

COVID-19

PAHO JAMAICA CO EOC – COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT #193 19 SEPTEMBER 2020 (as at 6:00 p.m.)

HIGHLIGHTS

Countries /Territories	Cases (New cases - 24 hrs.)	Active cases	Recovered	Deaths (New deaths - 24 hrs.) [Crude case fatality rate]	Samples tested (Positivity rate)
*Jamaica	4,988 (230)	3,489 (70.1%)	1,350 (27.1%)	67 (7) [1.3%]	72,327 (6.9%)
Bermuda	180 (2)	5 (2.8%)	166 (92.2%)	9 (0) [5.0%]	58,742 (0.3%)
**Cayman Islands	208 (0)	3 (1.4%)	204 (98.1%)	1 (0) [0.5%]	37,425 (0.6%)

*73 confirmed cases (returned overseas prior to recovery) **As of 17 September 2020

1. Jamaica

- a. Confirmed cases: 4,988 (230 new)
 - i. 469 imported, 730 contacts of confirmed cases, 258 local cases-not epidemiologically linked, 236 related to a workplace cluster and 3,295 under investigation
 - ii. Sex: 2269 M (45%) / 2709 F (55%). 19 cases had no sex designation listed.
 - iii. Age: Mean: 38 years / Median 29 years / Age range: 1 day – 104 years
- b. Deaths: 67 (7 new) (1.3%) (on 18 March, 31 March, 1 April, 7 April, 14 April, 20 April, 22 April, 23 April, 3 May, 2 June, 21 July, 31 July, 5 August, 9 August, 15 August, 20 August, 23 August, 24 August x 3 persons, 25 August, 26 August, 27 August, 28 August, 29 August x 4 persons, 30 August, 31 August x 3, 1 September x 2, 2 September, 3 September x 3, 4 September x 2, 5 September x 2, 6 September x 2, 7 September, 8 September x 4, 10 September x 2, 11 September 2020 x 2, 12 September x 2, 14 September x 4, 15 September, 16 September x 2, 17 September 2020 x 3 and 19 September). There have been 4 coincidental deaths in persons who are SARS-CoV-2 positive and 5 deaths are under investigation.
- c. Recovered: 1,350 (27.1%)
- d. Returned overseas prior to recovery: 73 (1.5%)
- e. Active cases: 3,489 (70.1%) (9 critically ill, 29 moderately and severely ill)
 - i. Hospital: 103
- f. Isolation: 3,639
- g. Samples tested: 72,327 tested of which 4,988 are positive, 67,281 negative and 58 pending (6.9% positivity rate)
- h. Contacts: 10,404 (total), with 3,612 of these close contacts currently being followed
- i. Quarantine:
 - i. National Quarantine Facilities (NQF): 13
 - ii. Home quarantine: 23,784
 - iii. Community quarantine: 0 communities

2. Bermuda:

- a. Confirmed cases: 180 (2 new)

- i. 69 imported, 90 local transmission (known contact / source, 19 local transmission (known contact / source) and 2 under investigation
- b. Deaths: 9 (5.0%)
- c. Recovered: 166 (92.2%)
- d. Active cases: 5 (2.8%) (0 hospitalized)
- e. Samples tested: 58,742 with 180 positive and 58562 (0.3% positivity rate)
- f. As of 1 July 2020, Bermuda is in Phase 4 of re-opening – New Normal, with masks to be worn indoors. Outdoor wearing of masks must take place if physical distancing cannot be maintained. The international airport is open for commercial flights. As of 19 July 2020, the curfew is lifted, except for liquor stores which will close at midnight.

Phase 3B of the re-opening of Bermuda started on 18 June 2020 with masks to be worn in all public spaces, curfew from 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m., gatherings of no more than 20 persons with physical distancing observed and full personal services subject to public health guidelines. The phased re-opening of Bermuda started as of 2 May 2020 – Phase 2: Expansion of Services started on 21 May 2020 and Phase 3 on 11 June 2020.

3. Cayman Islands: As of 17 September 2020

- a. Confirmed cases: 208 (0 new)
- b. Deaths: 1 (0.5%)
- c. Recovered: 204 (98.1%)
- d. Active cases: 3 (1.4%), with 0 hospitalized
- e. Isolation: 180
- f. Samples tested: 37,425 with 208 positive (0.6% positivity rate)
- g. On 8 August, the government of the Cayman Islands announced that it will extend its border closure another 30 days to 1 October 2020 (phased re-opening) based on the upsurge in COVID-19 cases in other countries.

