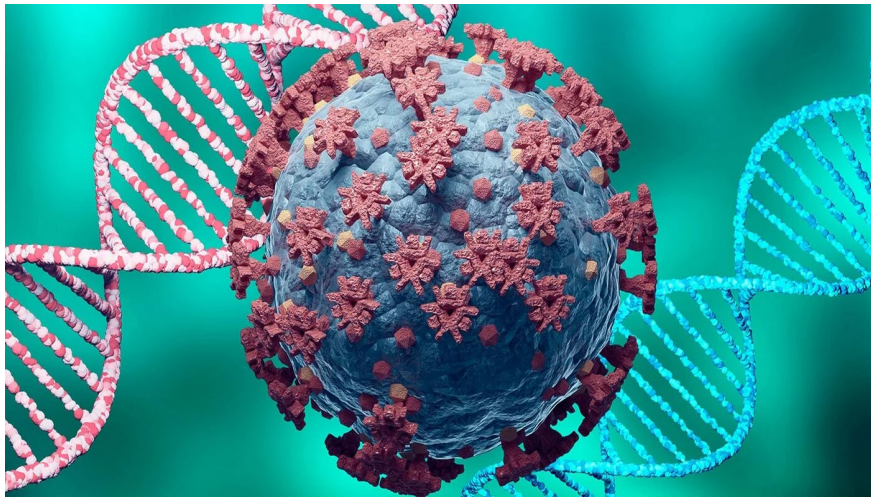




COVID-19 Situation Update - 134

23 July 2021

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



Regional Genomic Surveillance Network tracks COVID-19 virus variants throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, PAHO reports

The network coordinated by PAHO has detected the presence of at least one “variant of concern” in 47 countries and territories and all four in 11. PAHO Director says public health measures remain vital and calls for increased vaccine access to fight variants.

Washington, D.C. July 21, 2021 (PAHO) – Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Director Carissa F. Etienne reported that the Americas’ year-old COVID-19 Genomic Surveillance Regional Network “keeps a close eye” on the emergence and spread of SARS-CoV-2 variants throughout the region.

“The network has been instrumental in monitoring the virus’s spread within border regions and among travelers, who are often the first to

introduce variants into a country,” Dr. Etienne said during her weekly media briefing.

So far, 47 countries and territories in the Americas have detected at least one “variant of concern” and 11 have detected all four of them – alpha, beta, gamma, and delta.

Dr. Etienne explained that the Network started as a handful of public health labs in 2020, including the regional sequencing labs Fundação Oswaldo Cruz/FIOCRUZ - Brazil and Instituto de Salud Pública de Chile (ISPCH), which carry out sequencing for countries without local capacity. The Network has grown to include 24 labs in total, among them four additional reference laboratories – Mexico’s Institute of Epidemiological Diagn-

Region of the Americas

75,567,799
cases

1,983,054
deaths in

56
countries, areas, or territories

711,308,841
total vaccine doses administered

Global

192,284,207
cases

4,136,518
deaths in

236
countries, areas, or territories

3,568,861,733
total vaccine doses administered

ostics and Reference (INDRE), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the University of West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago, and the Gorgas Institute in Panama.

“Together, and using science as a common language, countries committed to bolster their laboratory capacity, hire staff, and make surveillance a priority, building on the legacy of our region’s longstanding dengue and influenza surveillance and laboratory networks,” Dr. Etienne said.

[Read more...](#)

COVID-19 highlights:

