

Region of the Americas Update

3 PM WDC. 18 December 2020

Last 24 hours

352,665	Additional cases
6,006	Additional deaths
1.12%	Relative increase in cases
0.75%	Relative increase in deaths
39	Countries/territories reporting new cases
22	Countries/territories reporting new deaths

Highest numbers of cases & deaths in the last 24 hrs

Cases (≥ 1,000)

United States	229,915
Brazil	69,826
Colombia	12,196
Mexico	11,799
Argentina	7,326
Canada	7,008
Panama	3,348
Chile	2,403
Peru	2,061
Puerto Rico	1,381
Costa Rica	1,125

Deaths (≥ 100)

United States	3,443
Brazil	1,092
Mexico	718
Colombia	227
Argentina	169
Canada	117

Region of the Americas – Highlights

1. In preparation to a **possible increase in cases in Lambayeque**, the **Peru Ministry of Health** has [deployed health officials](#) to provide technical assistance aiming to strengthen primary health care.
2. Following the approval of the Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine in **Costa Rica**, the Ministry of Health has published the [COVID-19 vaccination plan](#) indicating that elderly adults residing in long-term care homes and employees, followed by frontline health care workers were among the first groups to be vaccinated.
3. Aiming to strengthen event-based surveillance, the **Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS)** tool has been implemented in 4 countries of the Region of the Americas. In the Caribbean subregion, the first country to embark is **Saint Lucia**. More information available [here](#).

Region of the Americas

31,925,704 cases

804,012 deaths

Global

73,204,412 cases

1,649,345 deaths

216

countries/areas/territories affected

Total cases, deaths & CFR (%) among PAHO countries/territories with ≥ 10,000 cumulative cases.

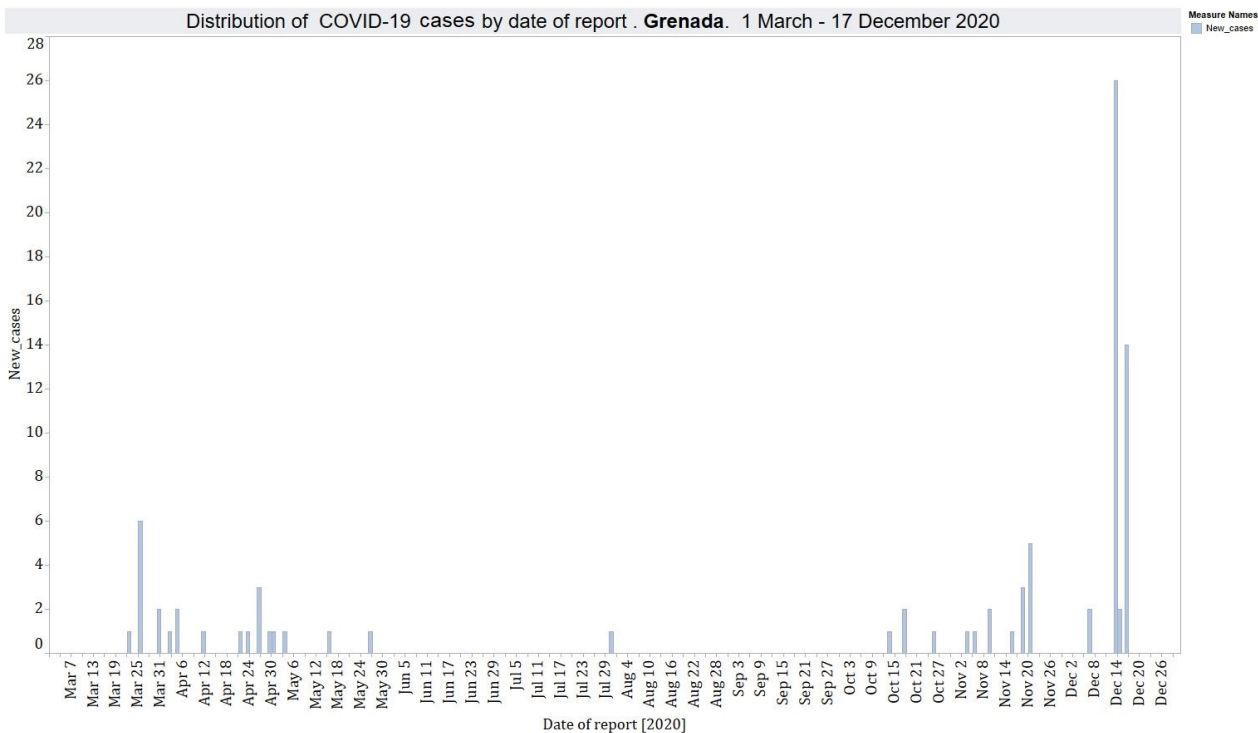
Country/Territory	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)
United States of America	16,912,564	308,403	1.8%
Brazil	7,110,434	184,827	2.6%
Argentina	1,524,372	41,534	2.7%
Colombia	1,468,795	39,787	2.7%
Mexico	1,289,298	116,487	9.0%
Peru	991,518	36,901	3.7%
Chile	581,135	16,051	2.8%
Canada	488,638	13,916	2.8%
Ecuador	204,249	13,932	6.8%
Panama	203,295	3,481	1.7%
Dominican Republic	157,929	2,376	1.5%
Costa Rica	156,388	1,980	1.3%
Bolivia	148,665	9,031	6.1%
Guatemala	132,062	4,589	3.5%
Honduras	115,474	3,021	2.6%
Venezuela	109,081	975	0.9%
Paraguay	97,028	2,032	2.1%
Puerto Rico	66,132	1,333	2.0%
El Salvador	42,397	1,234	2.9%
French Guiana	12,281	71	0.6%

