

ALCOHOL & COVID-19



A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION Tuesday 24th November, 2020

Time: 10:00am - 11:30am EST (11:00am - 12:30 p.m. AST)

The Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC) in partnership with the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, is pleased to announce the continuation of the annual Caribbean Alcohol Reduction Day (CARD) webinar series. The HCC and partners have held an annual Caribbean Alcohol Reduction Day for the past four years, under the themes and titles: The Misuse of Alcohol (2016); Drink less, Reduce Cancer (2017); Youth: Let's talk about alcohol (2018); and Women and Alcohol (2019).

The objective of the fifth CARD webinar entitled "**Alcohol and COVID-19**" is to reflect on the alcohol consumption patterns over the course of the pandemic; the reciprocal impact of mental health under crisis conditions on alcohol consumption and related harms and comorbidities; government and alcohol industry action during the pandemic; and to discuss priority alcohol policy and programming, related mental health policy and programming and industry regulations moving forward as the pandemic continues.

This year's theme is most topical and critical to examine because of the specific harms and comorbidities related to alcohol consumption during this public health crisis. The interconnected nature of alcohol consumption, mental health and NCDs during the COVID-19 pandemic requires close examination in order to best devise strategies to manage these harms and to regulate alcohol sales, promotion and consumption as we continue into the prolonged social and economic conditions of the pandemic.

The webinar will highlight how alcohol use during the coronavirus pandemic is related to and impacted by poor mental health, government regulation and industry action. Through a roundtable format, a diverse panel of experts and advocates will share regional research on alcohol use patterns and associated risk and harms, linkages with mental health and the impact of government and industry action. Finally, policy strategies and recommendations will be discussed that are focused on reducing alcohol consumption and associated harms, mitigating poor mental health arising from pandemic conditions and regulating industry marketing activity.

The webinar will take the form of a series of brief presentations followed by a roundtable discussion and a question and answer session.

**Register to
attend
the webinar
here**

Moderator



Sir Trevor Hassell
President, HCC

Opening Remarks



Dr. Tamu Davidson
*M.D., MPH (General Public Health)
Head - Chronic Disease and Injury
Department Surveillance, Disease Prevention
& Control Division*

Panellists/Presenters



Dr. Maristela G. Monteiro
*Senior Advisor on Alcohol and Substance
Abuse at PAHO*



Professor Rohan Maharaj
*Professor of Family Medicine of University of
the West Indies, HCC Alcohol Policy Advisor*



Dr. John Dillett
*Consultant Psychiatrist, Mental Health
Professional, The Bahamas*



Safiya Clarke-Mendes
MPH, Volunteer Researcher, Youth Advocate

Register for the webinar [here](#).

Any questions or for more information please email hcc@healthycaribbean.org