



COVID-19 Situation Update - 137

13 August 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.



PAHO Director appeals to Caribbean people to get vaccinated and observe protective measures

Washington, D.C., August 12, 2021 (PAHO) — Dr. Carissa F. Etienne, Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), expressed concern about COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in Caribbean countries and made a strong appeal to people to get vaccinated.

Speaking at her weekly media briefing, Dr. Etienne, who is from Dominica, said, "I am truly very concerned about what is happening in the Caribbean" with people reluctant to get vaccines and relaxing their adherence to public health measures.

"So please, please, please take your vaccines and please wear your masks properly, social distance. I know the Caribbean people like to be close, and we like fetes, and we like to congregate, but please avoid congregation.

Observe respiratory etiquette and wash your hands frequently."

She noted that small islands in the Caribbean have limited bed capacity in intensive care units, along with limited numbers of specialized doctors. "Our health systems will become overwhelmed very quickly," she said.

In the English-speaking Caribbean, more than 1,315,197 COVID-19 cases and more than 16,136 deaths have been reported since the beginning of the pandemic. Cases are rising in Jamaica, Martinique, the Bahamas, and Dominica. "Over the past month, infections increased 30-fold in Martinique and there has been a significant spike in hospitalizations," Dr. Etienne said in her briefing.

To date, over 1.1 million people

Region of the Americas

79,872,560
cases

2,046,811
deaths in

56
countries, areas, or territories

814,668,026
total vaccine doses administered

Global

205,338,159
cases

4,333,094
deaths in

236
countries, areas, or territories

4,428,168,759
total vaccine doses administered

in the Caribbean, comprising about 15% of the population have been fully vaccinated, according to PAHO figures. This does not include Haiti, which recently began its vaccination effort.

"What we are seeing now is persons totally relaxing on the public health measures and a high level of vaccine hesitancy," Dr. Etienne said. "Even when vaccines are available, persons are not coming forward. We are seeing vaccine hesitancy in healthcare workers."

[Read more...](#)

COVID-19 highlights:



Some participants in the **Saint Lucia** meeting. From left Dr. Sharon Belmar-George, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Sylvain Aldighieri, Deputy Director (PHE) | Health Emergencies - PAHO and Dr. Yitades Gebre, PAHO/WHO Representative for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries.



Some participants in the **Dominica** meeting. From top left Hon. Dr. Irving McIntyre, Minister of Health, Dr. Yitades Gebre, PAHO/WHO Representative for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries, Dr. David Johnson, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Sylvain Aldighieri, Deputy Director (PHE) | Health Emergencies - PAHO and Dr. Enrique Perez, Unit Chief, Health Emergency Information and Risk Assessment - PAHO

On Thursday 12 August 2021, technical meetings were held between the Ministry of Health authorities of Saint Lucia and Dominica and PAHO Incident Management team at headquarters and Advisors at the PAHO/WHO Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries (ECC) to discuss the current surge of COVID -19 cases and to provide technical support. Areas of technical assistance were identified and are being actioned.

COUNTRY	COVID-19 HIGHLIGHT
<p>ANGUILLA</p>	<p>As of 12 August 2021, Anguilla confirmed a total of 127 cases COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic, currently with ten active cases.</p> <p>Effective September 6, 2021 all primary schools will return to full day face to face school.</p> <p>In light of the epidemiological situation in Anguilla, coupled with the increased prevalence of the Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus regionally and globally, the following recommendations made by the Ministry of Health, will be in effect from August 16, 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All returning vaccinated residents will be subject to a quarantine period of four (4) days; • All returning resident unvaccinated minors will be quarantine for a period of ten (10) days regardless of the vaccination status of parents and guardians. This is in keeping with current evidence that younger persons are now being impacted by the Delta variant, which is much more infectious than other strains.
<p>ANTIGUA & BARBUDA</p>	<p>In a 13 August 2021 release, it was reported that the Gamma variant of concern was found in 3 samples taken between 18-22 July, 2021 and the Delta variant identified in 5 samples.</p> <p>On August 12, 2021, the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment received 17,550 doses of the Pfizer vaccine from the United States Government, which facilitated by the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA). 12,000 doses of the Astra Zeneca vaccine was also donated by the United Kingdom.</p> <p>The dashboard for August 11, 2021 reported 24 new laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Antigua and Barbuda, with 74 active cases.</p>