SPOTLIGHT – COVID-19 in Grenada

From official updates from the Ministry of Health of Grenada and Government Information Service of Grenada

Confirmed Cases: As of 18 December 2020, there are 94 RT-PCR confirmed cases and no deaths have been reported in Grenada. Of the total cases, 42 have recovered to date, 7 positive cases were among foreign nationals who have left the island and 45 are considered active. On the date of 13 December, an outbreak of COVID-19 was identified in a resort in the Southern part of the island, resulting in a spike of cases as depicted in **Figure 1**. Transmission type in the country is Sporadic cases.

Figure 1. COVID-19 RT-PCR Confirmed COVID-19 cases in Grenada as of 18 December 2020

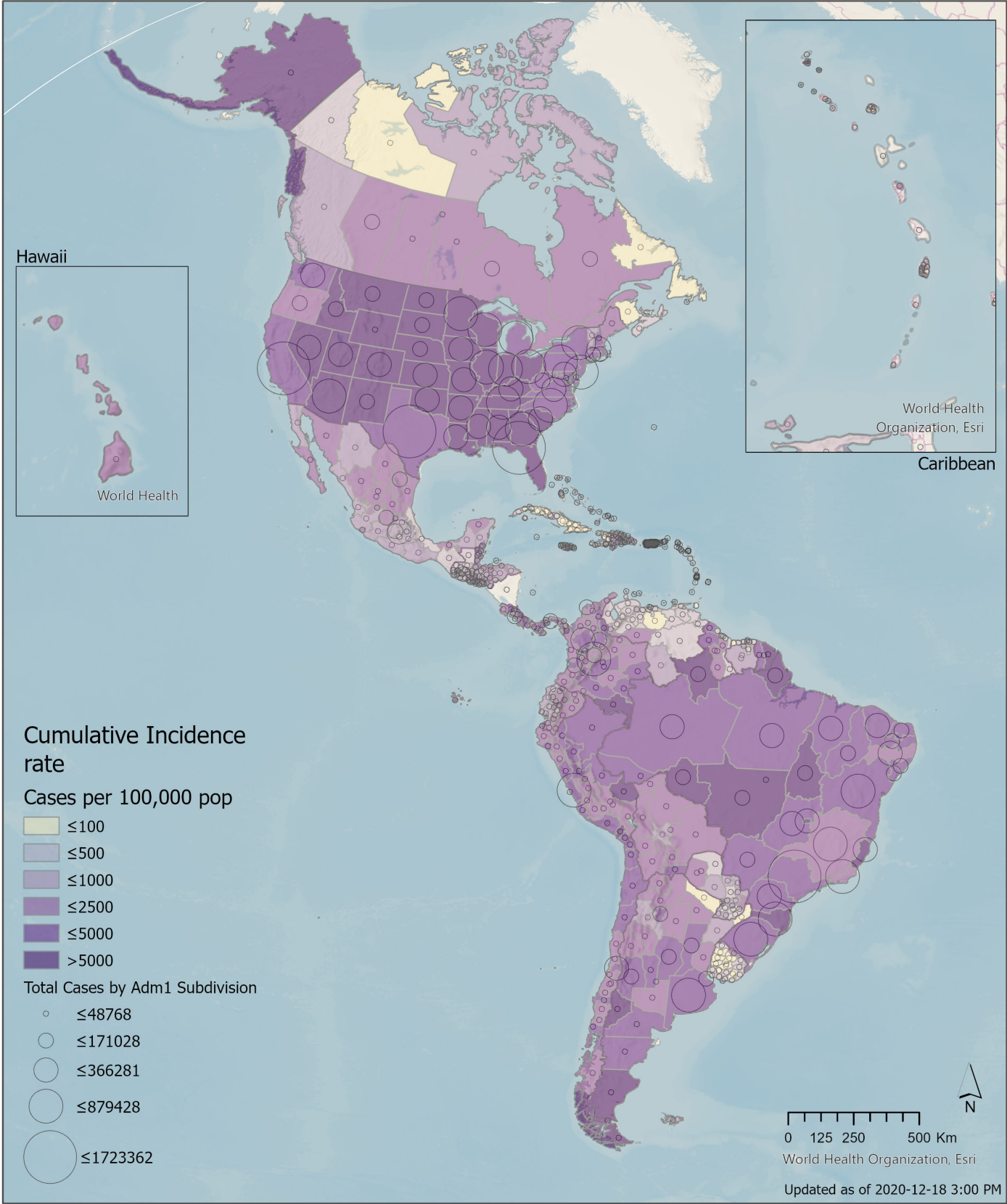


Source: PAHO reproduced with data from the Ministry of Health of Grenada

