



COVID-19 Situation Update - 113

15 January 2021

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 ECC discuss urgent public health issues in national dialog with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



Bridgetown, Barbados, January 13, 2021 (PAHO/WHO) – A year since the world was warned about the outbreak of a new corona virus (COVID-19), close to 91 million cases have been reported and nearly 2 million deaths globally. In the past 3 – 4 weeks, countries in the Eastern Caribbean are now experiencing a second wave and second peaks of the outbreak.



PAHO/WHO Representative for Barbados and the Countries, Dr Yitades Gebre, in a virtual press conference hosted by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on the COVID-19 pandemic said, “Our support to the countries has been primarily focused on three areas, to save lives, protect health workers and stop the spread of the virus.”

PAHO and WHO have developed and shared with countries a comprehensive package on general guid-

ance on surveillance, lab testing, infection prevention and control, a readiness checklist, and risk communication and community engagement.

The COVID-19 outbreaks over the previous weeks were related to people attending crowded settings, engaging in confined space with limited physical distancing and not wearing masks in public spaces. In some instance the cluster of cases occurred in institutional settings.

The current intensity of transmission and response capacity of the health system in Saint Vincent and other countries require for adjustment of the public health and social measures tailored to the local context and stepping up contact tracing of cases for targeted control. Dr Gebre informed “Before new changes in public health measures are made, communities must also be fully consulted and engaged, considering the effects these measures may have on the general welfare of society and individuals.”

Region of the Americas

40,922,526
cases

947,544
deaths in

56
countries, areas, or territories

Global

91,816,091
cases

1,986,871
deaths in

236
countries, areas, or territories

He stated “We are in a very dangerous time in the course of the pandemic and we do not want to see people become complacent as vaccines are starting to rollout.”

“We reiterate that local communities, and visitors to Saint Vincent and Grenadines to exercise safe COVID-19 personal protective measures (such as hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, mask wearing); environmental measures (such as cleaning, disinfection, ventilation),” he said.

In addition to grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic, St Vincent and the Grenadines is faced with two additional challenges, the La Soufriere volcanic activity and dengue outbreak.

On the matter of the La Soufriere volcanic activity, Dr Gebre informed on the importance of providing essential technical-scientific information on the volcanic threat, and risk management in the current situation coupled with COVID-19. He assured that PAHO will support this effort with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and other regional entities.

He said “We will work with all parties to identify and share the volcanic risk factors that affect health; improve preparedness and response, and support to strengthen epidemiological surveillance in the face of

volcanic risk.”



PAHO/WHO Advisor on Health Systems and Services, Dr Rufus Ewing, in addition to providing a comprehensive overview of PAHO’s technical and financial support to the

country since the start of the pandemic, reported on the dengue support provided to St Vincent and the Grenadines. He said support was provided in:

- Capacity building for testing by providing laboratory reagents for dengue testing and serotyping, and training of laboratory staff;
- Procurement of a dialysis machine to increase capacity for the management of severe cases of dengue; and
- Development of risk communication messages to reduce transmission of both COVID-19 and Dengue
- Procurement of insecticides, insecticide application equipment and entomological supplies to strengthen their vector control programmes.

PAHO has committed funding in the amount of United States \$489,886 to St Vincent and the Grenadines since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, in the form of essential equipment and supplies and technical support.

COVID-19 highlights:

COUNTRY	COVID-19 CASE UPDATE
Anguilla	last case on 02 January 2021
Antigua and Barbuda	last case on 14 January 2021
Barbados	last case on 14 January 2021
British Virgin Islands (UK)	last case on 24 December 2020
Dominica	last case on 09 January 2021
Grenada	last case on 08 January 2021
Montserrat	no new cases for 169 days
Saint Kitts and Nevis	last case on 07 January 2021
Saint Lucia	last case on 14 January 2021
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	last case on 15 January 2021

- COVID-19 cases continue to increase, during the last 24 hours, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Saint Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines all reported new cases.
- *Antigua and Barbuda* reported **08** cases, *Barbados* **39** cases, *Saint Lucia* **41** cases and *Saint Vincent and the Grenadines* reported **62** new cases .

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- **Barbados** - In a COVID-19 update and press conference held 14 January 2021, it was revealed that 8 persons including Prime Minister Mia Mottley received the first round of a COVID-19 vaccine.

A new health policy for COVID-19 was also discussed, that is, the introduction of a diagnostic test during the current 14 day quarantine period to reduce the length of quarantine.

