

Annexes:

COVID-19

**Epidemiological
Situation and
Response in Eastern
Caribbean States**

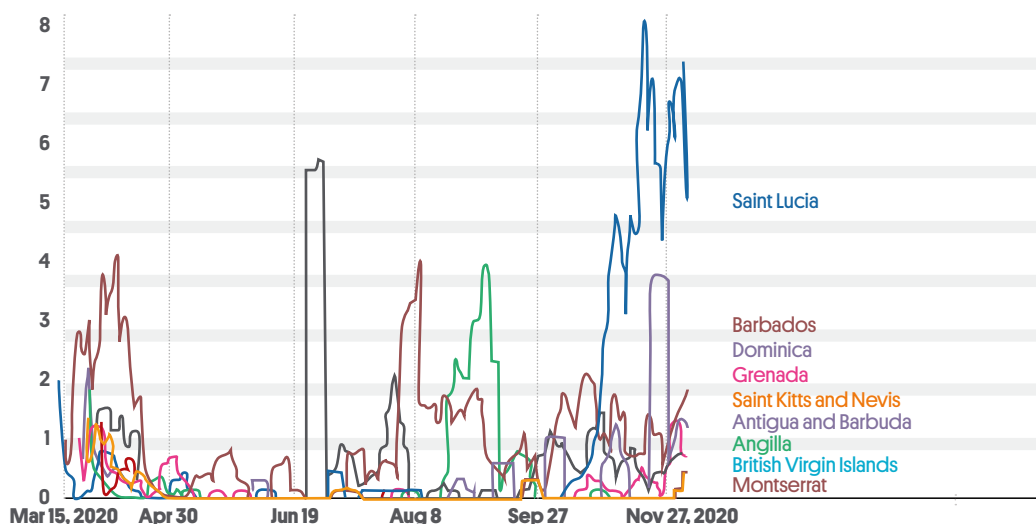
December 2020

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01 Regional overview: epidemiology and control response

Figure 1 Daily new COVID-19 confirmed cases in English-speaking Caribbean



Source: European CDC - Situation Update Worldwide - Last updated 27 november, 10:06 (London time) CC BY

The East-English Caribbean States have suffered a unique experience with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Like other island-states, Mauritius or New Zealand, they have faced similar challenges, but also found similar solutions. Results in positive cases and death rates in the entire region show that their preventive measures have proven effective. As we can see on the chart, there was a first wave in March in the region, particularly accentuated in Barbados. We can observe some peaks in June (Antigua and Barbuda), August (Barbados) and September (British Virgin Islands), and what seems as a second wave starting in October, higher than the one in March. Currently, Saint Lucia is having the highest number of cases per day, at a maximum of 8.

Evidence suggests that the key strategy for such countries is the investment on PCR testing. While The World Bank classifies most of the Caribbean islands as middle-income or high-income countries, these island developing states share a common set of environmental, economic, and social vulnerabilities because of their absolute size and geographical remoteness. Partly in response to these vulnerabilities, the Caribbean has a history of regional collaboration. Since 1973, the

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has provided this collaborative framework, and two intergovernmental agencies lead the regional support structures for disaster preparedness and response (Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency) and for public health (Caribbean Public Health Agency). In February and March, Caribbean governments, watching the COVID-19 outbreak unfold across Europe and North America, and perhaps aware of their own health system fragilities, acted swiftly. In a review of the Caribbean response, national measures to restrict human movement into countries were implemented up to 27 days before the first confirmed case and 23 days before selected international comparator countries. The Caribbean response to the regional COVID-19 outbreak might be described as a network of national responses strengthened by a familiar regional support structure.

However, despite the low death rate in the island group countries - as opposed to countries like Spain with over 1,6M cases and 45k deaths - the Caribbean States have taken a considerable hit in their economic development. Their heavy reliance on tourism and the lack of economic diversification brought along some serious consequences for the population's resilience due to the unprecedented cut off brought by the inevitable restrictions to stop the pandemic. It is predicted that the impact of the virus will reinforce existing social and economic vulnerabilities, inequalities and risks. Governments of the Caribbean, already finding themselves in a challenging fiscal situation, have now put in place several initiatives to combat the consequences of the restrictions. Among them, the active deployment of national responses with infrastructural support and service delivery systems. Furthermore, as many regions in the world, the CARICOM region established a *travel bubble* in September 2020. The project included not only many of the islands in the group, but also some low-risk countries (like Canada), allowing tourism to slowly begin to recover.

The governmental response to the pandemic in the region could be divided into two main courses: the initial attention was focused on the strengthening of the healthcare systems, the acquisition of PPE testing and rapid isolation facilities. Once the disease was contained enough, the efforts towards the economic recovery of the region began. Timelines and temporality of measures being taken can be consulted elsewhere ([Cepal](#), [Reuters](#)). Every country has followed different paths of procedure, but they all have collaborated towards a common set of goals for the period after the pandemic. These would involve different forms of economic stimulus packages, social welfare expansion, boosting agriculture, job creation and enhancement of support systems for Micro, Small and Medium enterprises. The main risk post-pandemic is the debt that these countries may find themselves in.