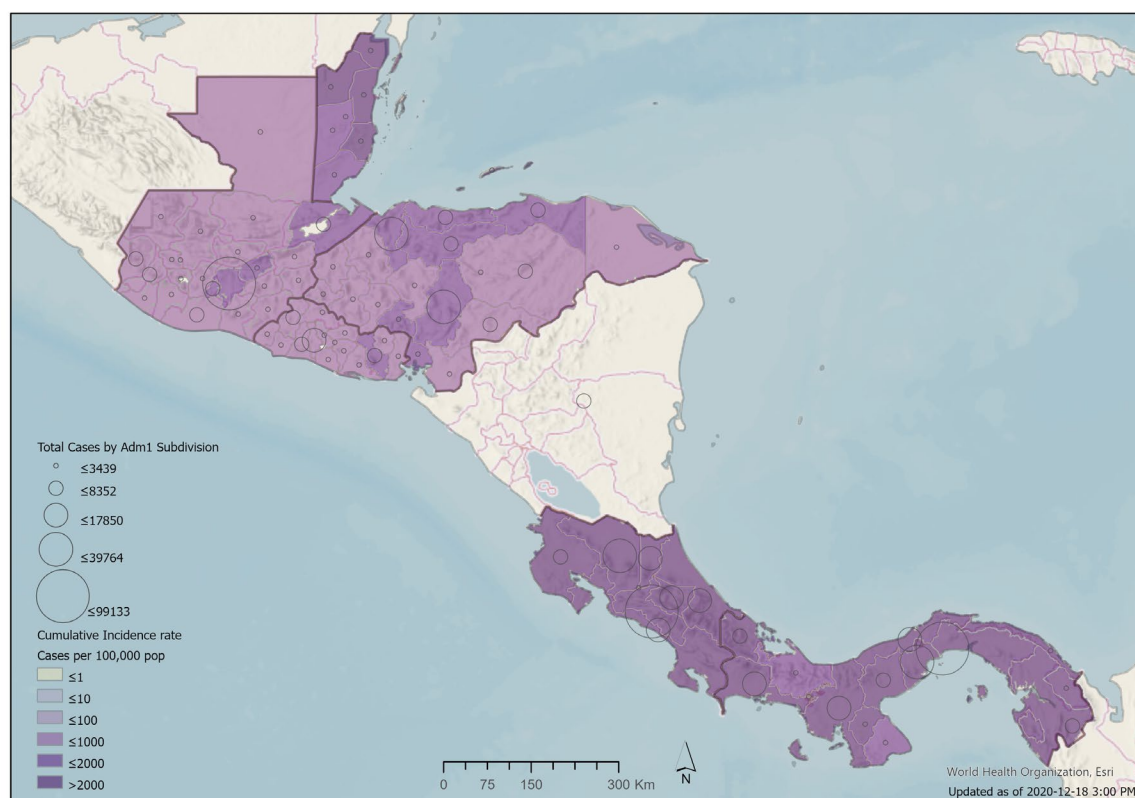
Trends and active cases: As of 18 December, in the last 3 epidemiological weeks (EW 49 to EW 51), 53 additional cases have been reported after a short period with no new cases during EW 48. This represents 56% of cumulative total cases reported since the beginning of the pandemic. It is worth noting that prior to the cluster of cases identified on 13 December, active cases were related to travel. Positive cases were initially detected among guests and employees of the resort resulting in exposure to locals; active cases now include family members and contacts of employees of the resort. The source of the index case remains under investigation. As of 15 December, 11% (5 cases) of active cases were related to travel. Additional cases are expected as testing and contact tracing efforts continue.

