MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS

Southern Regional Health Authority

Compassion | Accountability | Respect | Efficiency

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PRESS RELEASE

January 29, 2021
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Health and Wellness Minister Visit Manchester.

The Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), welcomed Minister of Health and Wellness Dr. The Hon. Christopher Tufton, as he conducted a Ministerial Parish Visit in Manchester on Wednesday, January 27, 2020.

The parish visit saw the Health and Wellness Minister touring the Mandeville Market for a Market Pop-Up, attend a signing ceremony for the donation of an ambulance from the Japanese Embassy by way of the Government of Japan at the Mandeville Regional Hospital (MRH) Conference Room, and conduct the Manchester leg of the "Mask Up before Yuh Talk Up" campaign.

The Minister's visit comes in the wake of a recent increase in COVID-19 cases in the parish, which has led to the government recently introducing tighter COVID-19 measures in Manchester. These include extending the curfew hours from 10 p.m. – 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. to 5 a.m.

During the Market Pop-Up, Dr. Tufton advised residents in the area to build their immune systems for the fight against COVID-19 and other Non-Communicable Diseases by eating fresh locally grown fruits and vegetables. The Minister also spoke to some of the vendors in the market, purchased items and handed out shopping bags.

Next up was the signing ceremony for the donation of an ambulance worth US$84,000 from Japanese Ambassador to Jamaica, His Excellency Masaya Fujiwara, by way of the Japanese Government. Also in attendance was Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Senator Kamina Johnson-Smith, Regional Director for the Southern Regional Health Authority Mical Bent, CEO for the Mandeville Regional Hospital

Chairman: Wayne Chen; **Vice Chairman**; Michael Stern, **Board Members**: Dr. St. Aubyn Bartlett, Lorraine Green Mason, Marcus Greenwood, Stafford Haughton, Winston Maragh, Lennox Powell, Dr. Lloyd Reynolds, Albert Williams, **Permanent Secretary's Nominee**: Dr. Naydene Williams, **Regional Director and Secretary:** Michael Bent; **Regional Technical Director:** Dr. Vitillius Holder; **CEO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Alwyn Miller; **SMO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Dr. Everton McIntosh

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Alwyn Miller along with other members from the SRHA and staff from the Japanese Embassy.

Minister Johnson-Smith in her remarks at the ceremony said that the donation of the funds to purchase the ambulance was another vital step in what has so far been a fruitful relationship between Japan and Jamaica.

Minister Tufton's final action in the Parish saw him endeavour in the "Mask Up before Yuh Talk Up" campaign. The Minister, along with 25 Community Health Aides (CHAs) from the parish, took to the streets of Mandeville; handing out masks and pamphlets, while also urging residents to obey the COVID-19 protocols. The walk started at the MRH and ended at the town centre in front of the Cecil Charlton Park. Minister Tufton urged the residents to adhere to the COVID-19 restrictions.

"Persons in the parish need to realize that COVID-19 isn't going anywhere. Wearing a mask, sanitizing and practicing proper social distancing is very important. The current retractions being enforced are necessary so as to prevent the continued growth of the virus not only in Manchester but in the parish, and we hope that with the proper work we can get back to normal as soon as possible. My message to the people of Manchester is to mask up before you talk in your own interest and protection", he said.

(more)

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Minister of Health and Wellness Dr. The Hon. Christopher Tufton (right) interacts with a vendor in the Mandeville Market during his Market Pop-Up on Wednesday January 27, 2020. The Market Pop-Up is a part of the Ministry of Health's initiative to encourage Jamaicans to eat healthier foods in a bid to build their immune systems for the fight against COVID-19 and Non-Communicable Diseases.

(more)

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Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. The Hon. Christopher Tufton (left), receives a cheque of US$84,000 towards the purchasing of an ambulance from Japanese Ambassador to Jamaica, His Excellency Masaya Fujiwara. The donation was made at a signing ceremony held at the Mandeville Regional Hospital (MRH) Conference Room on Wednesday January 27, 2020.

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Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. The Hon. Christopher Tufton (right) leads a group of Community Health Aides (CHAs) in the streets of Mandeville, Manchester during the "Mask Up before Yuh Talk Up" campaign on Wednesday January 27, 2021. The campaign is part of the Ministry of Health's drive to raise awareness on the importance of obeying the COVID-19 Protocols.

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For more information contact:
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