

PAHO

Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries



COVID-19 Situation Update - 130

11 June 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.



Statement for healthcare professionals: How COVID-19 vaccines are regulated for safety and effectiveness

Joint Statement from the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities and World Health Organization

Healthcare professionals and public health authorities have a central role in discussing vaccination against COVID-19 with their patients. Vaccines play a critical role in preventing deaths, hospitalisation caused by infectious diseases. Emerging data on effectiveness indicates that licenced COVID-19vaccines are contributing to controlling the spread of the disease. Until widespread vaccination has been achieved, both vaccinated and unvaccinated people need to be aware of the additional protective behaviours required to control the pandemic locally.

The global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an un-

precedented level of public interest in vaccines. This includes a focus on the development of vaccines and their regulatory review and safety monitoring. Much of this coverage has taken place through mass and social media. Reports of adverse events (side effects) have led some people to express concerns about getting vaccinated, delay getting vaccinated or even be strongly opposed to vaccination. There are also differences in individual confidence in national safety monitoring systems. Another challenge in communicating the importance of COVID-19 vaccination is that younger adults are typically less clinically affected by COVID-19 infection and so may see limited value in getting vaccinated, including until further data confirms that vaccines prevent transmission and that vaccines are effective against variants. Clear

Region of the Americas

69,131,242

cases

1,816,357

deaths in

56

countries, areas, or territories

527,509,495

total vaccine doses administered

Global

174,502,686

cases

3,770,361

deaths in

236

countries, areas, or territories

2,156,550,767

total vaccine doses administered

and consistent communication is therefore essential to support people in making the choice to be vaccinated.

We appreciate that you, your colleagues and your patients may have a number of questions around the development, regulatory review and ongoing safety monitoring of COVID-19 vaccines.

Purpose

This joint International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA)* and WHO statement aims to help healthcare professionals answer questions Read more...

COVID-19 highlights:

COUNTRY	COVID-19 HIGHLIGHT					
Antigua and Barbuda	On 09 June 2021 Antigua and Barbuda received 16,800 doses of Astra Zeneca COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX facility. This is the second batch of vaccines received through COVAX, bringing the total to date to 40,800.					
Barbados	 All travellers are required to: Present proof of COVID-19 standard PCR test taken 3 days prior to travel Have the test taken at an accredited or recognised lab by a health care provider Have a sample taken via nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swab On arrival, a fully vaccinated traveller is required to take a rapid PCR test, unvaccinated a 2nd COVID-19 standard PCR test. Within 1-2 days a fully vaccinated traveller may enjoy Barbados fully dependent on return of the test result, while an unvaccinated traveller must wait approximate 7-8 days (5 days quarantine plus return of test results) 					
British Virgin Islands	On 10 June 2021, the Minister of Health announced that effective 15 June 2021, fully vaccinated persons travelling from overseas will no longer be required to take COVID-19 tests upon arrival in the British Virgin Islands. Travellers are still required to produce a RT-PCR test result or an approved rapid antigen test within 5 days of arrival.					
Grenada	Prime Minister referenced in a press briefing that Grenada will be one of the recipient countries for the COVID-19 vaccines being donated by the United States. Exact quantity of vaccines assigned for Grenada is not yet known. The Ministry of Health COVID-19 Committee will soon be announcing initiatives to encourage persons to be vaccinated.					
Saint Lucia	0n 10 June 2021, Saint Lucia reported 4 new COVID-19 cases.					

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights:

COUNTRY	TYPE OF VACCINE				
		1st Dose	2nd Dose		
Anguilla	AstraZeneca	9,044	5,513		
Antigua and Barbuda	AstraZeneca	34,644	23,430		
Barbados	AstraZeneca	85,175	61,861		
British Virgin Islands	AstraZeneca	17,866	7,949		
Dominica	AstraZeneca	20,048	17,630		
Grenada	AstraZeneca	18,415	9,514		
Montserrat	AstraZeneca	1,379	1,190		
Saint Kitts & Nevis	AstraZeneca	31,054	9,585		
Saint Lucia	AstraZeneca	29,147	20,222		
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	AstraZeneca	22,367	-		