Response from national authorities: The Ministry of Health of Grenada has rapidly deployed resources to respond to the surge in cases, particularly through increased testing and contact tracing, which has helped establishing links between cases and requiring exposed individuals to home quarantine for 14 days. RT-PCR tests are conducted in 2 laboratories in the country; St. Georges University and the General Hospital. Masks are mandatory in public spaces and health officials encourage social distancing and hygiene measures. As of 15 December, the following measures have been implemented: social gatherings are limited to 10 people, sporting activities are suspended for 7 days, business closures at 10 p.m. and no dine-in options at restaurants are allowed. Moreover, the Government of Grenada has been informed of potential breaches to protocols and has strengthened surveillance at vulnerable port entries as of 24 November. Grenada continues maintaining strict entry protocols.

Map 1. Reported number of cumulative COVID-19 cases in the Region of the Americas and corresponding incidence rate (per 100,000 persons) by country/territory. As of 18 December 2020.



Map 2. Reported number of cumulative COVID-19 cases in the Central American sub-region and corresponding incidence rate (per 100,000 persons) by country/territory (sub-national level). As of 18 December 2020.

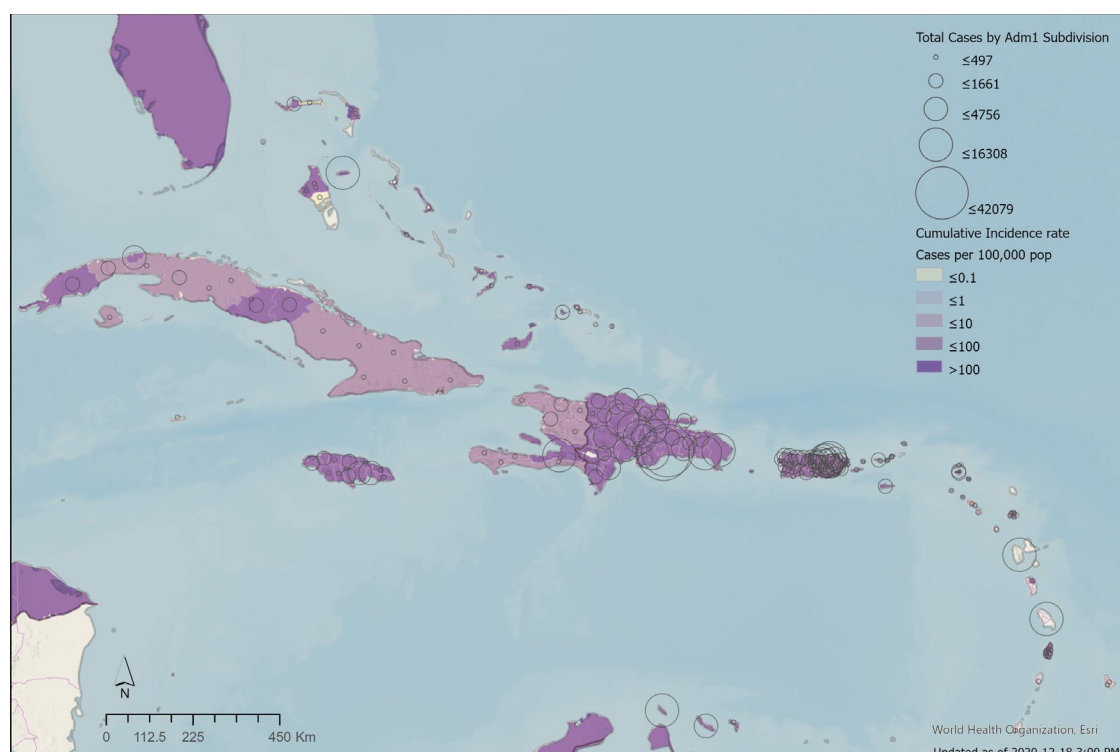


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Map 3. Reported number of cumulative COVID-19 cases in the Caribbean sub-region and corresponding incidence rate (per 100,000 persons) by country/territory (sub-national level). As of 18 December 2020.



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Cumulative COVID-19 cases and deaths reported by countries and territories in the Americas, as of 18 December 2020

Updated as of 3 PM

Sub-Region	Country/Territory	Cases	Deaths	Recovered	% Relative Increase in Cases	Transmission Type
North America	Canada	488,638	13,916	398,412	1%	Community transmission
	Mexico	1,289,298	116,487	953,762	1%	Community transmission
	United States of America (the)	16,912,564	308,403	6,617,896	1%	Community transmission
	Subtotal	18,690,500	438,806	7,970,070	1%	
Central America	Belize	9,791	213	8,053	1%	Community transmission
	Costa Rica	156,388	1,980	124,907	1%	Community transmission
	El Salvador	42,397	1,234	38,481	0%	Community transmission
	Guatemala	132,062	4,589	120,257	0%	Community transmission
	Honduras	115,474	3,021	53,499	0%	Community transmission
	Nicaragua	4,748	163	4,534	0%	Community transmission
	Panama	203,295	3,481	168,238	2%	Community transmission