As of 19 July 2020, there has been an easing of Cayman COVID-19 suppression measures restrictions, while observing social distancing, which will remain in place until 31 August 2020. The use of 3 feet social distancing is now permitted for churches and offices. Other measures include up to 50 persons now allowed to gather in public, dancing and karaoke are allowed and nightclubs can open and accommodate up to 50 persons.

On 17 July 2020, the Government of the Cayman Islands announced that it will re-open its borders to international travelers on 1 September 2020.

As of 21 June 2020, The Cayman Islands is operating at Suppression Level 2 – minimal suppression. In public spaces, measures include wearing of masks, keeping six feet distance and gatherings of up to 25 persons. Masks must also be worn in certain indoor places. There has been a lifting of the shelter-in-place order, with no hard or soft curfew or restriction of movement by surname. Staff can return to work if safety measures such as physical distancing can be maintained. Only emergency international travel and essential domestic travel are allowed, with specific measures in place for domestic travel to and from all ports.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Jamaica, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands started preparedness for any possible introduction of the novel coronavirus – COVID-19 in early January 2020, immediately following identification of the novel coronavirus on 7 January 2020 in China.

The respective national level Committees / Councils continue to guide all sectors in the required preparedness and response actions.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

Jamaica:

- Government of Jamaica

- From 8 September 2020 to 23 September 2020:

- There will be an all-island curfew from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. daily.

- Gatherings should not exceed 15 persons and social distance of a minimum of 6 feet must be maintained.

- Churches are prohibited from hosting funerals, conventions and other special events.

- Burials may continue, however, only 15 persons are allowed at the graveside, including the clergy and funeral home personnel.

- Worship services may continue to be held within the existing guidelines, requiring temperature checks, sanitization and the mandatory wearing of masks.

- From 27 August 2020 to 30 September 2020, there will be a suspension of entertainment events requiring permits.

- As of 20 August 2020, all residents of Brazil, Mexico, Panama and USA, 12 years of age or older, who are planning to travel to Jamaica are required to obtain and upload a negative COVID-19 PCR test. This is regardless of nationality / passport or travel purpose. The sample must be taken within 10 days of the intended date of arrival in Jamaica. This also includes business travelers who will still be sampled at the airport.

- The Government of Jamaica continues its border management at Points of Entry from 1 July 2020 with health screening and risk assessment to determine the need for sampling for SARS-CoV-2.

- As of 15 July 2020, it was mandatory that non-residents, except business travelers, visiting Jamaica aged 12 years and older who are residents of locations designated as high risk obtain a COVID-19 PCR test within 10 days prior to their intended date of travel to Jamaica.

- The locations which were designated as high risk for this purpose by the Jamaican health authorities are Florida, New York, Arizona and Texas, United States of America.

- All persons applying to enter on visitjamaica.com on or after 7 July 2020 from the designated high risk areas will be required to upload their COVID-19 PCR test certificate as part of the application process.

- Business travelers will have samples taken at the POEs and remain in quarantine at their hotels / place of residence until the result is received.

- Residents - nationals or non-nationals ordinarily resident in Jamaica - returning from these areas will be quarantined at home for 14 days. Testing will be done if persons are assessed as high risk personally or are symptomatic or become symptomatic during the 14 day period.

- MOHW:

1. The updated MOHW Discharge Protocol for persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 Version 3.2 – September 4 2020 was finalized on 4 September 2020.

2. The updated MOHW Community Engagement plan was finalized during the week of 28 June 2020.
3. The MOHW COVID-19 Updated Discharge Protocol was disseminated to health care workers islandwide on 19 June 2020.
4. The surveillance guidelines are being updated to include general hospital and Point of Entry surveillance for COVID-19.
5. A new guideline was developed – Management of the COVID-19 exposed neonate-22 May 2020.
6. Two (2) of the twelve (12) National Quarantine Facilities (NQFs) remain active.
7. A new application for self-monitoring by persons in isolation and quarantine was implemented by the MOHW.
8. Additional isolation facilities have been identified to accommodate approximately 300 persons outside of hospital
9. Interim guidelines for the management of pregnant women completed and circulated.
10. Continue contact tracing, testing and quarantine of MOHW workers who are contacts of a confirmed case at the MOHW Head Office.
11. Escalate the identification of cases and contacts, contact tracing, establishment of national quarantine and isolation facilities and installation of equipment and materials for case management.
12. Expand community engagement and risk communication for persons in home quarantine and isolation.

