



This situation update is on the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) reported cases and deaths, Globally, Regionally, for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries, French Territories, and the United Kingdom Overseas Territories.



PAHO Director says COVID-19 vaccines will not be an easy, quick fix for the Americas

Vulnerable people already receiving vaccines and “millions” more doses are expected early next year. Urges hope but also patience and solidarity.

The COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020 “is undoubtedly the most extraordinary public health event of our lifetimes,” Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Director Dr. Carissa F. Etienne said Wednesday. “This pandemic stands out in both scale and impact. And it has put a spotlight on two of the longstanding challenges of our region: inequality and underinvestment of our health systems.”

“Since the start of this pandemic, less than a year ago, the Region of the Americas has recorded nearly 31 million cases and 787,000 deaths due to COVID-19. This represents roughly half of all COVID-19 infections and deaths worldwide.”

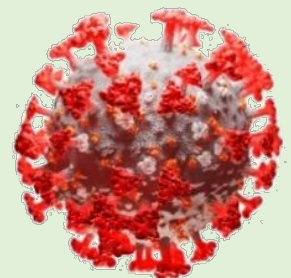
“While we hope 2021 will usher a new chapter in our fight against this virus, protecting the millions of people in our region with COVID-19 vaccines will be a huge undertaking. So, we must be patient and remain realistic that COVID-19 will be among us for some time – so our work to control it cannot and must not stop,” Etienne said.

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COVID-19 case update:

On 18 December 2020, there were four new cases in Dominica and one new case in St. Lucia.

COUNTRY	COVID-19 CASE UPDATE
Anguilla	last case on 4 December 2020
Antigua and Barbuda	last case on 16 December 2020
Barbados	last case on 16 December 2020
British Virgin Islands (UK)	last case on 17 December 2020
Dominica	last case on 18 December 2020
Grenada	last 2 cases on 17 December 2020
Montserrat	no new cases for 148 days
Saint Kitts and Nevis	last case on 14 December 2020
Saint Lucia	last case on 18 December 2020
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	last case on 17 December 2020

Updates

Global	PAHO - Region of the Americas
73,204,412 confirmed cases,	31,925,704 confirmed cases,
1,649,345 deaths <i>in</i>	804,012 deaths <i>in</i>
216 countries, areas, or territories	54 countries, areas, or territories

Reported number of cumulative COVID-19 cases in the Caribbean sub-region and corresponding incidence rate (per 100,000 persons) by country/territory (sub-national level). As of 18 December 2020.



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Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Countries, French Territories and United Kingdom Overseas Territories

Country	Confirmed Cases	Deaths	No of Tests	Transmission Type	Status of Schools	Travel Restrictions	Masks Mandatory	State of Emergency (Curfew ends)	COVID-19 Web Address and Hotline
Anguilla	10	0	3,198	Sporadic cases	Schools open	Yes	No	No	https://beatcovid19.ai/ (264) 476-7627
Antigua & Barbuda	151	4	5,384	Sporadic cases	Ant: Schools reopened 7 Sep. 2020	Yes		Yes	https://ab.gov.ag/detail_page.php?page=42 (268) 462-6843
Barbados	307	7	57,835	Clusters of cases	2 students infected from one school which closed from 5 Oct. to 16 Oct. 2020	Yes	Yes	Yes	https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/covid-19/ (246) 536-4500
British Virgin Islands	86	1	10,274	Clusters of cases	Phased reopening – Nov. 9, 26; 4 th Jan. 2021.	Yes	Yes	No	https://bvi.gov.vg/covid-19 (284) 852-7650
Dominica	92	0	6,878	Clusters of cases	Schools reopened 7 Sep. 2020	Yes	Specific settings only	No	http://dominica.gov.dm/corona (767) 448-2151
French Guiana	12,281	71	-	Community transmission	-	Yes	-	-	
Grenada	94	0	11,107	Sporadic cases	Varied stages of reopening	Lifted	Yes	Yes	https://covid19.gov.gd/ (473) 458-4787 / (473) 538-4787
Guadeloupe	8,498	154	-	Community transmission	-	Yes	-	-	https://www.guadeloupe.ars.sante.fr/
Martinique	5,601	42	-	Community transmission	-	Yes	-	-	https://www.martinique.ars.sante.fr/
Montserrat	13	1	643	No cases	Schools reopened 7 Sep. 2020	Yes	No	No	http://www.gov.ms/latest-on-the-coronavirus/
Saint Barthélemy	172	0	-	Sporadic cases	-	-	-	-	
St Kitts & Nevis	30	0	4,623	Sporadic cases	Schools reopened 9 Sep. 2020	Yes	Yes	Yes	https://www.covid19.gov.kn/
Saint Lucia	280	5	18,291	Clusters of cases	Schools remain closed.	Yes	Specific settings only	Yes	https://www.covid19response.lc/
Saint Martin	899	12		Community transmission	-		-	-	https://www.stmartinweek.fr/
St Vincent & the Grenadines	100	0	13,264	Sporadic cases	Varied stages of reopening	No	Specific settings only	N	http://health.gov.vc/health/index.php/c (784) 534-4325
Total	28,614	297	131,497						