The following is an analysis of the epidemiological situation in every one of the nine countries that conform this region and the consequent preventive measures taken on by the government to ensure the containment of the virus. It should be noted that, due to the small denominator (the relatively small population of these states) of incidences and rates, they should be approached cautiously.

02 Anguilla

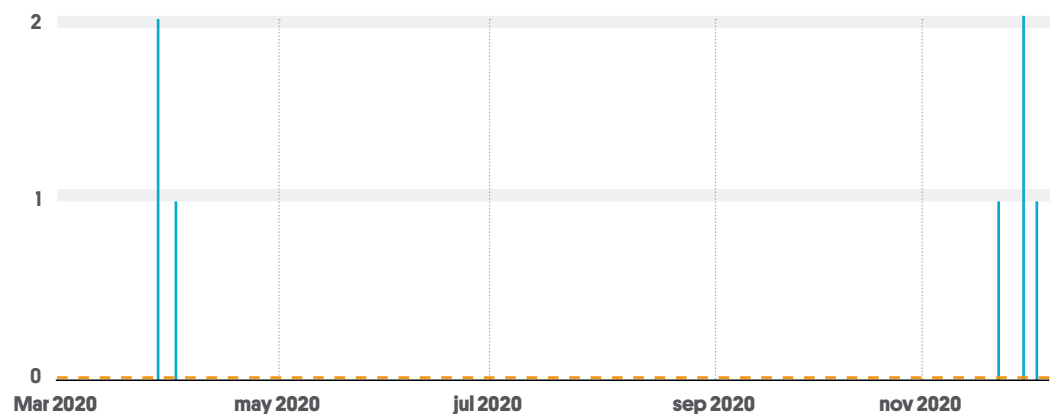
The government of Anguilla has reported a total of 7 cases, and no deaths since the beginning of the pandemic. The first two cases were reported on March 27th, followed by a third on April 4th. No other cases were reported until November 23rd, when the last case was diagnosed on the island. This case remains active.

The cumulative incidence is 598 cases per million people.

2,308 tests were performed in the island during the pandemic (153,284 test per million people)

Princess Alexandra Hospital, the main healthcare facility in the island, as per 2015, has no ICU capacity.

Figure 2 Epidemic curve of cases in Anguilla



Anguilla	
Covax	-
Curfew	
Lockdown	No stay-at-home lockdown.
Transportation	No information
Education	School lockdown from March 16th 2020 until mid-2020. Hybrid methods of distant and in-person learning applied from the summer until late 2020.
Business	On March 27th all businesses but those considered 'essential' close until further notice. April 29th they announce the lifting of movement and business for locals.
Masks	Anguilla Youth Sports Foundation donated gloves, masks and hand sanitisers to the Princess Alexandra Hospital. Despite the de escalation period and the lack of recording of cases in 60 days, the government recommends that "Members of the public, as well as the public and private sectors, [...] maintain social distancing measures, respiratory hygiene and cleanliness protocols which have been in force over the last few months. These protocols are now the new normal and should be maintained into the foreseeable future."
Social events	Maximum of 12 people. 29 April onward, churches, places of worship, all retail stores, hair salons and barber shops, accommodation suppliers, gyms and spas, recreational facilities, official lotteries, restaurants and bars can reopen, as long as social distancing is observed. On May 20th all restrictions were lifted.

03 Antigua and Barbuda

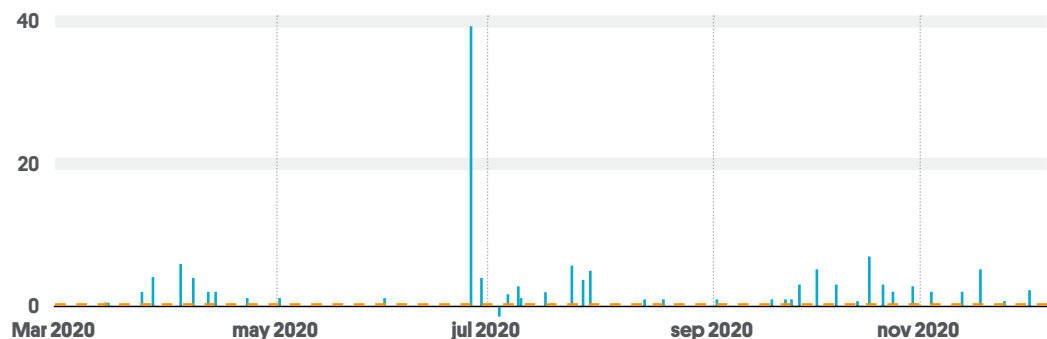
To date, 140 cases of COVID-19 and 4 deaths have been reported in Antigua and Barbuda. 7 cases remain active as of November 27th.