- **PAHO:**

1. Coordination, planning and monitoring

- a. PAHO CO remains embedded in the MOHW EOC and provides 24-hour technical support and guidance, including to the twice daily EOC briefing meetings. Focus for the week of 13 September 2020 was on guidance for the MOHW, Jamaica on:
 - a. Laboratory testing strategy, including rapid antigen tests
 - b. Bed management, and
 - c. Infection Prevention and Control.
- b. PAHO CO hosted a special session in collaboration with PAHO and MOHW teams on PAHO Bed Management System for COVID-19 for Ministries of Health, Jamaica, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands and academia (37 participants) – 11 September 2020.
- c. PAHO CO hosted in collaboration with PAHO, WHO and MOHW teams, a special session for the MOHW Jamaica team islandwide and academia on Human Resources for Health and the COVID-19 – HRH Estimation tools - 10 September 2020.
- d. PAHO CO hosted in collaboration with PHE HIM a special session for MOHW senior technical team at national and sub-national levels (54 participants) on PAHO modelling tools – EpiEstim and COVIDSIM – 31 August 2020.
- e. PAHO CO hosted a special session with PHE HIM for the CMO and senior MOHW technical team which determined that the transmission type for Jamaica is community transmission as of 30 August 2020. – 2 September 2020.

- f. PAHO CO facilitated the participation of MOHW technical teams and national, sub-national and hospital levels in the PAHO session on Clinical Management – 4 September 2020.
- g. PAHO CO hosted a special session on the COVAX facility for the PSs and CMOs of Jamaica, Bermuda and Cayman Islands which was briefed by the PAHO WDC team, to ensure a full understanding of the options to secure vaccines and timeframes for submission of required documents to GAVI – 28 August 2020.
- h. Jamaica CO finalized arrangements for training of senior MOHW, Jamaica team at national and sub-national levels on PAHO Modelling Exercise by PAHO HIM on 31 August 2020.
- i. PAHO CO continued to monitor project implementation and provided updates to partners on the PAHO/USAID, PAHO/Canada and PAHO/DFID funded work plans. – 26 August 2020.
- j. PAHO CO hosted the follow-up dialogue with PHE HIM and the MOHW, on the transmission type for Jamaica based on data and information presented up to 16 August 2020 – 18 August 2020.
- k. PAHO CO facilitated the involvement of Jamaica, Bermuda and Cayman Islands in dialogue on their participation in the COVAX facility – 17 August 2020
- l. PAHO CO continues to serve as the coordinator for MEDEVAC for COVID-19 for the UN and updated Heads of Entities on the provisions that have been made for eligible staff members and families – 17 August 2020.
- m. PAHO CO provided CMOs and HDCs, Jamaica Bermuda and Cayman Islands with WHO guidance document on Home Care for patients with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID and management of their contacts, 12 August 2020 and WHO and UNICEF document on Advice on the use of masks for children in the community in the context of COVID-19, 21 August 2020 – 22 August 2020
- n. PAHO CO provided CMOs and HDCs, Jamaica, Bermuda and Cayman Islands with two PAHO Epidemiological Alerts: Complications and sequelae of COVID-19-12 August 2020 and COVID-19 during COVID-19-13 August 2020-12 August 2020 – on 13 August 2020
- o. PAHO CO provided the CMOs and HDCs, Jamaica, Bermuda and Cayman Islands with two PAHO Epidemiological Alerts: Complications and sequelae of COVID-19-12 August 2020 and COVID-19 during COVID-19-13 August 2020-12 August 2020 – on 13 August 2020
- p. PAHO CO completed the procurement of over 90% of the medical equipment and supplies from the Global Affairs Canada re-programmed funds to establish isolation / quarantine facilities. – 13 August 2020
- q. PAHO CO continued to monitor project implementation and provided updates on the PAHO/USAID and PAHO/Canada funded work plans. – 13 August 2020.
- r. PAHO CO provided technical guidance to the EMT Coordinators and HDCs, Jamaica, Bermuda and Cayman Islands for the EMT Coordinators course, including the virtual CICOM simulation exercise – 10 – 11 August 2020
- s. PAHO CO in collaboration with PHE HIM and PAHO IHR team provided technical guidance to the CMO, National Epidemiologist and IHR NFP Director to

