



Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton (2nd right), Member of Parliament for North Central Clarendon, Hon. Robert Morgan (right), Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) Regional Director, Michael Bent (left) and SRHA Senior Projects Manager, Damion Morgan examine the renovation and upgrade works done in Phase One at the Chapelton Community Hospital.

Work is expected to begin shortly for Phase two of renovation works at the Chapelton Community Hospital in Clarendon, valued at J \$112 million.

The work will involve the completion of the renovation and expansion of the existing hospital to include new ceiling, walls, flooring, four additional doctor offices, improved bathroom facilities for patients and staff, completion works to the new 22 bed ward, expanded waiting area and associated electrical, mechanical and plumbing works.

US \$1 million was donated by United States-based Push Start Foundation head and Clarendonborn businesswoman, Beverley Nichols for the first phase of the developmental project.

Minster of Health & Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton, who toured the hospital on Thursday, November 26 said the Government has awarded a J \$112 million contract for the second and final phase of work for the facility.

"It is a good thing as community health is very important. This is a very important institution in northern Clarendon and we are focused on outreach and reaching the people at their level rather than them travelling long distances. A number of critical services including dental services will be improved, inpatient care, more beds, about 40 or so beds and of course more personnel. Very importantly when it is completed you will have a 24 hour a day, seven day a week hospital service here in northern Clarendon" Minister Tufton said.

"This is very important because it means that Jamaicans, citizens, the residents in these parts can get hospital service on call. So we will not only do outreach in the community but people can go to the institution any time, day or night and get service" Minister Tufton added.

He urged the contractor, Cenitech Engineering Solutions Limited to complete the work on time and within budget.

Residents have been able to access the hospital services at the Summerfield Community Centre, also in Clarendon.

\$38.9 Million Perimeter Fencing Project for Lionel Town Hospital



Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton (left seated) and Managing Director of Costley's Construction, Harrington Costley (right seated) sign the contract to construct a perimeter fencing at the Lionel Town Hospital in Clarendon. Observing the signing are: (left to right), Mayor of May Pen, Mayor Winston Maragh, Member of Parliament for South East Clarendon, Hon. Pearnel Charles Jnr., Regional Director for the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), Michael Bent, SRHA Senior Projects Manager, Damion Morgan and Parish Manager for the Clarendon Health Services, Joseph Grant.

The Lionel Town Hospital, which provides services to a population of fifty thousand persons in southern Clarendon is set to benefit from a J \$38.9 million perimeter fencing project, which will improve the security of the hospital.

The contract, which was signed on Thursday, November 25 is awarded to Costley's Construction. Work will begin in early December 2021.

The scope of works to be done include the construction of a boundary wall around the perimeter of the hospital (sides and rear) and a long wall to the entrance of the hospital, with chain-link fencing.

Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton, who was on hand to witness the contract

signing, said the fencing project will mean a lot to the hospital as not only will it improve its security and aesthetics but will set the stage for greater developmental plans for the hospital.

Dr. Tufton said oftentimes focus is lost on the other areas of healthcare because of the focus on managing the COVID-19 Pandemic. He said despite this, good things are happening in public health as the Government continues to improve the areas of service delivery.

"We can't lose sight of the bigger picture and the bigger picture is really to ensure that we have infrastructure, that we have personnel, equipment, medication and that when people require healthcare they can get it. In addition to that we have to continue to thrust towards prevention and good lifestyle practices and we have been doing that. I think it is important for the country to recognize that and for us as a Government to highlight that and to demonstrate our appreciation for the work that continues to be done to support the building out of our infrastructure" Minister Tufton said.

The Health & Wellness Minister said Clarendon represents a good attempt of providing expanded and upgraded health infrastructure in a growing parish. He noted that there is an increased dependence on the health infrastructure to provide care and response, which the Government has been trying to support.

"I want to thank the administrators who are responsive to the needs and are always willing to adjust where necessary, whether it is the board, the management team or it's the people, or political representatives because I do get a sense that the efforts at providing healthcare services is a collaborative effort. I want to recognize it and give kudos to all who are playing their part" Dr. Tufton said.

Percy Junor Hospital Gifted With Operating Theatre Bed Costing US \$10, 250

The Percy Junor Hospital (PJH) in Manchester has been gifted with a new operating theatre bed valued at US \$10,250, which will boost the facility's capacity to perform the 600 operations it does annually.

Senior Medical Officer at the hospital, Dr. Carlos Wilson explained that the bed, donated by the Rachael Dixon Memorial Fund (RDMF), has become the hospital's primary and major operating theatre bed which will be used daily for emergency and elective surgeries.

"The bed has been set up and has been utilised and functions perfectly and



The new operating theatre bed.

we are extremely pleased. We now have two highly functional operating beds but the other gives problems from time to time. The bed has all functionality for laparoscopic, gynaecology, obstetric, and orthopaedic surgeries. The staff and patients at PJH are very grateful for the kind donation of a new operating theatre bed from the Rachel Dixon Memorial Fund and we promise to care for it so it will serve us for years to come" Dr. Wilson said.

CEO for the PJH, Carlton Nichols thanked the organization for its donation noting that it is timely and welcomed.

"We are now better equipped to respond to emergencies and elective procedures in our operating theatre. We are deeply inspired and grateful for this kind gesture" Mr. Nichols added.

Founder of the Fund, Oswald Dixon noted that the RDMF is committed to the health, education and wellbeing of Jamaicans.