The cumulative incidence is 1,435 cases per million people.

4,502 tests have been carried out since the beginning of the pandemic (45,818 per million people).

The only facility with ICU services is Mount St. John's Medical Center, a 185-bed hospital.

Figure 3 Epidemic curve of cases in Antigua and Barbuda



Antigua Barbuda	
Covax	Participant
Curfew	Gradually freer: 11pm-5am under state of emergency
Lockdown	March 31st, originally until April 9th, with extensions lasting until May 14th.
Transportation	Travelling in groups only for people who inhabit the same household. Always use of masks.
Education	School lockdown from march 2020 until september 2020. Hybrid methods of distant and in-person learning applied.
Business	Need to pass government's controls and respect curfew. Pharmacies and other selected businesses can skip curfew. Restaurant dining protocols include enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, incorporate physical distancing measures, and will offer a la carte dining and delivery or takeout services, instead of buffet.
Masks	They must be worn in public at all times. Nose and mouth covered. Not at the same time as head coverings or dark glasses.
Social events	Cannot include more than the inhabitants of a single household. Religious events, weddings and funerals can be performed as long as security measures of social distancing and masks are worn at all times. Applies to social clubs. In March there was a 30-day ban on all social gatherings to control the spread of the virus. International sports competitions cancelled, as well as prison visits for a limited period of time.

04 Barbados

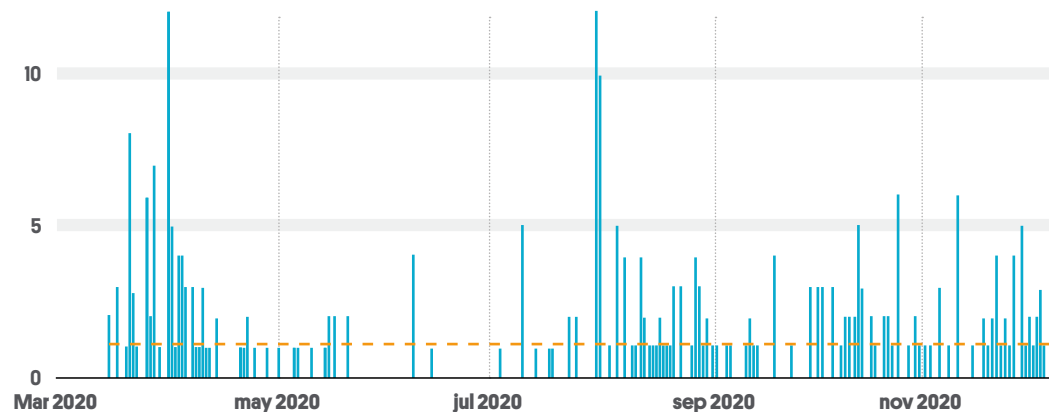
As of November 27th, a total of 266 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in Barbados. The government has also reported 7 deaths, all of them between April and May. 13 cases remain active in the country.

The cumulative incidence of COVID-19 cases is 925 per million people.

The country has performed 46,028 tests to date (160,087 per million people).

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the main healthcare facility in the island, has an Intensive Care Unit.

Figure 4 Epidemic curve of cases in Barbados



Barbados	
Covax	Participant
Curfew	Gradual times for operation (even outdoor activities). Lifted restrictions by June 15th.
Lockdown	28th march - 31st may
Transportation	Travelling in groups only for people who inhabit the same household. Always use of masks.
Education	School lockdown from march 2020 until september 2020. Hybrid methods of distant and in-person learning applied.
Business	Village shops and pharmacies open with restrictions. Fuel stations only open to essential service providers during the 24 hr curfew. All beaches and parks were closed but reopened on May 4 with restricted times. The sale of alcohol was also prohibited during curfew.
Masks	Recommended. People in the care sector have been provided with masks and trained.
Social events	Starting on June 15th public gatherings are permitted but those that would exceed 250 participants need the approval of the Ministry of Health.

05 British Virgin Islands

According to WHO, British Virgin Islands have reported a total of 72 cases of COVID-19, and 1 death, in April.