- review the data and information to determine the transmission type for Jamaica.
– 10 August 2020
- t. PAHO CO met with PAHO WDC EOC Deputy Incident Manager and team to further information-sharing for the COVID-19 response and review budget implementation - 4 August 2020
 - u. PAHO CO provided invitations to the EMT Coordinators and Health Disaster Coordinators, Jamaica, Bermuda and Cayman Islands to attend the Caribbean EMT Coordinators Refresher course of 10 and 11 August 2020. – 3 and 8 August 2020.
 - v. PAHO CO provided HDCs and EMT Coordinators, Jamaica, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands with updated information on the NOAA, USA forecast for the hurricane season 2020 – 6 August 2020, as well as information on the required preparedness measures and updates on Hurricane / Tropical Storm Isaias – at least twice daily. - up to 1 August 2020.
 - w. PAHO CO in collaboration with the MOHW completed and submitted the WHO COVID-19 Monitoring and Evaluation weekly report for 26 July – 1 August 2020 – 5 August 2020
 - x. PAHO CO in collaboration with the HIM team, PHE, WDC is planning for a training session on PAHO Modelling tools for the MOHW Epidemiology and Research teams on 17 August 2020
 - y. PAHO CO submitted to the UN RCO the updated UNETT and Health Cluster mechanism documents, in particular on PAHO's roles and responsibilities – 30 July 2020.
 - z. PAHO CO participated in the UNCT meeting (30 July 2020) and the UN Emergency Technical Team meeting (30 July 2020) to ensure efficient coordination of the health sector response for Hurricane Isaias in the context of COVID-19.
 - aa. PAHO CO maintained its membership on the National Health Emergency Planning Committee of the National Disaster Management Council with updates on preparedness of the MOHW and local and international partners, such as the Jamaica Red Cross – 16 July 2020
 - bb. PAHO CO in collaboration with the IHR NFP briefed the multi-sectoral IHR Stakeholders Advisory Group, including the Ministries of Finance and Planning and Agriculture, Jamaica Defence Force and the Ports Authority on COVID-19 response and provided links to PAHO / WHO material on coordination and planning and technical guidelines – 17 July 2020
 - cc. PAHO CO finalized procurement of 10 laptops funded by Global Affairs Canada to enhance efficiency of coordination by the MOHW EOC with EOCs at all levels of the health system, with delivery on 17 July 2020.
 - dd. PAHO CO furthered the finalization of the revised proposal for Jamaica within the US CDC Caribbean programme (US\$1M) by hosting a planning meeting with the CDC and MOHW teams – 7 July 2020
 - ee. PAHO partnered with the Caribbean Confederation of Credit Unions to provide approximately 5,700 N-95 masks to the MOHW, which were handed over on 9 July 2020.

- ff. PAHO CO provided technical guidance to the Director of Health and HDC, Bermuda on the priorities for hurricane preparedness in the context of COVID-19 and the role of the HDC- 8 July 2020.
- gg. PAHO CO heightened its collaboration with MOHW to advance timely implementation of work plans for the COVID-19 response for USAID, US CDC, Global Affairs Canada, UK DFID, UN SG Multi-Partner Trust Fund, with on-going procurement.
- hh. PAHO CO maintained the technical lead for health for the COVID-19 response within the UNCT and the GOJ system.

2. Risk Communication and Community Engagement:

PAHO CO:

- a. Updated the script for the PAHO video on home quarantine and isolation, based on the current increase in cases in Jamaica – 28 August 2020
- b. Developed the script for a PAHO video on home quarantine and isolation – 5 August 2020
- c. Finalized the video on Breastfeeding during COVID-19 video and shared this with CMU – up to 5 August 2020.
- d. PAHO CO provided 8 sets of 5 pull-up banners for the Points of Entry developed in collaboration with MOHW and USAID on wearing of masks, quarantine, social distancing and IPC – 24 July 2020.
- e. PAHO CO completed the script for the PAHO video on home quarantine and isolation – 20 July 2020.
- f. Continued the development of the first draft of the PAHO CO newsletter with consultations with members of the technical team and initiated dialogue with the MOHW counterparts to access additional information.
- g. Provided support to the MOHW external stakeholders working group on the MOHW health promotion NCD strategy and facilitated discussions on how health promotion in schools can be better targeted.
- h. Supported the development of another video on breastfeeding and climate change with the National Infant and Young Child Feeding Committee.
- i. Provided support to the 'ask the experts' social media live discussion to help raise the engagement of the event.
- j. Continued the development of a script and production options for a home quarantine video for the MOHW.
- k. Updated three websites with daily content and the digitisation of country situation reports.
- l. Provided contributions to the development of PAHO HQ's strategic communications plan.