COUNTRY	COVID-19 HIGHLIGHT
ANGUILLA	For the period July 1 - 21, 2021, Anguilla recorded 4 new COVID19 cases. On 21 July, the Government of Anguilla donated 2,000 doses of the Astra Zeneca covid-19 vaccine to the Government of The Bahamas. The donation was agreed by and arranged with the UK Government and at the request of the Government of the Bahamas.
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	<p>One COVID-19 related death was reported on Wednesday July 21. Sadly, a seven (7) month old baby boy passed away at Sir Lester Bird Mount St. John's Medical Centre having been brought into the hospital in a critical condition.</p> <p>On 22 July, the Ministry of Health and the Environment received confirmation from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) of the delta variant strain of SARS CoV-2 in Antigua and Barbuda.</p>
BARBADOS	<p>On 21 July, Barbados reported 17 new covid-19 cases, with 173 persons in isolation.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health and Wellness reported that some visitors have been presenting false vaccination certificates and covid-19 test results to avoid quarantine. The team stationed at ports of entry continue to be very vigilant.</p> <p>ALL travellers into Barbados, inclusive of those fully vaccinated, must travel with a valid negative Standard COVID-19 PCR test result. The specimen taken must be a nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swab (or both) taken by a healthcare provider, the sample must be taken within 3 days prior to arrival, and the laboratory performing the test must be an accredited, certified or recognized facility.</p>
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	Covid-19 cases continue to spike in the British Virgin Islands. Following a vaccination drive initiative which commenced 17 July 2021, 1,308 persons were vaccinated over a 4 day period. Premier and Minister of Finance, Hon. Andrew Fahie continued his appeal for persons to be vaccinated stating that only two of the many persons hospitalized with covid-19 were vaccinated.
DOMINICA	<p>In a 18 July 2021 press release a covid-19 cluster was reported in the Grandfond community in Dominica. Six travellers arrived in Dominica from the British Virgin Islands, five of whom returned positive tests results.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health and Wellness has been active in that community swabbing and testing primary and secondary contacts as well as random testing of residents.</p>
FRENCH GUIANA	Within the last 24 hours 134 covid-19 cases were reported and 1 death.
GRENADA	<p>The Ministry of Health is in discussions to access the Sinopharm vaccine and the Pfizer vaccine from the US. Plans on the way to launch an electronic version of the vaccine card using a QR code. There will also be the option for a vaccine card similar to the format of a driver's license with a photo ID.</p> <p>Sandals hotel workers have joined St George's University workers in protests regarding mandatory vaccination in the workplace. It has been reported that unvaccinated Sandals workers will be placed on three month's no pay leave as of July 16th and will be required to present evidence of being fully vaccinated prior to returning to work.</p>
GUADELOUPE	In Guadeloupe, the number of people tested positive with a known address in Guadeloupe and collected locally or in another French department was 311 in week 2021-28 against 189 the previous week. Use of screening was on the rise (2,040 tests / 100,000 inhabitants (corrected rate taking into account the public holiday of July 14) against 1,536 / 100,000 inhabitants, in week 2021-27)
MONTSERRAT	<p>On 23 July 2021, the Ministry of Health and Social Services announced the recovery of the island's 21st case of covid-19. CARPHA confirmed the strain of the infection to be the Gamma variant.</p> <p>The Government of Montserrat has expanded the categories of persons allowed to enter the island, and have made provisions for the use of electronic monitoring devices under the new public health covid-19 suppression order. More information...http://www.gov.ms</p>

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SAINT MARTIN	In Saint-Martin, 56 new positive cases with an administrative residence address in Saint-Martin were identified in week 2021-28 against 52 in week 2021-27. The screening rate was increasing (4,577 / 100,000 inhabitants in week 2021-28 (corrected rate) against 4 412/100 000 inhab. in week 2021-27).
SAINT BARTHÉLEMY	In Saint-Barthélemy, 8 new people with an administrative residence address in Saint-Barthélemy tested positive in week 2021-28 versus 6 in week 2021-27. The screening rate was increasing (10,401 people tested / 100,000 inhabitants (rate corrected) in week 2021-28 against 8,102 people / 100,000 inhabitants. the previous week).
ST. KITTS AND NEVIS	Seaborne Odessey the 1st cruise ship coming into St. Kitts and Nevis since 2019 docked at Friars Bay on July 22nd 2021. Passengers on pre-approved bubble tours will be the only persons allowed off the ship. Staff at the tour destinations will be properly attired in their PPES and passengers are not be allowed to go anywhere else other than the approved sites. As of July 20, 2021, 55 residents at Her Majesty's Prison and 6 members of staff have fully recovered from the COVID-19 virus. They were given the all-clear by health officials after having two negative tests recently. Currently, there is one (1) resident and eleven (11) members of staff who are still considered active cases.
SAINT LUCIA	9 new covid-19 cases were reported for the period 20-22 July, 2021. On 22 July 2021, one new covid-19 death was reported, a 30 year old female with pre-existing medical conditions.
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	5 new covid-19 cases were reported between 20-21 July 2021.