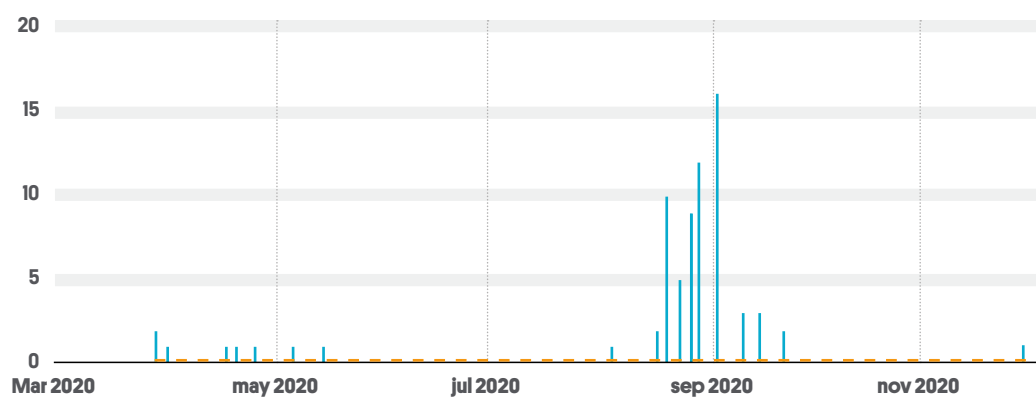
There are no active cases in the country as of November 28th.

The cumulative incidence is 2,342 cases per million people.

5,193 tests have been carried out during the pandemic (171,313 per million people).

The main healthcare facility in the country, Peebles Hospital, has an Intensive Care Unit.

Figure 5 Epidemic curve of cases in British Virgin Island



British Virgin Islands	
Covax	-
Curfew	5pm-5am (peak)
Lockdown	Twice. From march 27th to April 25th. July 21st to 28th.
Transportation	Travelling in groups only for people who inhabit the same household. Always use of masks.
Education	School lockdown from march 2020 until september 2020. Hybrid methods of distant and in-person learning applied.
Business	Need to pass government's controls and respect curfew. Pharmacies and other selected businesses can skip curfew. Restaurant dining protocols include enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, incorporate physical distancing measures, and will offer a la carte dining and delivery or takeout services, instead of buffet.
Masks	They must be worn in public at all times. Nose and mouth covered. Not at the same time as head coverings or dark glasses.
Social events	Cannot include more than the inhabitants of a single household. Religious events, weddings and funerals can be performed as long as security measures of social distancing and masks are worn at all times. Applies to social clubs. In March there was a 30-day ban on all social gatherings to control the spread of the virus. International sports competitions cancelled, as well as prison visits for a limited period of time.

06 Dominica

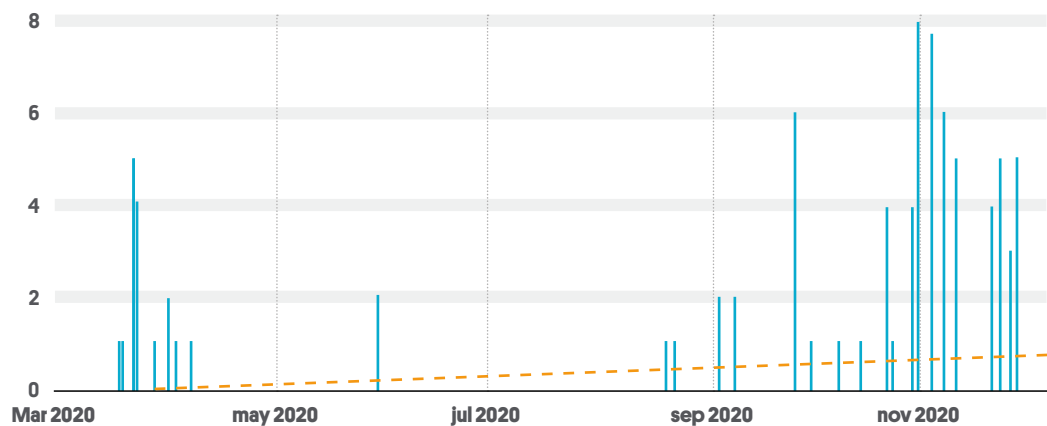
Dominica has reported a total of 85 confirmed cases, and no COVID-19 deaths since the pandemic started. 14 cases remain active as of November 28th.

The cumulative incidence is 1,069 cases per million people.

The country has performed 5,655 tests (78,477 per million people).

The main healthcare facility, Princess Margaret Hospital, has an Intensive Care Unit.

Figure 6 Epidemic curve of cases in Dominica



Dominica	
Covax	IDA eligible
Curfew	8pm - 5am
Lockdown	?
Transportation	Face masks and social distancing norms are in place at all times.
Education	School lockdown from march 2020 until september 2020. Hybrid methods of distant and in-person learning applied. For in-person learning new infrastructures to ensure safety protocols are followed.
Business	Non essential businesses closed until the government declared safety to open again (church, nightclub, sporting facilities, schools, etc.)
Masks	They must be worn in public at all times. Nose and mouth covered. Not at the same time as head coverings or dark glasses.
Social events	Limited to a maximum of 10 people.

