



## **A Coordinated National Roadmap for COVID-19 Research**

### **Executive Summary and Appendices**

**Essential National Health Research Committee  
Ministry of Health and Wellness, Jamaica**

## Abbreviations

<b>ARI</b>	Acute Respiratory Infection
<b>BIREME</b>	Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information
<b>BOJ</b>	Bank of Jamaica
<b>CAIHR</b>	Caribbean Institute of Health Research
<b>CARIMAC</b>	Caribbean School of Media and Communication
<b>CARPHA</b>	Caribbean Public Health Agency
<b>COVID 2019</b>	Coronavirus Disease 2019
<b>DNA</b>	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
<b>ESRD</b>	End Stage Renal Disease
<b>ELISA</b>	Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay
<b>ENDEAVOR</b>	Emerging and Novel Drug trEAtment for COVID infectiOns Rearch
<b>ENHRC</b>	Essential National Health Research Committee
<b>EOC</b>	Emergency Operation Centre
<b>HCW</b>	Health Care Worker
<b>HSRWG</b>	Health Systems Research Working Group
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>HMSR</b>	Hospital Monthly Statistical Report
<b>IgG</b>	Immunoglobulin G
<b>IgM</b>	Immunoglobulin M
<b>ILI</b>	Influenza-Like Illness
<b>IS4H</b>	Information Systems for Health
<b>IS4H- DMP</b>	Information Systems for Health Data Management Policy

<b>JAMPRO</b>	Jamaica Promotions Corporation
<b>KAP</b>	Knowledge Attitudes and Practices
<b>LFS</b>	Labour Force Survey
<b>LRTI</b>	Admitted Lower Respiratory Tract Infection
<b>MCSR</b>	Monthly Clinic Summary Reports
<b>MERSCoV</b>	Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus
<b>MICAF</b>	Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries
<b>MHS</b>	Multi-Purpose Household Survey
<b>MLSS</b>	Ministry of Labour and Social Security
<b>MOFPS</b>	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service
<b>MOHW</b>	Ministry of Health and Wellness
<b>MOEY</b>	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information
<b>MSET</b>	Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology
<b>MTF</b>	Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework
<b>NCD</b>	Non Communicable Diseases
<b>NCU</b>	Northern Caribbean University
<b>NFPB</b>	National Family Planning Board
<b>NHF</b>	National Health Fund
<b>NK Cells</b>	Natural Killer Cells
<b>NP</b>	Nasopharyngeal
<b>OPM</b>	Office of the Prime Minister
<b>PAMP</b>	Pathogen Associated Molecular Patterns
<b>PPE</b>	Personal Protective Equipment

<b>PCR</b>	Polymerase Chain Reaction
<b>PAHO</b>	Pan American Health Organization
<b>PIOJ</b>	Planning Institute of Jamaica
<b>PPP</b>	Public Private Partnership
<b>RDK</b>	Rapid Diagnostic Kit
<b>RCT</b>	Randomised Controlled Trial
<b>RDT</b>	Rapid Diagnostic Test
<b>RNA</b>	Ribonucleic Acid
<b>SALISES</b>	Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies
<b>SARI</b>	Severe Acute Respiratory Illness
<b>SARS-CoV</b>	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Associated Coronavirus
<b>SARS-COV-2</b>	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SLC</b>	Survey of Living Conditions
<b>STI</b>	Sexually Transmitted Infections
<b>STATIN</b>	Statistical Institute of Jamaica
<b>SRH</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health
<b>TAJ</b>	Tax Administration Jamaica
<b>TLD</b>	Tenofovir, Lamivudine and Dolutegravir
<b>UHC</b>	Universal Health Coverage
<b>UTech</b>	University of Technology
<b>UWI</b>	University of the West Indies
<b>UWISON</b>	UWI School of Nursing