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights:

COUNTRY	TYPE OF VACCINE	NUMBER OF VACCINE ADMINISTERED	
		1st Dose	2nd Dose
Anguilla	AstraZeneca	9,362	8,445
Antigua and Barbuda	AstraZeneca	37,555	30,292
Barbados	AstraZeneca	98,592	73,814
British Virgin Islands	AstraZeneca	15,620	10,881
Dominica	AstraZeneca	20,784	19,550
French Guiana		54,020	38,142
Grenada	AstraZeneca	20,925	14,430
Guadeloupe	AstraZeneca	70,302	45,644
Martinique	Pfizer	61,227	50,262
Montserrat	AstraZeneca	1,390	1,202
Saint Barthelemy			
Saint Kitts & Nevis	AstraZeneca	41,956	18,984
Saint Lucia	AstraZeneca	31,977	23,821
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	AstraZeneca	15,000	9,955

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	COVID-19 WEB ADDRESS AND HOTLINE
ANGUILLA	113	02	0	32,373	Imported/Sporadic cases	Open	Yes	No	https://beatcovid19.ai/ (264) 476-7627
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	1,280	08	43	-	Clusters of cases	Open	Yes	-	https://ab.gov.ag/detail_page.php?page=42 (268) 462-6843
BARBADOS	4,319	-	48	205,925	Community transmission	Online	Yes	Yes	https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/covid-19/ (246) 536-4500
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	2,210	1,604	23	56,559	Community transmission	Both face to face & online	Yes	Yes	https://bvi.gov.vg/covid-19 (284) 852-7650
DOMINICA	209	13	0	20,743	Imported/Sporadic cases	Open	Yes	Yes	http://dominica.gov.dm/corona (767) 448-2151
FRENCH GUIANA	29,149	-	170	-	Community transmission	-	Yes	-	
GRENADA	165	03	01	43,518	Imported/Sporadic cases	Varied stages of reopening	Lifted	Yes	https://covid19.gov.gd/ (473) 458-4787 / (473) 538-4787
GUADELOUPE	17,982	-	278	-	Community transmission	-	Yes	-	https://www.guadeloupe.ars.sante.fr/
MARTINIQUE	14,964	-	102	-	Community transmission	-	Yes	-	https://www.martinique.ars.sante.fr/
MONTSERRAT	21	0	01	2,813	No cases	Face to face sessions	Yes	No	https://www.gov.ms/covid-19/
SAINT BARTHELEMY	1,057	-	01	-	Clusters of cases	-	-	-	
ST KITTS & NEVIS	560	38	03	22,365	Community transmission	Closed since 24 May 2021	Yes	Yes	https://www.covid19.gov.kn/
SAINT LUCIA	5,516	104	87	33,260	Community transmission	Online	Yes	Specific settings	https://www.covid19response.lc/
SAINT MARTIN	2,523	-	30	-	Community transmission	-	-	-	https://www.stmartinweek.fr/
ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	2,271	60	12	58,476	Community transmission	Online	No	Specific settings	http://health.gov.vc/health/index.php/c (784) 534-4325
TOTAL	82,339	1,822	799	476,032					

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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COVID-19 advice for the public: Getting vaccinated

The world is in the midst of a COVID-19 pandemic. As WHO and partners work together on the response -- tracking the pandemic, advising on critical interventions, distributing vital medical supplies to those in need--- they are racing to develop and deploy safe and effective vaccines.

Vaccines save millions of lives each year. Vaccines work by training and preparing the body's natural defences – the immune system – to recognize and fight off the viruses and bacteria they target. After vaccination, if the body is later exposed to those disease-causing germs, the body is immediately ready to destroy them, preventing illness.

There are several safe and effective vaccines that prevent people from getting seriously ill or dying from COVID-19. This is one part of managing COVID-19, in addition to the main preventive measures of staying at least 1 metre away from others, covering a cough or sneeze in your elbow, frequently cleaning your hands, wearing a mask and avoiding poorly ventilated rooms or opening a window.

As of 3 June 2021, WHO has evaluated that the following vaccines against COVID-19 have met the necessary criteria for safety and efficacy:

- [AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine](#)
- [Johnson and Johnson](#)
- [Moderna](#)
- [Pfizer/BionTech](#)
- [Sinopharm](#)
- [Sinovac](#)

Read our [Q&A](#) on the Emergency Use Listing process to find out more about how WHO assesses the quality, safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines.

[Read more...](#)

Vaccines Campaign

In most countries, vaccinations are not mandatory and thus public willingness to be vaccinated against COVID-19 is of high priority to achieve the goal of reaching herd immunity. As we seek to tackle vaccine hesitancy related to COVID-19 vaccines in the Caribbean and in keeping with the request made by some member states, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) have developed [communication materials](#) to address some of the gaps in knowledge and concerns on the COVID-19 vaccines. Launched 21 May 2021, these communication materials include videos, social media cards, and radio public service announcements. The main topics covered are:

- How vaccines are developed
- How vaccines work
- Vaccine safety
- Side effects of vaccines
- The benefits of vaccines

[Link](#) to previous Situation Updates



www.paho.org/coronavirus



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