07 Grenada

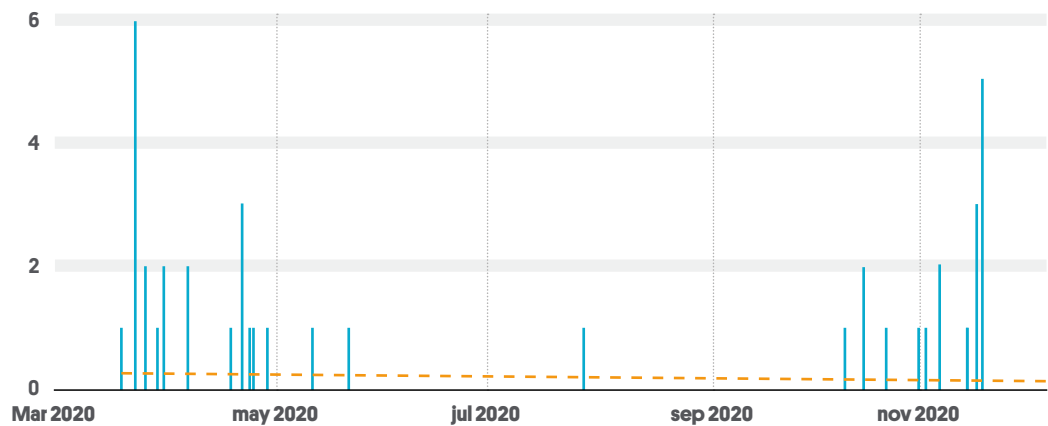
Grenada has reported 41 COVID-19 confirmed cases, as well as 0 deaths since the pandemic started. 11 cases remain active at the moment.

The *cumulative incidence* is 364 cases per million people.

Grenada has performed a total of 6,252 tests (*55,457 per million people*).

There are three acute care hospitals in Grenada, and one of them, St. George's General Hospital, has an Intensive Care Unit.

Figure 7 Epidemic curve of cases in Grenada



Grenada	
Covax	IDA eligible
Curfew	5pm - 8am
Lockdown	March 30th until april 6th. Extended until May 12th.
Transportation	Everyone must observe social distancing, including when travelling by car or public transport, and wear a face mask when out in public.
Education	Schools reopen starting september 2020. Hybrid methods of distant and in-person learning applied. Request parents to assist their children with hand sanitisers and face masks to do so. they will follow a blended approach to education between in-person and remote learning. The demand for adoption in e-learning across the education sector, 24,000 plus devices (laptops and tablets) have been secured for students and teachers.
Business	Need to pass government's controls and respect curfew. Pharmacies and other selected businesses can skip curfew. Restaurant dining protocols include enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, incorporate physical distancing measures, and will offer a la carte dining and delivery or takeout services, instead of buffet.
Masks	Mandatory.
Social events	All public and other social gathering, including cultural, sporting and entertainment events be suspended until further notice.

08 Montserrat

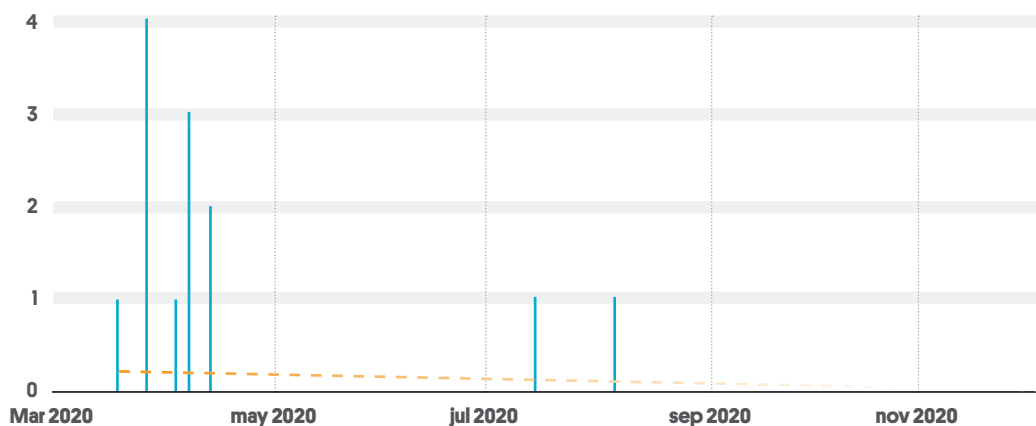
Montserrat has confirmed 13 COVID-19 cases and 1 death (in April). The last confirmed case was on July 27th. Currently, there are no active cases on the island.

The cumulative incidence is 2,604 per million people.

Montserrat has carried out 577 tests (115,562 per million people).

The main health facility in Montserrat is St. John's Hospital, with 30 beds and no ICU capacity.