3. Surveillance, Rapid Response Teams and Case Investigation

- a. PAHO CO briefed the MOHW on Go.Data during a question and answer session – 20 July 2020.
- b. PAHO continued its collaboration with the MOHW to finalize guidelines on waste management – 10 July 2020

- c. PAHO HQ and CO team conducted the TB elimination initiative virtual visit from 6 – 9 July 2020 in meetings with MOHW, Regional Health Authorities, NPHL and CSOs. The activity is the first in the project on TB elimination in low incidence countries

4. Points of Entry

- a. PAHO CO provided guidance to the MOHW on the upgrading of the isolation area at the Sangster International Airport, Montego Bay, St. James at a meeting convened with MOHW counterparts at national, regional and parish levels. Support will be provided within the PAHO / USAID Work Plan - 30 July 2020
- b. PAHO CO provided Jamaica, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands with the PAHO document: Considerations for resuming non-essential international traffic in the Caribbean in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic on 9 July 2020
- c. PAHO CO provided guidance to the MOHW on the Public Health Measures to be taken at the Points of Entry for national and international travelers – 9 July 2020.

5. National Laboratory

- a. PAHO CO convened a virtual meeting in collaboration with PAHO PHE team to brief CMO, senior MOHW technical team and NPHL on the rapid antigen test kits – 15 September 2020.
- b. PAHO CO continued the procurement process for extraction kits for the automated extractor and calibration kits to ensure that new PCR machines are available to the National Public Health Laboratory – 18 September 2020.
- c. PAHO CO bolstered the testing capacity for SARS-CoV-2 with procurement and handing-over of extraction kits for the automated extractor at the National Public Health Laboratory on 26 August 2020.
- d. PAHO CO received additional primers and probes from PAHO WDC, which were handed over by PWR to the Director, National Public Health Laboratory, MOHW on 14 August 2020
- e. PAHO WDC and CO briefed the National Influenza Centre on the workflow to maximize efficiencies for COVID-19 laboratory testing in collaboration with the National Public Health Laboratory, MOHW – 7 August 2020.
- f. PAHO WDC and CO provided guidance to Jamaica, Bermuda and Cayman Islands on participation in the project for COVID-19 Genomic Surveillance Regional Network in the Americas – 16 and 27 July 2020
- g. PAHO CO supported the National Public Health Laboratory, Jamaica to finalize its participation in the WHO EQAP for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 by RT-PCR (2020) - 17 July 2020
- h. PAHO CO provided Jamaica, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands with the new PAHO Laboratory Guidelines for the Detection and Diagnosis of COVID-19 virus infection – 8 July 2020.
- i. PAHO CO handed over positive controls and extraction kits and reagents to the MOHW – 30 June 2020
- j. PAHO CO handed-over 20 sets of primers and probes x 3,000 reactions each (E-gene – La Charite protocol) to the MOHW – 26 June 2020

- k. PAHO CO in collaboration with PHE laboratory team, WDC conducted training for eight (8) NPHL, MOHW staff on the first 2 modules of the training on PCR testing on 25 and 26 June 2020.

6. Infection prevention and control

- a. PAHO CO hosted in collaboration with PAHO HQ team a special session on Infection Prevention and Control and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for health care workers of Ministries of Health islandwide, Jamaica, Bermuda and Cayman Islands and academia (154 participants) – 10 September 2020
- b. PAHO CO provided CMOs of Jamaica, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands with the WHO Guidance on Infection Prevention and Control during health care when COVID-19 is suspected – 29 June 2020 – on 3 July 2020.
- c. PAHO CO is collaborating with the MOHW, Jamaica on infection prevention and control and will implement the updated schedule for a new round of sensitization and training for IPC in health care settings islandwide – 24 June 2020.