**VHL** Virtual Health Library  
**WG** Working Group  
**WHO** World Health Organization

## 1.0 Executive Summary

### 1.1 Introduction

Viral respiratory diseases such as influenza have always had the greatest potential to cause pandemics, and this has been borne out historically. The first cases of coronavirus disease were identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019.<sup>1</sup> The pathogen, a single-strand RNA beta-coronavirus,<sup>1</sup> was named severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2),<sup>1 2</sup> and the resultant disease was called coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).<sup>2</sup> Coronaviruses are diverse, resulting in infections which may cause mild to severe forms of disease in humans.<sup>2</sup> Other beta-coronaviruses, namely SARS-CoV and MERSCoV, have resulted in high mortality rates of 10% and 35% respectively in other settings.<sup>2</sup>

The Coronavirus disease outbreak has quickly grown from a localized issue in China, to a public health challenge in approximately two hundred countries and territories. The World Health Organization declared coronavirus disease a public health emergency of international concern on January 30, 2020, and the COVID-19 outbreak was characterized as a pandemic on March 11, 2020<sup>3</sup>. As at April May 14, 2020 there were 4,248,389 cases and 294,046 deaths confirmed globally<sup>4</sup>. The first case of coronavirus disease in Jamaica was confirmed on March 10, 2020.

Despite the global spread and breadth of cases, much remains unknown regarding the disease. This includes but is not limited to: (a) the proportion of pre-symptomatic individuals as well as asymptomatic cases in the population,<sup>5 6</sup> (b) the spectrum of disease severity and risk factors for severe illness and death.<sup>6 7</sup> (c) the level of co-infection,<sup>5</sup> (d) the period of infectiousness and transmissibility,<sup>6 7</sup> (e) the extent of viral shedding in the population,<sup>5</sup> (f) the level of survival of the virus outside the body,<sup>6</sup> (g) the efficacy of antiviral drugs and other treatments<sup>2 6</sup> and (h) the validity of serological and other tests.<sup>6</sup> The evaluation of the success of quarantine strategies and their acceptability<sup>6</sup> will also be important. It will also be critical to evaluate the level of responsiveness of the health system to the outbreak, and assess the impact on the economy and on various sectors.

The Essential National Health Research Committee (ENHRC) of the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) has begun to formulate a national coronavirus disease research agenda to provide data to guide the COVID-19 outbreak response. This document introduces the agenda, while outlining the budget and timelines for implementation.

### 1.2 Purpose

The purpose of the COVID-19 Research Roadmap is to provide an integrated framework to guide the coordination, implementation and utilization of research pertaining to COVID-19 to inform the national response in the mitigation and/or management of the current outbreak and future activities

### 1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the National COVID-19 Research Agenda are to:

1. Support the generation of evidence needed to strengthen clinical management, public health guidance and actions essential for mitigating the impact of COVID-19 disease on the population of Jamaica
2. Determine the impact of COVID-19 on various sectors in Jamaica to provide information for action
3. Coordinate efforts across Government, academia, the private sector, development partners and other stakeholders to optimize research efforts and outcomes in a ‘whole-of-society’ response to producing data.
4. Support the development of the research for health enterprise to be better prepared for the next emerging and re-emerging disease outbreak.

### 1.4 Governance

The development of a National COVID-19 Research Agenda will be the responsibility of the ENHRC, a Chief-Medical Officer appointed Committee currently led by Dr. Karen Webster-Kerr, Principal Medical Officer and National Epidemiologist. Membership is comprised of key stakeholders in research, including representatives from the Ministry of Health and Wellness, educational institutions, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), the Registrar General’s Department, professional associations and non-governmental organizations. The National COVID-19 Research Agenda is co-chaired by the MoHW and the STATIN.

