitted for testing as at March 18, 2020
- Eighteen (18) persons in quarantine at home
- Increased the number of restricted countries in keeping with the list from CDC
- Briefings held with stakeholders including tourism and supermarkets
- Experiencing shortages with sanitation supplies (hand sanitizers, disinfectants)
- NEOC not fully activated
- Schools will be closed on Friday March 20, 2020 to April 20, 2020 for a month
- Promoting and practicing social distancing – mass gathering events have been postponed
- Government offices remain operating as normal; this is a challenge as schools, daycares and nurseries are closed
- Ports remain open and are operating
- COVID-19 information is translated in French-creole, English and Spanish to cater for the population

Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) Actions

REGIONAL LEVEL ENGAGEMENTS & COORDINATION

1. The CDEMA CU continues to liaise with the CARICOM regional institutions towards supporting the strengthening and continuity planning as well as regional level coordination.
2. The Regional Protocol designed to support CARICOM States in their response to COVID-19 is being updated further to a discussion on regional institutions on March 19th 2020. Matters being addressed includes emergency communications platforms, food security, education among other issues.
3. The CDEMA CU also continues to work closely with the CARPHA and PAHO towards strengthening of the Health sector level coordination and readiness
4. In collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), CDEMA is working towards strengthening the regional logistics arrangements and the supply chain in the region
5. CDEMA continues to lead the multi sectoral coordination in support of the technical lead for health
6. The National Disaster Offices are either on high alert or have activated their National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOCS) where there are confirmed cases. In this regard, the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) continues to be on alert should the need arise for support from any Participating State
7. The latest updates on the COVID-19 pandemic in the region can be accessed from the CARPHA's website www.carpha.org
8. CDEMA and the Regional Response Mechanism partners will continue to monitor the situation and will provide updates as appropriate.