Table 1: COVID-19 status in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries, French Territories and United Kingdom Overseas Territories. 'Sporadic cases' indicates countries/territories/areas with one or more cases, imported or locally detected. 'Clusters of cases' indicates countries/territories/areas experiencing cases clustered in time, geographic location and/or by common exposures.

Data in red new. Disclaimer: Data is updated by 5:00PM each day and there could be delays in reporting. Any discrepancies from national data figures will be edited on the next issue.



PAHO SAYS THANK YOU TO MEDIA

PAHO/WHO Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries (ECC) said thank you to media this week, for their coverage of the COVID-19 vaccine.

During a cocktail reception hosted for media houses, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kenneth George, PS in the Ministry of Health Janet Phillips, PAHO/WHO Representative for Barbados and the ECC Dr. Yitades Gebre and PAHO/WHO Advisors, gathered to salute the media.

The PAHO/WHO Representative also pledged continued collaboration with the media.

“We will continue to work with our invited guests here to reach many individuals, as we do not want to miss any one and we don’t want anyone to be left behind.”

Dr. Gebre recalled the progress made in 2020 dealing with the pandemic. He said at the beginning of the pandemic, only Barbados and Dominica had the capacity to test for COVID-19; but PAHO/WHO has worked with the region to change this.

“I am pleased to announce that all countries in the Eastern Caribbean are able to do diagnostic tests for COVID-19.”

Added to that accomplishment, donations were made to the PAHO/WHO member countries. “Millions of gowns and six million surgical and respiratory masks, over 365 000 goggles were donated; and that was all done through collaboration.”

The PWR also mentioned that PAHO disseminated over 8 million COVID-19 PCR tests and over 3 million rapid antigen tests, to the countries.

Dr. Gebre stated that in 2021, PAHO’s focus will continue to be to save lives, to stop the spread of COVID-19 and to protect health care workers.

The main pillars of the WHO COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) are:

Pillar 1 - Country-level Coordination, Planning and Monitoring

Pillar 2 - Risk Communication and Community Engagement

Pillar 3 - Surveillance, Rapid Response Teams and Case Investigation

Pillar 4 - Points of Entry

Pillar 5 - National Laboratories

Pillar 6 - Infection Prevention and Control

Pillar 7 - Clinical Management

Pillar 8 - Operational Support and Logistics

Pillar 9 - Maintaining Essential Health Systems and Services

One more pillar has been added to these 9 pillars, said Dr. Gebre: the COVID-19 vaccine.

“The way forward for 2021 is that we’re going to be working together. We have to work more, we have to save lives, we have to work on health, we have to build the economy, we have to build back better.”

Speaking on behalf of the media, Executive Editor of the Nation Newspaper, Carol Martindale, thanked PAHO/WHO for honouring the media, stating that “the media is seldom celebrated.”

She also commended medical officials for making themselves assessable to the media, which assisted the media greatly.

Dr. Rufus Ewing, Advisor, Health Systems and Services, raised the toast to the media for their tireless coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic, informing the public and documenting its impact on our region.



[Link](#) to previous Situation Updates

For more information on COVID-19 visit: www.paho.org/coronavirus