	Subtotal	664,155	14,681	517,969	1%	
South America	Argentina	1,524,372	41,534	1,352,556	0%	Community transmission
	Bolivia (the Plurinational State of)	148,665	9,031	127,155	0%	Community transmission
	Brazil	7,110,434	184,827	6,177,702	1%	Community transmission
	Chile	581,135	16,051	552,289	0%	Community transmission
	Colombia	1,468,795	39,787	1,343,819	1%	Community transmission
	Ecuador	204,249	13,932	177,951	0%	Community transmission
	Paraguay	97,028	2,032	69,351	1%	Community transmission
	Peru	991,518	36,901	925,893	0%	Community transmission
	Uruguay	11,436	105	7,406	5%	Community transmission
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	109,081	975	103,741	0%	Community transmission
	Subtotal	12,246,713	345,175	10,837,863	1%	
Caribbean and Atlantic Ocean Islands	Anguilla	10		7	0%	Sporadic cases
	Antigua and Barbuda	151	5	141	0%	Sporadic cases
	Aruba	5,124	47	4,919	0%	Community transmission
	Bahamas (the)	7,733	164	6,109	0%	Clusters of cases
	Barbados	305	7	278	1%	Clusters of cases
	Bermuda	497	9	261	2%	Clusters of cases
	Bonaire	154	3	147	0%	Sporadic cases
	Cayman Islands	311	2	282	1%	Sporadic cases
	Cuba	9,893	137	8,912	1%	Clusters of cases
	Curacao	3,823	11	2,105	1%	Community transmission
	Dominica	88		83	0%	Clusters of cases
	Dominican Republic (the)	157,929	2,376	122,406	0%	Community transmission
	Falkland Islands (the) [Malvinas]	23		15	0%	Sporadic cases
	French Guiana	12,281	71	9,995	1%	Community transmission
	Grenada	94		42	11%	Sporadic cases
	Guadeloupe	8,498	154	2,242	0%	Community transmission
	Guyana	6,042	158	5,197	0%	Clusters of cases
	Haiti	9,648	234	8,321	0%	Community transmission
	Jamaica	12,039	283	8,668	1%	Community transmission
	Martinique	5,601	42	98	0%	Community transmission
	Montserrat	13	1	11	0%	No Cases
	Puerto Rico	66,132	1,333	0	2%	Community transmission
	Saba	5		5	0%	No Cases
	Saint Barthelemy	172		94	0%	Sporadic cases
	Saint Kitts and Nevis	30		24	7%	Sporadic cases
	Saint Lucia	280	5	253	0%	Clusters of cases
	Saint Martin	899	12	598	0%	Community transmission
	Saint Pierre and Miquelon	14		14	0%	Sporadic cases
	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	100		82	0%	Sporadic cases
	Sint Eustatius	18		18	0%	Sporadic cases
	Sint Maarten	1,294	26	1,134	1%	Community transmission
	Suriname	5,428	117	5,240	0%	Sporadic cases
	Trinidad and Tobago	6,940	123	6,385	0%	Community transmission
	Turks and Caicos	781	6	741	1%	Clusters of cases
	Virgin Islands (UK)	86	1	74	4%	Clusters of Cases
	Virgin Islands (US)	1,900	23	1,691	1%	Community transmission
	Subtotal	324,336	5,350	196,592	1%	
	Total	31,925,704	804,012	19,522,494	1%	

