



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

COVID-19 has infected some 570,000 health workers and killed 2,500 in the Americas, PAHO Director says

Despite downward trends, human cost of pandemic remains unacceptably high, with almost 4,000 deaths a day in region

Health workers are especially vulnerable to COVID-19, and in the Region of the Americas,

“We have the highest number of health care workers infected in the world,” PAHO Director Carissa F. Etienne said during a press conference on Wednesday. “Our data shows that nearly 570,000 health workers across our region have fallen ill and more than 2,500 have succumbed to the virus.”

With almost 13.5 million COVID 19 cases and over 469,000 deaths reported in the Americas (on Wednesday), including around 4,000 deaths a day in our region, the scale of this pandemic is unprecedented. “No other group has felt this more acutely than the very men and women who make up our health workforce,” Etienne said.

She noted that “in the U.S. and Mexico—which have some of the highest case counts in the world—health workers represent one in every seventh case” and these two countries account for nearly 85% of all COVID deaths among health care workers in our region.

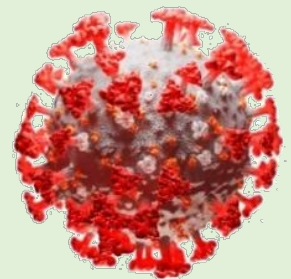
To combat these trends, “countries must ensure that health workers can do their jobs safely. This will require maintaining sufficient supplies of PPE and ensuring that everyone is effectively trained in infection control to avoid risking their own health.”

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PREPARE.

ACT.



COVID-19 case update:

On 4 September 2020, there were 16 new persons confirmed positive for covid-19 by PCR test in the British Virgin Islands.

| COUNTRY | COVID-19 CASE UPDATE |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Anguilla | no new cases for 153 days |
| Antigua and Barbuda | last case on 03 September 2020 |
| Barbados | last case on 31 August 2020 |
| British Virgin Islands (UK) | 16 new cases 04 September 2020 |
| Dominica | last case on 02 September 2020 |
| Grenada | last case on 31 July 2020 |
| Montserrat | no new cases for 43 days |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis | last case on 10 July |
| Saint Lucia | last case on 18 August 2020 |
| Saint Vincent & Grenadines | last case on 01 September 2020 |

Updates

Global

26,302,423 confirmed cases,

868,618 deaths *in*

216 countries, areas, or territories

PAHO - Region of the Americas

13,856,963 confirmed cases,

480,696 deaths *in*

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 2 September 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 | 3 | 0 | 914 | No cases | Schools open | Yes | No | No | https://beatcovid19.ai/ (264) 476-7627 |
| Antigua & Barbuda | 95 | 3 | 2,023 | Clusters of cases | - | Yes | | Yes | https://ab.gov.ag/detail_page.php?page=42 (268) 462-6843 |
| Barbados | 177 | 7 | 17,677 | Clusters of cases | Varied stages of reopening | Yes | Yes | No | https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/covid-19/ (246) 536-4500 |
| British Virgin Islands | 63 | 1 | 3,713 | Sporadic cases only | Partial opening | Yes | Yes | Yes | https://bvi.gov.vg/covid-19 (284) 852-7650 |
| Dominica | 22 | 0 | 2,077 | Clusters cases only | Schools closed | Yes | Specific settings only | No | http://dominica.gov.dm/corona (767) 448-2151 |
| French Guiana | 9,276 | 62 | - | Community transmission | - | Yes | - | - | |
| Grenada | 24 | 0 | 3,000 | Clusters of case | Partial reopening of schools | Lifted | Yes | Yes | https://covid19.gov.gd/ (473) 458-4787 / (473) 538-4787 |
| Guadeloupe | 1,363 | 20 | - | Clusters of cases | - | Yes | - | - | https://www.guadeloupe.ars.sante.fr/ |
| Martinique | 754 | 18 | - | Clusters of cases | - | Yes | - | - | https://www.martinique.ars.sante.fr/ |
| Montserrat | 13 | 1 | 285 | No cases | Partial reopening of schools | Yes | No | No | http://www.gov.ms/latest-on-the-coronavirus/ |
| Saint Barthélemy | 18 | 0 | - | Sporadic cases only | - | - | - | - | |
| St Kitts & Nevis | 17 | 0 | 1,635 | No cases | Schools closed | Yes | Yes | Yes | https://www.covid19.gov.kn/ |
| Saint Lucia | 26 | 0 | 5,730 | Sporadic cases only | - | Yes | Specific settings only | Yes | https://www.covid19response.lc/ |
| Saint Martin | 239 | 6 | | Sporadic cases only | - | | - | - | https://www.stmartinweek.fr/ |
| St Vincent & the Grenadines | 61 | 0 | 3,897 | Sporadic cases only | Partial reopening of schools | No | Specific settings only | No | http://health.gov.vc/health/index.php/c (784) 534-4325 |
| Total | 12,151 | 118 | 40,951 | | | | | | |