7. Case management

- a. PAHO delivered a total of 15 ICU beds to 8 hospitals islandwide within the PAHO/USAID COVID-19 programme – 21 August 2020
- b. PAHO CO in collaboration with the MOHW Mental Health team completed virtual training sessions in MHPSS during COVID 19 for approximately 180 managers and staff at the 14 infirmaries across the island. The sessions were held on 11, 13, 18 and 19 August 2020 and the focus was on understanding the stressors faced by the elderly, generally and specifically during the COVID 19 pandemic and learning to care for oneself as a Caregiver.
- c. PAHO CO provided CMOs of Jamaica, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands with the WHO Scientific Brief on Smoking and COVID-30 June 2020 – on 3 July 2020.
- d. PAHO CO in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Youth (MOEY) completed the Train-the-Trainers course for 50 Health and Education officials in School Mental Health Literacy (SMHL) for school-based adolescents in the context of COVID-19, that was hosted on the Virtual Campus of Public Health.
 - i. Planning with the MOEY has begun for the implementation of the SMHL approach in schools in September 2020, as well as for the evaluation of the approach.
- e. PAHO CO continues its collaboration with MOHW counterparts on the re-organization of health services to ensure required capacity for isolation beds, including for mechanical ventilation in High Dependency Units and ICUs.
- f. PAHO CO supported the MOHW with review and submission of the MOHW Interim Guideline for Nutritional Management of COVID-19.

8. Maintaining essential health services: PAHO CO:

- a. Implemented activities including webinars and Facebook Live sessions in collaboration with MOH, Bermuda and Cayman plans for World Breastfeeding Week during the week of 1 - 7 August 2020. Jamaica will observe this week in the 3rd week of September. The theme will be Support breastfeeding for a healthier planet!
- b. Completed the Mental Health Support to school-based adolescents during the time of COVID: Trainer of trainers completed. 46 persons

completed the training There was remarkable increase in knowledge of mental health challenges that affect adolescents. This was evident by the 90% increase in the average post test score,90.6%, over the average pre-test score of 47.7%. While only four persons achieved the required 70% passing grade in the pretest, 37 persons passed the post test.

- c. Planning for the implementation of the SMHL approach in schools during the new academic year has begun. Met with senior officials of MoEYI (Education Ministry) to refine the implementation plan
- d. Met with the senior Education Officials to plan for the Evaluation of the implementation of the SMHL approach in Jamaica schools. The proposal for the evaluation is being adapted for submission for ethical approval. Baseline survey is planned for late October followed by program implementation and post implementation assessment
- e. Completed an application for a catalytic grant of \$30,000 from WHO in support of the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All and for Regional and Country Offices to provide leadership, drive impact and support the implementation of SDG 3 at country level in an aligned manner. This funding will be used to support the implementation and evaluation of the SMHL program
- f. Completed the selection process for a contractor to update the National Hypertension and Diabetes guidelines for Jamaica.
- g. Met with PAHO Regional Advisor on Rehabilitation and begun the process of collecting Jamaica baseline data on rehabilitation using a standardized format. The virtual intern will be working on this.
- h. Begun the planning of the virtual trainings for the managers and staff at the 14 infirmaries across the island in MHPSS. This will be done in collaboration with the MOHW Mental Health team.
- i. Collaborated with the MOHW Mental Health teams to complete and submit the Rapid Assessment of the Impact of COVID19 on Mental Health Services in Jamaica, Bermuda and Cayman Islands
- j. Received ethical approval from the Mona Campus Ethics Committee for the proposal titled: Coping with COVID 19 – Health communication and the vulnerable. A study to assess the how vulnerable persons (the elderly, persons with disabilities and mental illnesses) were able to cope with COVID 19. This was prepared as a part of the work of the communications sub-committee of the ENHR COVID 19 Research Committee
- k. Participated in and documented the decisions of the July 28, 2020 MOHW EOC meeting
- l. Participated in the health systems sub-committee meeting of the Essential National Health Research Committee. Preparing the research proposal on the impact of the COVID 19 on the health care delivery.
- m. Submitted a case study to be included in a virtual course that the WHO is developing on the Sustainable Development Goals based on experiences from the regions on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, especially on

the practical implications of contextualizing, accelerating and scaling cost-effective interventions, particularly at country level, to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

- n. Completed the TOR for the consultant to prepare the Plan on Action for the elimination of Cervical Cancer in Jamaica.
- o. Participated in the TWR on Childhood Cancer. Planning for commemoration of the Childhood Cancer month in September.
- p. Participated in the Sickle Cell Disease TWG on July 30,2020.
- q. Conducted follow-up was done to the MOHW Jamaica on the adaptation of their relevant protocols for care of pregnant women and neonates to reflect PAHO and WHO guidance on non-separation of mothers and infants and support for breastfeeding when there is suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- r. Provided technical guidance to the Regional Technical Sub-Committee (RTSC) for the Labelling of pre-packaged foods, particularly with respect to the nutrients of concern which should be included on nutrition labels.
- s. Met with the research team for the Front-of-Packaging Research to refine the protocols and tools for the planned research.
- t. Discussed with MOHW and the National Food Industry Task Force (NFITF) the preparation of a video promoting consumption of fruits to students and other members of the school community to support the sensitization on the interim guidelines which will be carried out to for the reopening of schools.