The development of a National COVID-19 research agenda will be achieved through the establishment of Research Working Groups covering six areas. These are: (1) Clinical and Laboratory; (2) Epidemiological/Surveillance: Case and Control; (3) Epidemiological Surveillance: Household and Community; (4) Health Systems; (4) Socioeconomic; (5) Communication and (6) Policy. A seventh cross-cutting Data Management and Documentation group will also be established. Research Working Groups are outlined in Table 1 and their membership detailed in [Appendix 1](#).

Working groups will be responsible for identifying and prioritizing research under thematic areas, and will provide guidance in the execution of research. As an initial step, Terms of References (TOR) for the Working Groups will be developed to clarify membership, roles and functions, tenure and reporting requirements.

**Table 1:** COVID-19 Research Working Groups

Research Working Group	Chairperson	Co-Chairperson(s)
Clinical and Laboratory	Prof. Marvin Reid	Dr. Naydene Williams Dr. Michelle Hamilton
Epidemiological/Surveillance	<i>Case and Contact</i>	

Research Working Group	Chairperson	Co-Chairperson(s)
	Dr. Jacqueline Duncan	Dr. Iyanna Wellington
	<i>Household and Community</i>	
	Prof. Affette McCaw-Binns	Dr. Ardene Harris Dr. Kelly-Ann Gordon-Johnson
Health System	Dr. Georgiana Gordon-Strachan	Mr. Jasper Barnett
Socio-Economic	Ms. Leesha Delatie-Budair	Mr. James Stewart Dr. Kelly-Ann Dixon-Hamil
Communication	Dr. Althea Bailey	
Policy	Mr. Howard Lynch	
<b>CROSS-CUTTING</b>		
Data Management and Documentation	Dr. Maurice McNaughton	Dr. Beverly Lashley Mrs. Vinnese Dias

## 1.5 Methodology

The ENHRC convened weekly meetings of research working groups to discuss i) the approach to be taken (ii) the definition of objectives and (iii) the prioritization of research topics. Working groups were asked to prepare a brief on the research to be conducted under each thematic area. Weekly meetings held on April 10 and 17 were used to present research priority areas to the wider ENHRC and to obtain feedback from peers.

The Ministry requested technical and other support from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in the conduct of early investigations regarding COVID-19. These include investigations related to the first few COVID-19 cases and contacts and household transmission, which fell under the remit of the *Epidemiological/Surveillance: Case and Contact* Research Working Group. Support was also requested for a sero-epidemiological survey to be conducted by the *Epidemiological Surveillance: Household and Community* group. These studies utilized protocols developed by the PAHO/World Health Organization (WHO) to allow for standardization of data collection across WHO member states.

Research working groups prepared proposals as well as a budget and timeline for activities.

## 1.6 Towards a Coordinated Research Roadmap for COVID-19 in Jamaica

The Coordinated Research Roadmap for COVID-19 entails the identification of research priority areas that the government will fund and support. The full Agenda is listed in Table 3. Research Working Groups have identified immediate research actions (Table 2), as well as those that should be undertaken in the short, medium, and long term (Table 8). Funding to support some immediate research initiatives will be taken from internal budgets of Ministries, Departments and Agencies. However, the Government of Jamaica will be asked to approve an overall budget for the National COVID-19 Research Agenda to ensure that critical research initiatives are undertaken. Figure 1 outlines the activities to be undertaken and the required budget for each phase.



The following research priorities were identified for immediate action.