Figure 8 Epidemic curve of cases in Montserrat



Montserrat	
Covax	-
Curfew	7pm - 5am
Lockdown	28th march until 14th april. Extended until may.
Transportation	-
Education	School lockdown from march 14th 2020 until september 2020. Hybrid methods of distant and in-person learning applied.
Business	All retail stores can reopen. Restaurants can reopen as take away only. Construction work can resume. Visits to retirement homes are possible for family only. Barbers, churches, buses, and taxis are allowed to reopen with strict conditions. Bars, night clubs, gyms, and schools will remain closed.
Masks	They must be worn in public at all times. Nose and mouth covered. Not at the same time as head coverings or dark glasses.
Social events	Prohibited gatherings of over 50 people. Progressive reduction until March 25th where gatherings of over four people were forbidden.

09 Saint Lucia

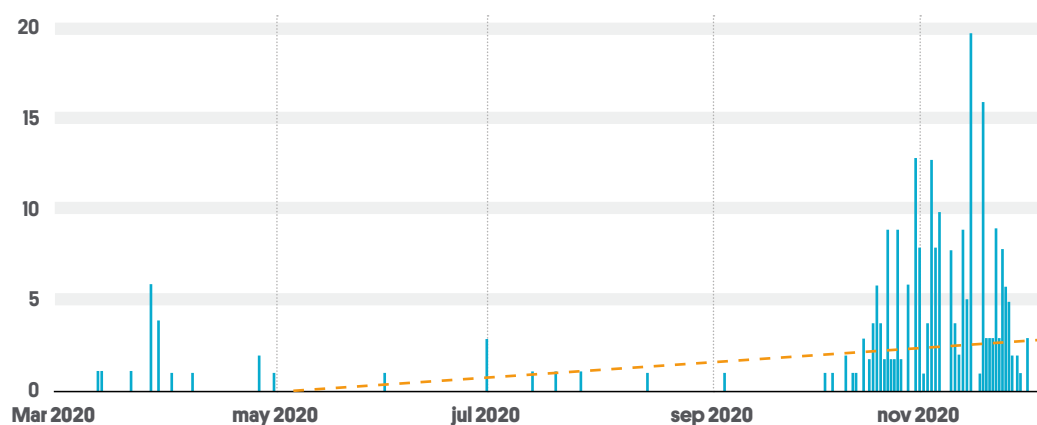
Saint Lucia has reported 252 confirmed COVID-19 cases, most of them since mid-October. There have also been 2 COVID-related deaths, both in November.

The cumulative incidence is 1,294 cases per million people.

The country has performed a total of 15,448 tests (83,971 per million people).

There are two general hospitals that provide secondary care. Victoria Hospital is the main local trauma facility, with 150 beds and 6 acute care beds. Golden Hope Hospital has 162 beds.

Figure 9 Epidemic curve of cases in Saint Lucia



Saint Lucia	
Covax	IDA eligible
Curfew	11pm - 5am
Lockdown	-
Transportation	-
Education	School lockdown until the end of April 2020. Home study packages ready for students (primary). Lockdown in October for two weeks due to two positive cases.
Business	Partial scale down of all non-essential economic and social activities. Businesses with the possibility of teleworking are encouraged to do so. Essential businesses may request a governmental approval to operate regularly.
Masks	They must be worn in public at all times.
Social events	Some social activities including parties, picnics and receptions are allowed with the established physical distancing and public health protocols. Discouraged mass crowd events of over 50 persons, which already resulted in a cancellation of Saint Lucia Jazz 2020.

10 Saint Kitts and Nevis

Saint Kitts and Nevis has reported 22 confirmed cases and no deaths.

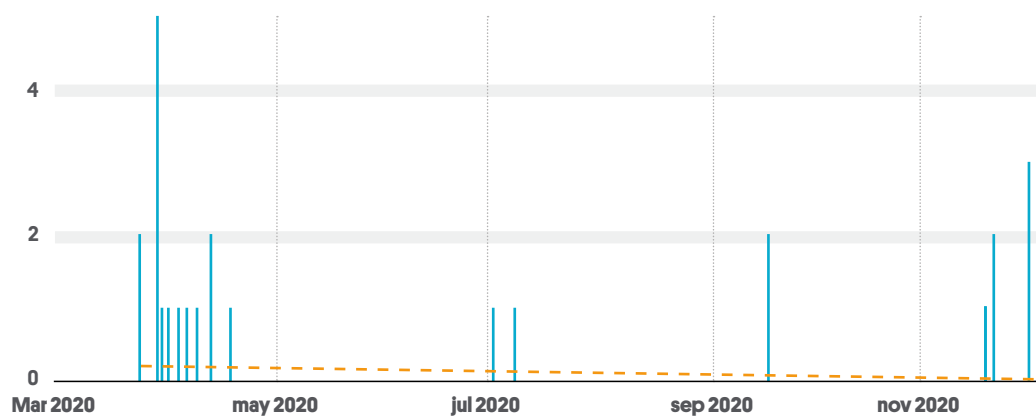
3 cases remain active as of November 30th.

The cumulative incidence is 412 cases per million people.

The government has performed 3,677 tests (68,920 per million people).

