The objective of this webinar is to reflect on the nutrition environment over the course of the pandemic and the resulting direct and indirect impacts on health; and discuss individual and population-level strategies to encourage improved nutrition and management of diet-related NCDs during and after the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has raised fundamental food insecurity questions and concerns in the Caribbean. As communities adjusted to protracted periods of lockdown, resulting in widespread reduction and loss of incomes, it is likely that diets shifted to consumption of low-cost processed, non-perishable foods. The food and beverage industry also took advantage of the critical shortages of food among the most vulnerable by intensifying and diversifying their marketing strategies under the guise of corporate social philanthropy.

Through a combination of presentations and discussion, panellists will explore the following key themes over the course of the webinar:

1. COVID and Obesity
2. Trends in BMI among paediatric and adult patients during the pandemic.
3. Factors contributing to pandemic weight gain in children and adults.
4. The role of the food and beverage industry in the obesity epidemic – prior to and during COVID-19
5. Implications of weight gain among children and adults on COVID and NCD risk
6. Moving forward: the importance of nutrition equity and strategies to achieve this at the individual, community, institutional, and national levels; strategies to maintain/ reduce BMI at the individual level; policies to tackle overweight and obesity at the national level.

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