The National Food Industry Task Force sought legal advice on whether action can be taken against a local company for false and misleading information in an advertisement for drinks which may be sold in schools, since the ad contained drinks which had sugar content above the limit allowed.

- u. Participated in WHO guideline development group meeting on the efficacy, safety, and effectiveness of ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF) with less than 50% of proteins coming from milk products compared to the 'standard' RUTF for treating uncomplicated severe acute malnutrition in children aged 6 months or older (21-24 July 2020)
- v. Furthered the planning for the implementation of the UN Human Services Trust Fund programme in collaboration with UNEP and MOHW to provide sustainable water solutions in at least 3 Health Centres in Clarendon and Kingston and St. Andrew – 7 and 10 July 2020
- w. Supported the MOHW with the preparation of a submission to the Global Fund for assistance within the Jamaica Country Coordinating Mechanism for HIV and AIDS response to enhance the laboratory capacity with additional human resources, surveillance system and PPEs for the CSOs. – 3 July 2020
- x. Provided technical support in the redesign of the impact assessment of the Health System Strengthening Project of the MOHW Jamaica, funded by the IDB. The redesign of the project and reprogramming of the 50 million USD for the Policy Component will be key because there are

significant delays in the implementation of the initial plan and there is the need to reprioritize activities and funds for the health system functions that needs strengthening for the COVID-10 response and maintaining essential health services.

- y. Provided technical support to the National Committee on Information Systems for Health as key governance mechanism of the MOHW, including the Ministry of Technology, eGov, PIOJ, Statin, UWI and other key stakeholders
- z. Provided technical support to the MoHW in the development of the National Strategy on Information System for Health, as part of the MOHW Health System Strengthening Project, funded by the IDB.
- aa. Continued its support for Jamaica which is leading the development of the CARICOM Regional standard for nutrition labelling and a meeting was held.
- bb. Provided guidance to the MOHW on determining the essential health services to be maintained in the context of COVID-19 – 26 June 2020
- cc. Collaborated with the MOHW to conduct Smart Health Care Facility Project site visits with potential contractors for small, Smart Interventions at 9 health care facilities – 10 – 11 June 2020 and 18 – 19 June 2020.

9. Research

- a. PAHO CO provided support to the MOHW Essential National Health Research Committee (ENHRC) in:
 - i. Development of the Research Project on the impact of COVID-19 in the access to essential health services in Jamaica.
 - ii. Development of the Research Project on the impact of COVID-19 in communication and community engagement.
- b. PAHO CO facilitated discussions on the main findings of the PAHO Rapid Assessment on Access to Health Services in the Covid-19 pandemic with the MOHW Health System Research Group – 3 July 2020.
- c. PAHO CO in collaboration with the ENHRC contributed to the submission of the communications research project to the UWI ethics committee – 3 July 2020.
- d. PAHO CO provided information on the discontinuation of the hydroxychloroquine arm of the WHO Solidarity Trial and the positive results with the use of dexamethasone in the critically ill patient. – 19 June 2020.
- e. PAHO CO continued its collaboration with the MOHW on the Research Group for COVID-19 and the Working Group on Health Systems, focusing on the modelling exercise using COVIDSim and EpiEstim, the global seroepidemiological study and the WHO Solidarity Clinical trial – 19 June 2020.

NEEDS

- 1. Jamaica
 - a. PPEs, laboratory supplies, UTM and swabs, equipment and supplies for isolation and quarantine facilities, wards and rooms
 - b. Additional guidance on laboratory testing and interpretation of results
 - c. Digital thermometers
- 2. Bermuda: Strengthening of the Health Disaster Management Programme.

3. Cayman Islands: Strengthening of the Health Disaster Management Programme and surveillance were noted as priorities to enhance the COVID-19 and any other responses for health emergencies.