BARBADOS	<p>On August 13, 2021 Barbados received 70,000 doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, a donation from the United States of America.</p> <p>In an August 12, 2021 update, Barbados reported 13 new COVID-19 cases.</p> <p>On August 11, 2021 the second Townhall meeting on COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing was held in Barbados. The meeting was facilitated by senior members of government from various ministries, the labor movement and private sector.</p>
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	All public and private schools will be allowed to open and students return to school campuses and engage in face to face instruction for the 2021 - 2022 academic year.
ST. KITTS AND NEVIS	On August 12, 2021, 11,700 doses of the Pfizer vaccine arrived in Saint Kitts and Nevis, a donation from the United States of America.
SAINT LUCIA	<p>In an August 13, 2021 report, 82 new cases of COVID-19 were recorded in Saint Lucia, from samples taken 10-12 August 2021. The Minister of Health, Wellness and Elderly reported that 3 cases of the Alpha variant and 3 cases of the Delta variant were confirmed in the country.</p> <p>One COVID-19 related death was recorded on August 12, 2021, a 77 year old male.</p>

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights:

COUNTRY	TYPE OF VACCINE	NUMBER OF VACCINE ADMINISTERED	
		1st Dose	2nd Dose
Anguilla	AstraZeneca	9,493	8,965
Antigua and Barbuda	AstraZeneca	7,301	31,414
Barbados	AstraZeneca	100,760	82,733
British Virgin Islands	AstraZeneca	16,739	12,433
Dominica	AstraZeneca	21,063	19,732
French Guiana		60,265	42,012
Grenada	AstraZeneca	21,371	16,075
Guadeloupe	AstraZeneca	81,628	50,871
Martinique	Pfizer	61,227	52,334
Montserrat	AstraZeneca	1,440	1,295
Saint Barthelemy			
Saint Kitts & Nevis	AstraZeneca	44,067	26,162
Saint Lucia	AstraZeneca	33,474	25,275
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	AstraZeneca	15,799	10,034

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	127	10	0	-	Imported/Sporadic cases	Open	Yes	No	https://beatcovid19.ai/ (264) 476-7627
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	1,372	74	43	-	Clusters of cases	Open	Yes	-	https://ab.gov.ag/detail_page.php?page=42 (268) 462-6843
BARBADOS	4,509	-	48	234,495	Community transmission	Online	Yes	Yes	https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/covid-19/ (246) 536-4500
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	2,552	46	37	71,346	Community transmission	Both face to face & online	Yes	Yes	https://bvi.gov.vg/covid-19 (284) 852-7650
DOMINICA	576	361	0	22,842	Clusters of cases	Open	Yes	Yes	http://dominica.gov.dm/corona (767) 448-2151
FRENCH GUIANA	31,633	-	197	-	Community transmission	-	Yes	-	
GRENADA	180	03	01	-	Imported/Sporadic cases	Varied stages of reopening	Lifted	Yes	https://covid19.gov.gd/ (473) 458-4787 / (473) 538-4787
GUADELOUPE	26,771	-	291	-	Community transmission	-	Yes	-	https://www.guadeloupe.ars.sante.fr/
MARTINIQUE	27,883	-	184	-	Community transmission	-	Yes	-	https://www.martinique.ars.sante.fr/
MONTSERRAT	22	0	01	-	No cases	Face to face sessions	Yes	No	https://www.gov.ms/covid-19/
SAINT BARTHELEMY	1,453	-	01	-	Clusters of cases	-	-	-	
ST KITTS & NEVIS	642	57	03	-	Community transmission	Closed since 24 May 2021	Yes	Yes	https://www.covid19.gov.kn/
SAINT LUCIA	6,194	568	95	-	Community transmission	Online	Yes	Specific settings	https://www.covid19response.lc/
SAINT MARTIN	2,872	-	33	-	Community transmission	-	-	-	https://www.stmartinweek.fr/
ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	2,308	44	12	63,293	Community transmission	Online	No	Specific settings	http://health.gov.vc/health/index.php/c (784) 534-4325
TOTAL	109,094	1,163	946						

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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Vaccine 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

WHO's Solidarity clinical trial enters a new phase with three new candidate drugs



The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced the next phase in its Solidarity trial: Solidarity PLUS will enroll hospitalized patients to test three new drugs in hospitalized COVID-19 patients.

These therapies - artesunate, imatinib and infliximab – were selected by an independent expert panel for their potential in reducing the risk of death in hospitalized COVID-19 patients. They are already used for other indications: artesunate is used for severe malaria, imatinib for certain cancers, and infliximab for diseases of the immune system such as Crohn's Disease and rheumatoid arthritis.

These drugs were donated for the trial by their manufacturers.

"Finding more effective and accessible therapeutics for COVID-19 patients remains a critical need, and WHO is proud to lead this global effort," said *Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General*. "I would like to thank the participating governments, pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, clinicians and patients, who have come together to do this in true global solidarity."

[Read more...](#)

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