



PRESS RELEASE

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Attention: All News Editors

Health Ministry confirms over 100 ventilators in use

KINGSTON, Jamaica. Thursday, June 20, 2024: As part of its guiding principle to remain transparent, the Ministry of Health and Wellness has published a list of all ventilators donated and purchased by the Government and partners. **This list is subject to change on a daily basis based on the needs and demands on the public health system including usage, servicing requirement, new additions or decommissioning.**

“Based on reports obtained as at 6:43 p.m. on Thursday, June 20 from the Regional Health Authorities and the University Hospital of the West Indies, the health system has a total of 191 Ventilators,” Dr. Tufton noted.

Ventilators are sensitive pieces of equipment that help a patient breathe when they are sick, injured, or sedated for an operation. It pumps oxygen-rich air into the lungs and helps the patient breathe out carbon dioxide. Given this sensitivity, these machines must be maintained constantly to ensure the provision of effective lifesaving support.

Equipment in use

“Of the 191 ventilators in the asset registries, 120 are in use and fully functional in our system,” the Minister added.

The full listing of equipment will be published on the Ministry’s website.

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“The list includes the location of the asset, the unique identifiable serial number of each piece of equipment as well as the mechanism through which the items were acquired. That is either through the support of donors or via the consolidated fund,” the Minister continued.

Maintenance Issues

Seven-one (71) are non-functional given issues of maintenance, including the need for spare parts that are not available in the country. Among the other maintenance issues too is the need for equipment to be decommissioned as they are either irreparable, non-compatible or have come to the end of their useful life phase.

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