Table notes on the next page

NOTES: Case and death counts may include both confirmed and probable classifications depending on the reporting Member State.

Recovered counts as indicated and defined by reporting Member States.

Antibody tests, including rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) based on antibody detection, are not recommended for use by PAHO/WHO in clinical diagnosis. Antigen-detecting RDTs may be used following the WHO 11 September 2020 Guidance, available at: <https://bit.ly/2FxK2fs>.

Data is updated on an approximately semi-weekly to weekly basis for Guadeloupe, Martinique, Nicaragua, Saint Barthelemy, Saint Martin, and Saint Pierre and Miquelon.

As of 11 November 2020, the previously aggregated Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius are now being presented separately in the table.

Bahamas: According to a 17 December Bahamas Ministry of Health (MoH) publication, there are a total of 24 additional deaths under investigation, available at: <https://bit.ly/3noOhKK>

Ecuador: According to a 6 September Ecuador Ministry of Public Health press release, only cases confirmed by RT-PCR will be reported; previously, cases who tested positive by either RT-PCR or RDTs were reported, resulting in the exclusion of 8,956 cases. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3h2EWEA>

Guadeloupe: Deaths are aggregated for Guadeloupe and Saint Martin in Santé Publique France weekly publications, available at: <https://bit.ly/2VQ201g>. Death counts for Guadeloupe are calculated subtracting deaths in Saint Martin published by the Saint Barthelemy and Saint Martin prefecture, available at: <https://bit.ly/39Pt7Ij>

Jamaica: According to a 18 December Jamaica Ministry of Health and Wellness press release, there are a total of 28 additional deaths under investigation, available at: <https://bit.ly/39aUN3Q>

Nicaragua: Please note there are discrepancies with the data published by the Citizen's Observatory COVID-19 Nicaragua as of 11 December. Available at: <https://bit.ly/2T31cEN>.

Peru: Aggregated case total as reported by the Peru MoH; disaggregated data is (222,191 by RT-PCR + 767,266 by RDTs). Antibody tests, including RDTs based on antibody detection, are not recommended for use by PAHO/WHO in clinical diagnosis. Antigen-detecting RDTs may be used following the WHO 11 September 2020 Guidance, available at: <https://bit.ly/2FxK2fs>.

Puerto Rico: Aggregated case total as reported by the Puerto Rico Department of Health (DoH); 63,075 were positive by RT-PCR and 3,057 were positive by antigen tests; previously, cases who tested positive by either RT-PCR or serological RDTs were reported, resulting in the exclusion of 33,965 cases. Available at: <https://bit.ly/2VvjksQ>

United States of America: Case and death counts includes both confirmed and probable classifications, as published on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC) website on 18-December (for data confirmed at 16:00 EST the previous day). Excludes counts for Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands. Sources: <https://bit.ly/2WJN2dd> and <https://bit.ly/2zUMSZ1>. Recovered counts as reported by state and territorial health authorities, available at the COVID Tracking Project <https://bit.ly/2ztbRC6>.

Uruguay: According to the 17 December 2020 Uruguay Ministry of Public Health report, there were 4 additional cases that tested positive in foreign nationals; however, the positive cases were excluded from the total case count as they returned to their home country, available at: <https://bit.ly/2WpQKc6>