- **Saint Lucia** - On 15 January 2021, the Ministry of Health and Wellness informed on plan to implement two electronic monitoring devices, the Amber wristwatch and Bio Intellisense Biobutton, to assist in improving the monitoring of persons on home quarantine. The devices are monitored remotely in country.
- **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** reported its first COVID-19 death on 15 January, 2021, a forty-nine (49) year old female.
- **Anguilla** - In a January 15, 2021 press release, the Ministry of Health informed that the United Kingdom will provide Anguilla and the other overseas territories with vaccines against COVID-19. The first two tranches of the AstraZeneca vaccine is expected to arrive by the second week of February.

Classification of transmission scenarios

WHO recommends using the following categories to describe transmission patterns at national and sub-national levels (wherever possible) to guide decisions for preparedness, readiness and response activities.

CATEGORY NAME	DEFINITION
No cases	Countries/territories/areas with no cases
Sporadic cases	Countries/territories/areas with one or more cases, imported or locally detected
Cluster of cases	Countries/territories/areas experiencing cases, clustered in time, geographic location and/or by common exposures
Community transmission	Countries/territories/areas experiencing larger outbreaks of local transmission defined through an assessment of factors including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large numbers of cases not linkable to transmission chains • Large numbers of cases from sentinel lab surveillance • Multiple unrelated clusters in several areas of the country/territory/area

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

COUNTRY	CONFIRMED CASES	ACTIVE CASES	DEATHS	# OF TESTS	TRANSMISSION TYPE	STATUS OF SCHOOLS	TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS	MASKS MANDATORY	STATE OF EMERGENCY (CURFEW)	COVID-19 WEB ADDRESS AND HOTLINE
ANGUILLA	15	0	0	6,521	Sporadic cases	Open	Yes	No	No	https://beatcovid19.ai/ (264) 476-7627
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	187	25	6	7,551	Sporadic cases	Open	Yes	-	Yes	https://ab.gov.ag/detail_page.php?page=42 (268) 462-6843
BARBADOS	1,007	-	7	83,905	Clusters of cases	Closed	Yes	In public buildings	Yes	https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/covid-19/ (246) 536-4500
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	121	19	1	16,204	Clusters of cases	-	Yes	Yes	No	https://bvi.gov.vg/covid-19 (284) 852-7650
DOMINICA	110	-	0	8,257	Clusters of cases	Open	Yes	Specific settings only	No	http://dominica.gov.dm/corona (767) 448-2151
FRENCH GUIANA	14,526	-	74	-	Community transmission	-	Yes	-	-	
GRENADA	139	09	1	18,314	Sporadic cases	Varied stages of reopening	Lifted	Yes	Yes	https://covid19.gov.gd/ (473) 458-4787 / (473) 538-4787
GUADELOUPE	8,948	-	156	--	Community transmission	-	Yes	-	-	https://www.guadeloupe.ars.sante.fr/
MARTINIQUE	6,302	-	43	122,755	Community transmission	-	Yes	-	-	https://www.martinique.ars.sante.fr/
MONTSERRAT	13	0	1	814	No cases	-	Yes	No	No	http://www.gov.ms/latest-on-the-coronavirus/
SAINT BARTHELEMY	281	-	0	-	Sporadic cases	-	-	-	-	
ST KITTS & NEVIS	34	-	0	6,391	Sporadic cases	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	https://www.covid19.gov.kn/
SAINT LUCIA	543	216	5	21,568	Sporadic cases	Closed.	Yes	Specific settings only	Yes	https://www.covid19response.lc/
SAINT MARTIN	1,117	-	12	-	Community transmission	-	-	-	-	https://www.stmartinweek.fr/
ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	450	339	1	24,346	Clusters of cases	Varied stages of reopening	No	Specific settings only	No	http://health.gov.vc/health/index.php/c (784) 534-4325
TOTAL	33,793	608	306	316,626						

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.

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PAHO's Response



PAHO ECC Support to special needs children in Antigua and Barbuda

St Johns, Antigua, January 13, 2021 (PAHO/WHO) – In response to a request from the Ministry of Health and the Environment for the Ministry of Education, the PAHO/WHO Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries donated Information Technology (IT) equipment.

The two Apple iPads and accessories are intended to support and provide for the needs of children with disabilities and special communication needs. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the equipment will facilitate online learning during home schooling for students.

On behalf of the PAHO/WHO Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries, Assistant to the Country Program Specialist in Antigua and Barbuda, Ms Rhea Ireland presented the equipment to Ms Joy Ann Harrigan, Education Officer with responsibility for special Needs children.

[Link](#) to previous Situation Updates



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