

HEALTH HERALD

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*All Hail
Our
Healthcare
Heroes*



Jamaica celebrates Healthcare Workers Appreciation Month

July was that time of year when we, once again, celebrated the outstanding service of our healthcare heroes, among them the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health & Wellness, Dunstan E. Bryan.

July was Healthcare Workers Appreciation Month and what a time it was, from the National Church Service hosted at the Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Kingston to fun-filled days that catered to staff together with rewards and recognition ceremonies.

The month-long celebrations also featured a series of other events and activities at the national, regional and parish levels, including the observance of National Healthcare Workers' Appreciation Day on Thursday, July 13.

"For the third year running, we have taken the month of July to specially recognise our healthcare workers," noted Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, MP.

"We continue to honour their commitment, service, and sacrifice," the Minister added.

Scenes from Rewards & Recognition Ceremony: Pages 5 - 9

Scenes from National Church Service: Pages 10 & 11





Health Ministry welcomes talks with nurses on training support

Senior officials of the Ministry of Health and Wellness have convened discussions with the Nurses Association of Jamaica (NAJ) on efforts for collaboration and training support to improve health service delivery and increase human resources for health.

The talks ensued during a courtesy visit from executives of the Nurses Association of Jamaica (NAJ) and student nurses who are finalists of the LASCO/NAJ Nurse of the Year award even as the Ministry recognises July as Healthcare Workers Appreciation Month.

During the visit, Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton invited recommendations from the NAJ as it concerns training collaboration programmes and upskilling of local nurses.

“We have to find a different approach to make sure we are well staffed, and to fill spaces where we have gaps,” the Minister said.

Also featured in the discussions were the ongoing infrastructural development of public health facilities and the concomitant need for specialist nursing staff.

“We are creating opportunities to collaborate around training, even for our own senior nurses to become faculty so that we can see the profession being populated with more people,” the Minister explained.

The Ministry has in recent times ramped up efforts concerning expansion of health care worker training in Jamaica, including the possible exchange of faculty members such as nurse educators. Jamaica is exploring collaborations with Nigeria and the Phillipines for the recruitment of nurses, in response to the shortage of specialist nurses in the island. To shore up its complement of human resources for health, the Ministry has also opened applications for the Barry Wint Scholarship which will dedicate \$500 million dollars for health-related studies. Of the allotment, \$75 million is for healthcare workers in the public health system.



Search and Destroy Mosquito-breeding Sites

Following the start of the hurricane season and the anticipated increase in rainfall, the Ministry of Health & Wellness is reminding members of the public to expect an increase in the breeding of mosquitoes, especially those that carry diseases such as the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, carriers of the dengue virus.

Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Jacqueline Bisasor-McKenzie noted that, "It is important for members of the public to play their part to prevent a possible increase in the transmission of dengue by searching for and destroying all potential mosquito-breeding sites in and around their surrounding".

The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito breeds in any containerized environment; that is in anything that can hold water. Some of the common breeding sites for the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito are drums, tyres, buckets, and animal feeding containers. Members of the public are encouraged to search their surroundings at home and work at least once per week to ensure there is no *Aedes aegypti* breeding. This is the best strategy to mitigate against a possible outbreak of dengue later in the year.

The public is also being encouraged to take protective action to reduce their contact with mosquitoes.

"Jamaica's, as with rest of the Caribbean, high dengue transmission period coincides with the hurricane season annually. In anticipation of that, the Ministry will activate an enhanced public education programme, home inspections and the destruction of breeding sites by vector control workers, and island-wide fogging by the parish health departments," added McKenzie.

Persons may contact their Parish Health Department or the Ministry of Health & Wellness at 888-ONE-LOVE (888-663-5683) with any reports or concerns.

Celebration: MOHAW Rewards & Recognition





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Blessings & Thanksgiving



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