**Table 2:** Immediate Research Actions

Research Working Group	Immediate Actions to Be Undertaken
Clinical and Laboratory	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WHO Solidarity Trial</li> <li>2. TLD Trial</li> <li>3. ENDEAVOR Trial</li> <li>4. Test Performance Characteristics of Antibody Assay Kits</li> <li>5. Validation of Specimen types and collection methods: Self-collected Nasopharyngeal (NP) specimens, throat washings and sputum for COVID-19 compared to specimens collected by health care professionals</li> </ol>
Epidemiological/Surveillance: Case and Contact	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use of technology with self-administered tools for surveillance of cases and contacts</li> <li>2. Analysis of existing data on cases and contacts</li> <li>3. Case control study to identify risk factors for COVID-19 infection</li> <li>4. To determine prevalence and risk factors for COVID-19 infection among HCWs</li> <li>5. Cohort study of persons with COVID-19 infection to determine short-term and long-term outcomes of COVID-19 infection</li> <li>6. To establish a biorepository of serum samples for cases and contacts of COVID-19 cases</li> </ol>
Epidemiological/Surveillance: Household and Community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. KAP Survey</li> <li>2. Validate and select a serological test for the community survey using sera from diagnosed cases.</li> <li>3. Sero-Epidemiological Survey</li> </ol>
Health System	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. UHC: Health Service Delivery -Patient Level</li> </ol>
Socio-Economic	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analyses of the impact of COVID-19 control measures on fiscal revenues, trade and industry</li> </ol>
Communication	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Case Study of quarantined communities (mixed methods)</li> <li>2. Engagement strategies for travellers</li> <li>3. Coping with COVID-19: the acceptability, appropriateness, cost, and reach of the health risk communications for vulnerable populations</li> </ol>
Data Management and Documentation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Data and Information Management</li> </ol>

## 1.7 Research Agenda

Table 3 outlines the National COVID-19 Research Agenda priority areas to be undertaken by each Research Working Group.

**Table 3:** National COVID-19 Research Agenda

Research Working Group	Priority	Sponsored/Supported
Clinical and Laboratory	1. WHO Solidarity Trial	Yes
	2. TLD Trial	No
	3. ENDEAVOR Trial	No

<b>Research Working Group</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Sponsored/Supported</b>
	4. Test Performance Characteristics of Antibody Assay Kits	No
	5. Validation of Specimen types and collection methods: Self-collected Nasopharyngeal (NP) specimens, throat washings and sputum for COVID-19 compared to specimens collected by health care professionals	No
	6. Viral load, biomarkers and lung function in patients diagnosed with COVID-19	No
Epidemiological/Surveillance: Case and Contact	1. To describe the first 200 cases of COVID-19 infection in an island state	Yes
	2. To determine sensitivity and specificity of case definition for COVID-19 infection	No
	3. To determine the risk factors for transmission of COVID-19 infections (behavioural etc.)	No
	4. To determine prevalence and risk factors of COVID-19 infection among health care workers	Yes
	5. To determine the natural history of COVID-19 infection (including short term and long term outcomes of persons with COVID-19 infection)?	Yes
	6. To establish a biorepository of serum samples for cases and contacts of COVID-19 cases	No
Epidemiological/Surveillance: Household and Community Health System	1. KAP survey	
	2. Community sample survey	Yes
	1. UHC: Health Service Delivery -Patient Level	No
	2. Health System Level -Resilience and Response	No
	3. Health Service Delivery- Health Provider/Government level	No
	4. Health System Leadership, Communication and Decision-Making	No
	5. Evaluation of Transformative and innovative strategies	No
Socio-Economic	1. Government and Public-Private Partnerships	No
	2. Business, Industry and Trade	No
	3. Society and Household	No
Communication	1. Case Study- Quarantined Communities	No
	2. Coping with COVID-19 the acceptability, appropriateness, cost, and reach of the health risk communications for vulnerable populations	No
	3. Community / Target audience Engagement Strategies for specific target populations	No

<b>Research Working Group</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Sponsored/Supported</b>
Data Management and Documentation	1. Research Bibliography	No
	2. Data & Information Management	No
	3. Documentation	No
	4. Research initiative (Big Data sources)	No