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

	CONFIRMED	ACTIVE		# OF	TRANSMISSION	STATUS OF	TRAVEL	MASKS	COVID-19 WEB ADDRESS
COUNTRY	CASES		DEATHS	TESTS	TYPE	SCHOOLS	RESTRICTIONS	MANDATORY	AND HOTLINE
>ANGUILLA	109	66	0	24,074	Clusters of cases	Open	Yes	No	https://beatcovid19.ai/ (264) 476-7627
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	1,263	3	42	-	Clusters of cases	Open	Yes	-	https://ab.gov.ag/detail_page.php?page=42 (268) 462-6843
BARBADOS	4,033	-	47	175,046	Community transmission	Online	Yes	Yes	https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/covid-19/ (246) 536-4500
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	195	3	1	37,425	Clusters of cases	Both face to face & online	Yes	Yes	https://bvi.gov.vg/covid-19 (284) 852-7650
DOMINICA	189	1	0	17,447	Sporadic cases	Open	Yes	Yes	http://dominica.gov.dm/corona (767) 448-2151
FRENCH GUIANA	25,292	-	130	-	Community transmission	-	Yes	-	
GRENADA	161	0	1	33,596	Sporadic cases	Varied stages of reopening	Lifted	Yes	https://covid19.gov.gd/ (473) 458-4787 / (473) 538-4787
GUADELOUPE	17,108	-	260	-	Community transmission	-	Yes	-	https://www.guadeloupe.ars.sante.fr/
MARTINIQUE	12,060	-	97	-	Community transmission	-	Yes	-	https://www.martinique.ars.sante.fr/
MONTSERRAT	20	0	1	2,079	No cases	Face to face sessions	Yes	No	https://www.gov.ms/covid-19/
SAINT BARTHELEMY	1,029	-	1	-	Clusters of cases	-	-	-	
ST KITTS & NEVIS	119	-	0	17,008	Clusters of cases	Open	Yes	Yes	https://www.covid19.gov.kn/
SAINT LUCIA	5,160	116	70	33,260	Community transmission	Online	Yes	Specific settings	https://www.covid19response.lc/
SAINT MARTIN	2,113	-	22	-	Community transmission	-	-	-	https://www.stmartinweek.fr/
ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	2,132	231	12	51,000	Community transmission	Online	No	Specific settings	http://health.gov.vc/health/index.php/c (784) 534-4325
TOTAL	70,983	420	684	390,935					

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.



Webinar held on COVID-19 Vaccination and International Travel

On Wednesday 09 June 2021, approximately two hundred and twenty (220) persons tuned in to the webinar on COVID-19 vaccination and International travel: the role of the vaccination passport and immunity certificate to revive the tourism economy in the Eastern Caribbean.

Hosted by the PAHO/WHO Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries, the webinar was deemed timely following the global roll-out of vaccines and relaxing of public health and social measures in some countries. The introduction of vaccines and subsequent roll out, is envisioned as a key intervention to significantly contribute to the urgent need to boost economies and "return to normal". This is of particular interest for the Eastern Caribbean Countries whose economy is highly dependent of tourism. Countries have applied different approaches to control the risk of importation of COVID-19 when reopening their borders to tourists and nationals returning from abroad. Given the "pandemic fatigue" and growing public exhaustion and frustration with restrictions, public officials in many countries have been more reluctant to introduce strict interventions this time, fearing their economic impact.

Dr. Yitades Gebre, PAHO/WHO Representative for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries, opened the webinar by welcoming participants and providing brief remarks. There are four factors that together are a dangerous combination globally, increased transmissibility of new variants, increased social mixing, relaxing of public health and social measures, and uneven and inequitable vaccine distribution around the world," said Dr. Gebre.

Dr. Shawn Charles, Chief Medical Officer from the Ministry of Health Grenada, delivered a comprehensive presentation on "Vaccination, Public Health and International Travel – Grenada's Experience". This was followed by a panel discussion on the role of vaccination passport and immunity certificate to revive the tourism economy in the Eastern Caribbean. Panelist for this session were Dr. Aisha Anderwin, Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health Anguilla, Dr. Arthur Phillips, Senior Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, Barbados and Ms. Lisa Valmond, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Dominica.

Dr. Roberta Andraghetti, Regional Advisor, International Health Regulations (IHR), PAHO/WHO wrapped by the formal presentations by discussing considerations on vaccination and international travel, from the IHR perspective.

In the final session of the webinar, moderator Ms. Nicola Barriteau fielded many questions and queries posed by participants, to be answered by presenters and the panelists. The subject area of this webinar generated a lot of interest, many questions and queries were submitted prior to, during, and after the webinar was completed.

Links

- Recording of webinar
- Presentation on <u>Considerations on Vaccination and International Travel</u> by Dr. Roberta Andraghetti









