



# SOUTHERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

3 BRUMALIA ROAD, MANDEVILLE, MANCHESTER, JAMAICA WI  
TEL.: (876) 625-0612-3, 962-9491 or 962-8232 | FAX: (876) 962-8233 | WWW.SRHA.GOV.JM



**Mandeville Regional Hospital**  
32 Hargreaves Avenue  
Mandeville  
Ph: 962-2067/2744/1094  
Fax: 625-8493

**May Pen Hospital**  
1 Muirhead Avenue  
May Pen  
Ph: 986-2528/7708/6938  
Fax: 986-2650

**Black River Hospital**  
45 High Street  
Black River  
Ph: 965-2224/2212  
634-3700  
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**Percy Junior Hospital**  
Spalding P.O.  
Clarendon  
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**Lionel Town Hospital**  
Bustamante Drive  
Vere, Clarendon  
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**Chapelton Hospital**  
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**Manchester Health Dept.**  
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## PRESS RELEASE

**June 9, 2016**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### Public Health Inspectors Always Present at Slaughtering Facilities for Meat Inspections in Manchester

Chief Public Health Inspector for Manchester, Mrs. Charmaine Palmer-Cross says Public Health Inspectors are always present at slaughtering facilities in Manchester which could not result in the police carrying out inspections.

This was pointed out after a Gleaner article in May, titled "Meeting Public Health Safety Standards", reported unsatisfactory conditions under which livestock is slaughtered at approved slaughtering facilities and which pointed to operations in Manchester. The report noted that "on several visits there were no Public Health Inspectors available instead; it was the police who conducted the inspections."

Mrs. Palmer-Cross said: "Each zone (Health District) slaughtering facilities are covered by the Public Health Inspectors within that locality. Exemptions are made when there is a shortage of officers within a particular zone and officers are re-assigned in order to provide adequate coverage. All slaughtering facilities have designated day or days of slaughter therefore, officers are assigned accordingly. The Public Health Inspectorate department does not have any knowledge of the police inspecting meat at any given time, as this is not in keeping with the Public Health (Butchers) Regulation 1989."

The Chief Public Health Inspector said the inspection reports for abattoirs in Manchester indicates that during the last quarter of 2015 to the first quarter of 2016, there are 18 active slaughter places in Manchester which were all inspected. "The current status is 5 were found unsatisfactory and 13 satisfactory. Unsatisfactory conditions for these facilities include: inadequate waste water management and insect proofing" she added.

She explained that: "The Manchester Health Department works closely with the unsatisfactory facilities in order to improve the status to a satisfactory one. At the municipal slaughtering facility, the Manchester

(more)

**Chairman: Wayne Chen; Vice Chairman:** Michael Stern **Board Members:** Marcus Greenwood, Krishan James, Stafford Haughton, Lorraine Green Mason, Lennox Powell, Dr Lloyd Reynolds, Winston Maragh, Dr St Aubyn Bartlett, Dr Lundie Richards, **Directors: Regional Director and Secretary:** Michael Bent; **Regional Technical Director:** Dr Michael Coombs; **CEO Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Alwyn Miller; **SMO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Dr Everton McIntosh



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Parish Council employs municipal police and their roles and functions are to ensure that law and order is upheld at all times. The Praedial Larceny Prevention Unit of the Jamaica constabulary Force works closely with the Public Health Inspectors in conducting investigations as well as carrying out ongoing operations within the parish.

The article also pointed to operations being undermined by a scarcity of water, resulting in the unhygienic practice of re-using water during the washing of meat. Mrs. Cross indicated that: "All slaughtering facilities are supplied with running water from the National Water Commission and storage facilities either by means of rhino tanks, concrete tanks or metal tanks. In the absence of the National Water Commission supply, water sources are from rain water catchment and also trucking of water. The practice of reusing water was never observed by the Public Health Inspectors who carry out duties at the slaughter houses/abattoirs. All waste water is conveyed to a waste water disposal system for final disposal."

-30-

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