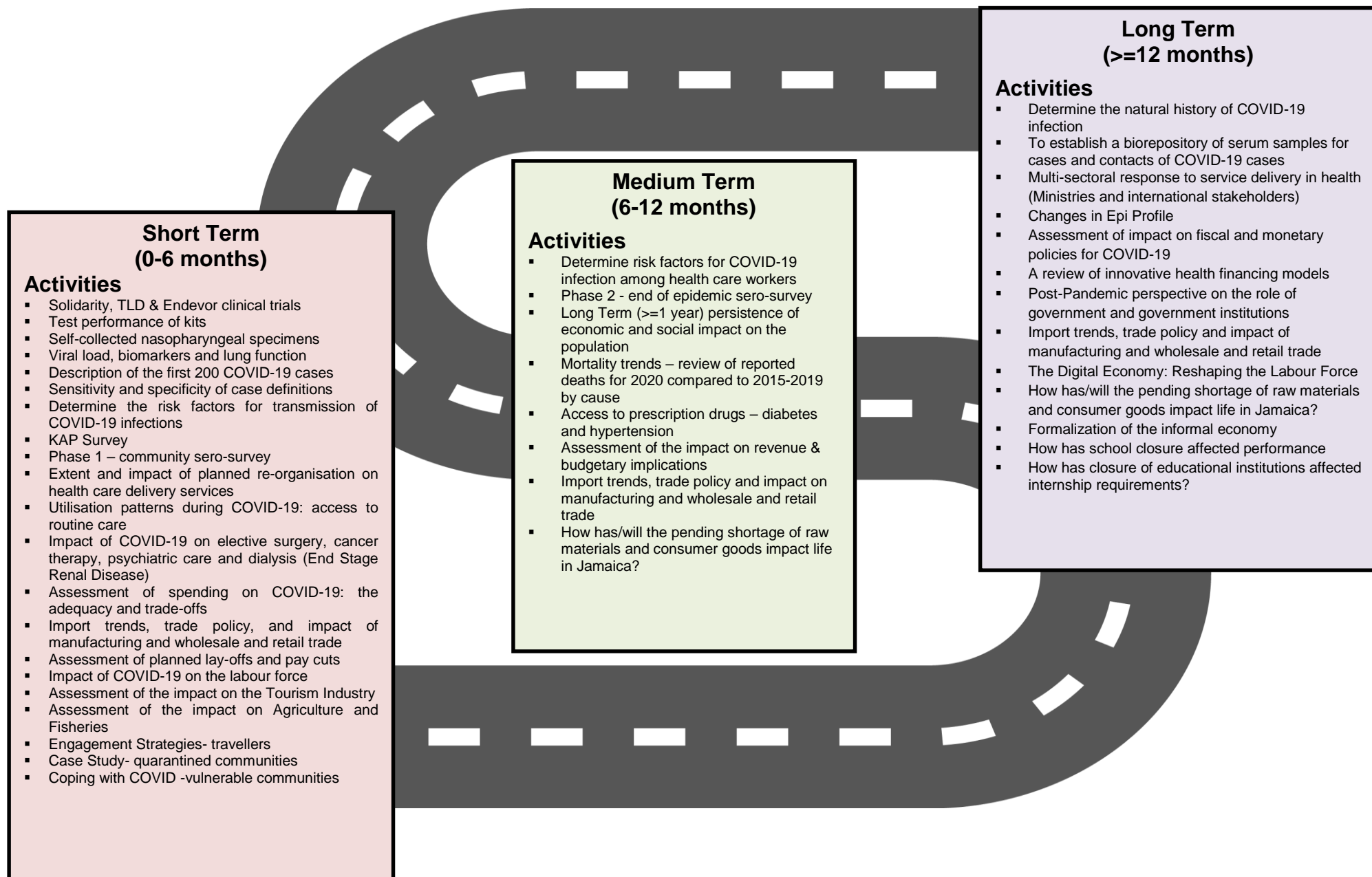
**1.8 Implications for Policy and Practice**

Successful implementation of the COVID-19 research roadmap may:

1. Contribute to a greater understanding of the disease, including factors leading to the transmission of COVID-19, as well as its impact on vulnerable populations
2. Facilitate
  - a more efficient and effective emergency response to pandemics, including the rapid adaptation and implementation of surveillance systems, mobilization of funding and escalation of diagnostic testing
  - improved interaction between public and private health facilities including private hospitals
  - improved interactions between "field" staff and facilities and the Ministry of Health
  - Revised guidelines for the management of epidemics, pandemics and disasters, these will be based on the lessons learnt from our experience as a nation.
  - A responsive monitoring system with triggers to show declines in the uptake/utilization of public clinical services and pharmaceuticals provided by the National Health Fund
  - The development of a mathematical model for the establishment of baselines for different health services using historical data. The incorporation of the model into routine monitoring for comparisons post COVID-19
  - the provision of human and other resources which can be used in future initiatives to provide data to guide interventions
3. Provide information on the success and acceptability of government intervention measures
4. Lead to a improvements in the legal aspects of pandemic preparedness and implementation of emergency response
5. Lead to greater understanding of the impact of the disease on sexual and reproductive health, maternal and child health, HIV/STIs and gender-based violence

**1.10 Limitations**

1. The National COVID-19 Research Agenda may not cover all areas of research related to the disease. While the Agenda will be prioritized by the Ministry of Health and Wellness, as well as other organizations represented by Research Working Groups, it is recognized that there are areas of research that may be undertaken by institutions to fulfil other important objectives.
2. The current COVID-19 outbreak is dynamic, and the impact of the disease may be long-term. While the Agenda outlines research to be conducted over a two-year period, all the impacts as well as ensuing research questions may not be anticipated.



**Figure 1:** Coordinated Research Roadmap for COVID-19: Timeline and Budget for Research Activities

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## Appendices

### Appendix 1: COVID-19 Research Working Group Membership

Research Working Group	Working Group Position	Members	Institutional Affiliation	Job Title	
National Research Agenda COVID-19 Steering Committee	Chair	Dr. Karen Webster Kerr	MOHW	Principal Medical Officer, National Epidemiologist	
	Co-Chair	Ms Leesha Delatie-Budair	STATIN	Deputy Director General	
	Secretariat:	<b>Epidemiological Research &amp; Data Analysis Unit</b>			
			Dr. Andriene Grant	MOHW	Director, ERDAU
			Miss Romae Thorpe	MOHW	Biostatistician
			Mrs Tanielle Mullings	MOHW	Research Officer
		<b>Documentation:</b>			
			Chair: Dr Maurice McNaughton	MOHW	Director, Centre of Excellence and Innovation
			Co-chair: Beverley Lashley	National Library of Jamaica	National Librarian
			Member: Vinnese Cameron-Dias	MOHW	Director, Documentation Information and Access Services
			Dr Nadia Bennett	CAIHR, UWI	Research Fellow
			Myrna Doublas	UWI	Law Librarian
			Dr. Lila Rao-Graham	Deputy Executive Director	Mona School of Business, UWI
	Dr. Suzanna Russell	Senior Lecturer	Mona School of Business, UWI		
Clinical & Laboratory	Chair	Prof. Marvin Reid	CAIHR, UWI	Director, Tropical Metabolism Research Unit	
	Co-Chair Clinical	Dr. Naydene Williams	MOHW	Director, Health Services Planning and Integration (Actg.)	
	Co-Chair Laboratory	Dr. Michelle Hamilton	MOHW	Director, National Laboratory Services	
	Members:	Dr Trevor Ferguson	CAIHR, UWI	Senior Lecturer, Epidemiology	
		Prof. Marshall Tulloch-Reid	CAIHR, UWI	Director, Epidemiology Research Unit	
		Dr. Jacqueline Vigilance	NCU	Director, Research	
		Prof. Paul Gyles	NCU	Provost	
		Mrs. Tanielle Mullings	MOHW	Research Officer	
		Prof. Peter Figueroa	UWI	Consultant/Professor, Public Health, Epidemiology and HIV-AIDS, Department of Community Health and Psychiatry	
		Prof. Michael Boyne	UWI	Department of Medicine	
Prof. Celia Christie	UWI	Department of Child Health			