The main public referral hospital is the 150-bed Joseph N. France General Hospital, located in Saint Kitts, with an Intensive Care Unit. The Alexandra Hospital is a 50-bed hospital located in Nevis.

Figure 10 Epidemic curve of cases in Saint Kitts and Nevis



Saint Kitts and Nevis	
Covax	Intent to participate
Curfew	Punctual for days at a time.
Lockdown	March 31st to april 3rd - extended until april 25th.
Transportation	Travelling in groups only for people who inhabit the same household. Always use of masks.
Education	School lockdown from march 2020. Maintenance of meal programs for students in need.
Business	Businesses are open. Certain businesses may have a curfew.
Masks	They must be worn in public at all times.
Social events	Limited visitors at homes for the elderly, prisons and sports events. Everyone is required to practice social and physical distancing protocols, maintaining 6 feet distance and ensuring hand sanitising.

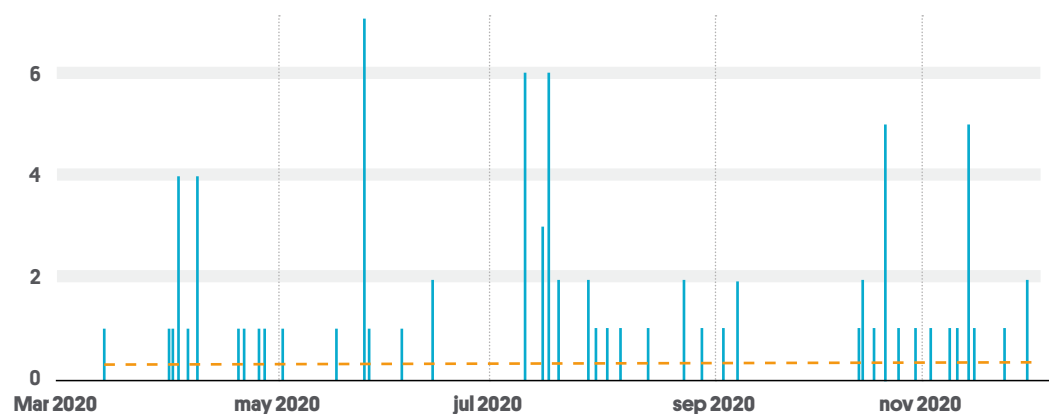
11 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

The government has reported 85 confirmed cases and no deaths. There are currently 5 active cases.

The cumulative incidence is 765 cases per million people.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has performed a total of 10,072 tests (90,666 per million people).

Figure 11 Epidemic curve of cases in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
Covax	IDA eligible
Curfew	-
Lockdown	-
Transportation	Mask encouraged but not enforced.
Education	School lockdown from march 2020. Support for online learning. Sporting activities cancelled until further notice.
Business	Banks and credit unions to offer up to 6-month moratorium on loan and mortgage payments. Relief packages for certain companies, including the field of art, tourism and culture. Direct support in agriculture, animal husbandry, etc.
Masks	Encouraged but not enforced.
Social events	Limited access to public gatherings and religious services. Advised but not ordered to social distance and avoid going out.

12 Response from multilateral agencies

<p>CARICOM</p>	<p>41st meeting that led to the agreement on regional priorities.</p> <p>1. Ending the pandemic: Mass vaccination at earliest availability, further access to tests and treatment for the entire population. Critical investment on the ACT-Accelerator (COVAX program).</p> <p>2. Recovery of the economy. Based on the SDGs and other forms of sustainable development. The possible access to monetary aid from the international community via small and medium enterprises. Tourism recovery. Possible long-term solution involves attracting long-stay visitors that could enhance the local economy.</p> <p><u>Study</u> to enable agricultural investment post-pandemic.</p>
<p>CARPHA</p>	<p>CARPHA is leading the Public Health Response in the Caribbean Region and providing laboratory capacity among others. It publishes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodic <u>regional situation reports</u> with surveillance data • More than 50 <u>technical guidance reports</u> • <u>COVID-19 Health rounds</u> (webinars)
<p>Caribbean Development Bank</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of numerical data through statistical analysis and represented in dashboard. • Approval of a multi-pronged financial package to help member states. With loans of US\$ 140 million; emergency loans totalling US\$ 67 million to seven countries; and US\$ 3 million programme to provide essential personal protective equipment for Caribbean health care and frontline workers in 14 countries.
<p>CEPAL</p>	<p>Compilation of all the action taken to prevent the spread of the virus by countries. Chronologically, and through a wide range of topics that affect the lives of locals and travellers.</p>
<p>FAO</p>	<p>The role of FAO in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic has four parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understanding and mitigating 2. the pandemic's impact on food and agriculture. 3. Safeguarding the food security and livelihoods of the most vulnerable. 4. Understanding the virus's origin and spread. 5. Ensuring a unified, One Health approach. <p>The organization has developed the comprehensive and holistic COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme to address the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. They are requesting donations that could amount up to USD 1.3 bn in order to ensure the provision of food during and after the pandemic.</p>
<p>IFRC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFRC, with 192 National Societies and 13 million volunteers, is providing critical information and health and social services, while ensuring that communities participate in the response. • More than 6 million items of personal protective equipment have been procured for frontline volunteers, including masks, goggles, face shields, gloves and surgical gowns. Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers are installing water distribution points and providing hygiene kits, food and shelter to protect vulnerable people.


OCHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Funding Globally programmes in more than 50 countries have been supported through combined funding of \$361 million from CERF and CPBFs. • Coordination Involves mobilizing finances, assessing needs, developing response plans, and advocating to reach people in need. OCHA has set up a COVID-19 response team to drive these efforts, and to support and boost the UN system-wide response. • Intel Ensure that they can keep providing life-saving help for those people, while supporting the wider system's response to COVID-19.
OECS	Provision of numerical data through statistical analysis and represented in a dashboard .
Oxfam International	Scaling up its global COVID-19 response in more than 45 countries, to deliver clean water, soap and other hygiene supplies and spreading prevention messages through community outreach, training, radio, social media and more. Oxfam is addressing ongoing urgent needs for those facing food insecurity and displacement through cash, voucher and food distributions.
PNUD	<p>UNDP has a summary of COVID-19 responses by LAC countries: "The Impact of COVID-19 on Latin America and the Caribbean". The objective is a continuously updated dataset containing the chronology of the policy response in LAC, that we put at the service of policymakers, researchers and the general public in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusion of a featured graph to track level of infection. - Policy document series to draw up from UNDP's experience. - Tool to address the public's opinion based on data.
UNESCO	<p>Several initiatives in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support during the pandemic based on very diverse webinars (provide educative videos with tips, explanations, use of technologies, examination of emerging challenges and possible solutions at a transversal level for the government, etc.) and guidance to different institutions (governments, schools, teachers, parents, etc.). • Publications regarding education - from disruption to recovery. • 'Next normal' campaign. • Urban solutions. • Resilient artists.
UNFPA	<p>Prioritizing the needs of women and girls, as the pandemic is disrupting access to life-saving health services and increasing the risk of gender-based violence. Delivery of protective supplies to health workers, providing services and setting up hotlines for survivors of gender-based violence, supporting midwives and other health workers to provide sexual and reproductive health services for women, and providing training in psychosocial support.</p> <p>Access the document with the elaborate response at the link.</p>
UNICEF	<p>Current multifaceted and multi-organization program involving early development, education, emergency response, monitoring and equality. During the pandemic period efforts continue with several initiatives in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publications of pieces of media and reports on the impact of the pandemic on children. • Call for papers made by teenagers for UNICEF research. • Webinars on distance learning, e-counseling, etc. in collaboration with OECS, PAHO and others. • Small publications, quizzes and other resources for the people to access tips, facts about COVID-19 and other quick information needed.

<p>World Bank</p>	<p>Collaborative approach with the Caribbean countries in order to build economic resilience with a sustainable development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of finance (for immediate health response comes from the global COVID-19 Fast-Track Facility, Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Options (CAT DDOs), etc.) and knowledge for countries to address the health threat and the social and economic impacts of the pandemic (procuring essential supplies to detect, contain, and treat COVID-19, strengthen health systems, and expand social protection for vulnerable groups, etc.). - The countries that receive support are the following: Dominica, Grenada, <p>International Finance Corporation (IFC): Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which generate half of all jobs in the region, need financial assistance to recover after the forced stoppage of their activities. Disruptions have affected all steps in trade flows and manufacturing processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IFC has conducted an Evaluation of the economic effects of the pandemic in the region - IFC support will be located on supporting trade finance flows and the working capital needs of the private sector. Mobilizing part of IFC's global \$8 billion fast-track facility to the region in order to support existing clients as well as promoting new economic activities.
<p>WHO</p>	<p>PAHO</p> <p>Elaboration of a thorough document tackling the assessment of Human Resources in the health field available, disposed and managed during the pandemic as well as the factors that have contributed to the state of the pandemic in the Caribbean. The 'effectiveness' with which the CARICOM countries responded to the pandemic was a product of their health system, level of decentralization, the type of leadership, but mostly of their disaster preparedness.</p>
<p>World Vision International</p>	<p>World Vision has supported more than 30 million people, with over 13 million of those being children (based on figures from 64 countries, as of 25 May 2020).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 20 million people were reached through promotion of preventive measures and behaviours to limit the spread of COVID-19. • Over 56,000 community health workers were trained and supported in their focus to strengthen health systems and workers. • Almost 25,000 front-line actors were reached or trained on child protection. • In a round-up of the first 100 days of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, World Vision reports that thousands of staff, volunteers and partners have already reached 44 million people with support, including more than 18 million girls and boys. World Vision and partners have adapted to remote response coordination.

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