Table 1: COVID-19 status in Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Countries, French Territories and United Kingdom Overseas Territories. 'Sporadic cases only' 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.

Steps for Safe reopening of schools



Barbados was recently advised that there is enough evidence to suggest schools can reopen safely.

PAHO/WHO Representative for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries, Dr. Yitades Gebre, on Tuesday 1st September, 2020 in a Daily Nation newspaper feature, acknowledged that one must balance the COVID-19 risks with the benefits of attending school and the welfare of both students and teachers.

“We understand that being in school is critical for children’s social development and also for their protection and safety. Children not attending schools and receiving poor education will horribly affect their long-term academic development, well-being and success,” Dr. Gebre said.

“Teachers are important frontline workers who ensure children’s education, safety, and well-being in schools. We can’t only consider COVID-19 and health-related consequences while thinking of school reopening and children’s well-being, but other critical services that kids receive at schools such as protection, vaccinations, and school feeding, etc., are also vital.”

However, Dr. Gebre outlined three reasons why it is believed schools in Barbados can reopen safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Countries maintained a low incidence rate in general and no infections were attributable to school attendance. Hence, the risk of spread in schools in these countries remain low at this time.

“Regardless of this fact, the public health risk in the future should concern us and necessitate to act early.”

Outlining the second reason for his recommendation, Dr. Gebre wrote: “COVID-19 arrived at different regions of the world at different times and in differing magnitude. The current knowledge underline containment measures of COVID-19 in schools to include physical distancing, masks, environmental management, measures of early detection, testing, contact tracing, and isolation. And on the side of children’s education we want to achieve good attendance, quality education, equity while protecting the health and well-being of all students and staff.

“Early in this pandemic, countries in Europe that experienced high COVID-19 incidence rates with community transmissions have now turned around the situation and experimented with different school-opening strategies. Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean could learn and adapt their strategies as deemed reasonable. These implementation approaches included various elements; for example, wearing face masks, alternate days of school or alternate shifts, etc. Hence, what we can implement here could be the common strategies that are very pragmatic and useful for the Caribbean geography, education culture, climate, socio-economy, acceptability and epidemic reality.”

Dr. Gebre’s third reason for recommending the reopening of schools is that as educational institutions, schools are well placed to follow the protocols.

“The COVID-19 public health measures at large are the same and they do not differ in schools or in other settings, and actually schools are better equipped to enforce the adherence to those recommended measures. Cleaning hands frequently, covering a cough or sneeze with a bent elbow or tissue, maintaining at least a one-metre distance, avoiding touching the face, and wearing masks when appropriate are critical to prevent transmission.”

Dr. Gebre also offered advice on the wearing of masks.

“The use of masks by schoolchildren has to be age-adjusted and health condition specific. Masks are part of a comprehensive package of measures to suppress transmission and save lives. Wearing of masks by some teachers in classrooms may impede some students learning and effective teaching. The use of face shields by certain teachers may be an alternate approach.”

PWR recommended strategies to reduce the gathering of large numbers of children.

“Staggering the start and stop time, breaks and lunch times for each cohorts of students, and “alternate shift” or “alternate days” when students are to attend schools are practical ways to minimise infection risks.”

One other strategy was proposed. “One schooling strategy often mentioned by countries is “bubble” or “grouping” – children kept in one group do not mix with other groups. Bubbling and distancing are not the same, but it is complementary, for example for younger children who are less likely to keep their distance. The advantage of maintaining distinct groups or bubbles is that it makes it quicker and easier, in the event of a positive case, to identify those who may need to self-isolate and keep that number as small as possible. In this way, in case of identification, the isolation will be from a bubble within a class instead of closing the entire school.”



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

Visit our website: www.paho.org/ecc