Research Working Group	Working Group Position	Members	Institutional Affiliation	Job Title
		Dr. Tracey Evans-Gilbert	UWI	Department of Paediatrics
Epidemiological/Surveillance a. Case & Contact	Chair Co-Chair Members:	Dr. Jacqueline Duncan	UWI	Senior Lecturer/Consultant
		Dr. Iyanna Wellington	MOHW	Medical Officer, Communicable Diseases
		Dr. Cathi Williams	MOHW	Medical Officer, Communicable Disease Surveillance
		Dr. Beryl Irons		Retired PAHO/WHO Advisor
		Dr. Trevor Ferguson	CAIHR, UWI	Senior Lecturer, Epidemiology
		Prof. Marshall Tulloch-Reid	CAIHR, UWI	Director, Epidemiology Research Unit
		Dr. Ardene Harris	MOHW	Medical Epidemiologist, National Surveillance Unit
		Dr. Nadia Bennett	CAIHR, UWI	Research Fellow
		Prof. Peter Figueroa	UWI	Consultant/Professor, Public Health, Epidemiology and HIV-AIDS, Department of Community Health and Psychiatry
b. Household & Community	Chair	Prof. Affette McCaw-Binns	UWI	Professor, Reproductive Health and Epidemiology, Department of Community Health and Psychiatry
	Co-Chair	Dr. Ardene Harris	MOHW	Medical Epidemiologist, National Surveillance Unit
	Co-Chair	Dr. Kelly-Ann Gordon-Johnson	MOHW	Grant Manager, Surveillance and Response to Avian and Pandemic Influenza in Jamaica
	Members:	Ms. Leesha Delatie-Budair	STATIN	Deputy Director General
		Dr. Natalee Simpson	STATIN	Director, Surveys Division
		Ms. Philone Mantock	STATIN	Head, Special Projects
		Ms. Amanda Lee	STATIN	Statistician, RDE
		Mrs. Denese McFarlane	PIOJ	Health Specialist
		Dr Beryl Irons		Retired PAHO/WHO Advisor
		Dr Andriene Grant	MOHW	Director, ERDAU
		Ms. Joy Braham	NCU	Lecturer, School of Nursing
		Dr. Trevor Ferguson	CAIHR, UWI	Senior Lecturer, Epidemiology
		Mrs. Pauline Anderson-Johnson	UWISON, UWI	Lecturer
		Dr. Althea Bailey	UWI	Lecturer, Department of Community Health and Psychiatry
Dr. Christine Walters	UWI	Lecturer		
Dr. Fitzroy Henry	UTech	Professor of Public Health and Nutrition		
Health System	Chair	Dr. Georgiana Gordon-Strachan	CAIHR, UWI	Senior Lecturer, Epidemiology and Health Policy
	Co-Chair	Mr Jasper Barnett	MOHW	Director (Acting), Health Systems Improvement
	Members:	Dr. Andriene Grant	MOHW	Director, ERDAU
		Dr. Jacqueline Vigilance	NCU	Director, Research
		Mrs Denese McFarlane	PIOJ	Health Specialist
		Dr. Tazhmoye Crawford	NFPB	Director, Monitoring, Evaluation and Research

Research Working Group	Working Group Position	Members	Institutional Affiliation	Job Title
		Dr. Michelle Harris	PAHO	Advisor, Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health
		Dr. Ishtar Govia	CAIHR, UWI	Lecturer, Epidemiology
		Mr. Casimiro Dias	PAHO	Health Systems Advisor
Socio-Economic	Chair	Ms. Leesha Delatie-Budar	STATIN	Deputy Director General
	Co-Chair	Mr. James Stewart	PIOJ	Senior Director, Economic Planning & Research Division
	Co-Chair	Dr Kelly-Ann Dixon-Hamil	UWI/FSS	Lecturer/Assistant Professor in Statistics
	Members:	Ms. Carol Coy	STATIN	Director General
		Dr. Natalee Simpson	STATIN	Director, Surveys Division
		Ms. Jessica Campbell	STATIN	Director, Research Design and Evaluation
		Ms. Paula Jackson	STATIN	Director, Economic Accounting
		Ms. Hope Perkins	STATIN	Senior Statistician
		Mr. Trevor Anderson	MOFPS	Actg. Principal Director, Fiscal Policy Management Branch
		Dr. Fabian Lewis	MOFPS	Director, Research and Analysis Unit,
		Mr. Aayon Cruickshank	MOFPS	Director, Trade Policy Unit
		Mr Hank Williams	TAJ	Deputy Commissioner General for Strategic Services
		Mr. Vincent Irving	TAJ	Director, Forensic Data mining
		Mr. David Smalling	TAJ	Economic Analyst
		Ms. Shantol Roye	TAJ	Statistician
		Mr. Hugh Morris	PIOJ	Director, Modelling & Research
		Mr. Robert Stennett	BOJ	Division Chief, Research & Economic Programming
		Mrs. Prudence Serju-Thomas	BOJ	Senior Director, Research
		Mr. Jasper Barnett	MOHW	Director (Acting), Health Systems Improvement
		Ms. Shelleka Darby	MICAF	Agricultural Trade Officer
Ms. Daenia Ashpole	MICAF	International Trade Specialist		
Communication	Chair	Dr Althea Bailey	Faculty of Medical Sciences UWI	Lecturer, Department of Community Health and Psychiatry
	Co-Chair	Dr Michelle Harris	PAHO	Advisor Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health
	Members:	Dr Ishtar Govia	CAIHR, UWI	Lecturer, Epidemiology
		Dr Livingston White	CARIMAC, UWI	Director, Caribbean School of Media and Communication
		Dr Marcia Thelwell-Reid	UTech	Associate Professor, Joint Colleges of Medicine, Oral Health and Veterinary Sciences
		Dr Christine Walters	Faculty of Medical Sciences UWI	Lecturer & Health Research Scientist
		Dr Janet Campbell-Shelly	UTech	Associate Professor and Dean, College of Health Sciences
		Mr. Artan Jama	PAHO	Communications Consultant
Policy	Chair	Mr. Shawn Grey	OPM	Director, Performance Management and Evaluation

<b>Research Working Group</b>	<b>Working Group Position</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Institutional Affiliation</b>	<b>Job Title</b>
	Co-chair	Mr. Howard Lynch	MOHW	Director, Policy, Planning and Development
	Members:	Mr. Easton Williams	PIOJ	Senior Director, Social Policy, Planning and Research
		Mrs. Denese McFarlane	PIOJ	Health Specialist
		Mr. Gary Campbell	MSET	Director, Technology
		Dr. Georgiana Gordon-Strachan	CAIHR, UWI	Senior Lecturer, Epidemiology and Health Policy
		Dr. Ishtar Govia	CAIHR, UWI	Lecturer, Epidemiology

Key: CAIHR – Caribbean Institute of Health Research; CARIMAC – Caribbean School of Media and Communication; MICAF – Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries; MOFPS – Ministry of Finance and the Public Service; MOHW – Ministry of Health and Wellness; MSET – Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology; NCU – Northern Caribbean University; NFPB – National Family Planning Board; OPM – Office of the Prime Minister; PAHO – Pan American Health Organization; PIOJ – Planning Institute of Jamaica; SALISES – Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies; STATIN – Statistical Institute of Jamaica; TAJ – Tax Administration Jamaica; UTech – University of Technology; UWI – University of the West Indies; UWI(SON – UWI School of Nursing