"We believe that one of the key building blocks to a country's foundation is providing access to and developing the infrastructure of its healthcare system. It is with this is mind that we sprung into action upon hearing that there was a need for an operating theatre bed at the Percy Junor Hospital. This acquisition allows the surgeons to continue the important work they provide to the communities. Our valued donors of the RDMF are delighted to be a part of this venture" Mr. Dixon shared.

Mandeville Hospital Roof Repaired to the Tune of J \$38 Million



Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton (centre), Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) Regional Director, Michael Bent (left) and SRHA Senior Projects Manager Damion Morgan (right) examine the repair works carried out at the Mandeville Regional Hospital (MRH). Photographed also are: MRH Director of Nursing Services, Saidie Williams-Allen and MRH Senior Medical Officer, Dr. Everton McIntosh (partly hidden).

Sections of the roof at the Mandeville Regional Hospital in Manchester has undergone repair works, valued at J \$38 million.

The work which is 95 percent completed, was done by Costley's Construction. It included removing the defective waterproofing membrane, casting a concrete screed to channel rain water to existing roof drains and installation of new modified waterproofing membrane.

Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton who toured the repair works on Thursday, November 25, said while the Government is focused on managing the COVID-19 Pandemic, it still has to focus on the other areas of public health.

"We have to now begin to shift or at least share the narrative with normal hospital response in all senses, the infrastructure, the people and the patients. I want to commend the team for the work they are doing. I know it's been a rough 18 months and we couldn't do it without everyone so I commend you" Dr. Tufton said.

He added that: "Our health infrastructure has been under severe stress to treat our patients and to keep our nurses, doctors and administrative staff safe and comfortable. We are always trailing a gap and we need to remind ourselves, remind the country and remind the people that even while we deal with COVID we have to deal with so many other issues."

Minister Tufton thanked the hospital management team and the Southern Regional Health Authority for its work in executing the project, which will result in no leaks and better care and service for patients.

"I'm glad that this (roof repairs) is being done within time and within budget so far and I hope that the working environment will benefit from a better infrastructure" Minister Tufton said.

Lionel Town Hospital Receives \$1.4 Million Equipment to Support COVID-19 Patients



CEO for the LTH, Nadine Preddie (2nd left), Vice President of STEM Uprising Corporation Akeaba Williams (2nd right), CEO/Founder of STEM Uprising Corp Wayne Williams (left) and Director of Nursing Services at LTH, Nichola Fowler Higgins are photographed after the handing over of the high-flow nasal cannula machine valued at J\$1.4 million, which will support COVID-19 patients who need oxygen.

The Lionel Town Hospital (LTH) in Clarendon has received a highflow nasal cannula machine valued at J\$1.4 million, which will support COVID-19 patients who need oxygen.

The life-saving machine was donated by non-profit organization Striving Together Empowering Mankind (STEM) Uprising Corporation on Thursday, November 11 on the hospital's compound.

According to LTH Senior Medical Officer, Dr. Andre McKenzie, the machine gives patients oxygen under a high flow rate and at a warm temperature, which is easier for the body to absorb.

"This high-flow machine is very important. At the peak of a surge you don't have space to transfer patients anywhere because everywhere is full.

So now that we have this machine it will help to save many lives. You guys (STEM Uprising) are life savers and we are very grateful" Dr. McKenzie said.

CEO of the hospital, Nadine Preddie thanked the organization for its donation which she noted will boost the hospital's capacity to better manage COVID-19 patients.

"The staff is really delighted and the patients will certainly benefit from this as it will allow us to improve the quality of care that we are allowed to give to these patients. I guarantee that no effort will be spared in ensuring that the staff and especially the patients will receive the care that they need at this facility" Ms. Preddie said.

For Vice President of STEM Uprising Corporation Akeaba Williams, her organization is excited to be able to assist the hospital in getting the machine.

"I work in the field so I know the importance of this machine. I know patients get this machine and still don't survive and then I know of millions who get it and survive. We are so excited to deliver this machine to assist patients who are in need to recover. We also delivered another machine last month to the Percy Junor Hospital in Manchester. When the machine was delivered, there was a gentleman there that they weren't sure he would make it and when they received it they quickly set it up and put him on it. We got confirmation that that person sat up in bed" Mrs. Williams said.

STEM Uprising Corporation was established in 2017 with the vision to support health care, education and elderly persons in Jamaica.

Percy Junor Hospital Benefits from Support From Charity Organization



CEO for the PJH, Carlton Nichols (right) and Vice President of STEM Uprising Corporation Akeaba Williams are seen here after the handing over of the high-flow nasal cannula machine valued at J\$1.4 million, which will support COVID-19 patients who need oxygen.

The Percy Junor Hospital (PJH) in Manchester is now better able to manage its COVID-19 patients, following the donation of a high-flow cannula machine, valued at J \$1.4 million from Striving Together Empowering Mankind (STEM) Uprising Corporation.

> The life-saving machine was donated to the hospital in November 2021 and has boosted the hospital's capacity to manage COVID-19 patients as it gives patients oxygen under a high flow rate and at a warm temperature, which is easier for the body to absorb.

> CEO for the PJH, Carlton Nichols noted that the non-profit organization has been supporting the hospital over the years through donations and also collaborative blood drives. This year's blood drive was held on November 12, where 48 units of blood were collected.

"We believe that STEM Uprising Corporation donations and support over the years have strongly demonstrated their commitment to supporting the development of rural hospitals such as PJH. It is with great pleasure that we accept this recent dona-

tion of one high-flow nasal oxygen machine not just on behalf of the PJH, but also on behalf of our patients who will benefit, and our dedicated staff who will be using this equipment. Anytime we get an additional tool in the fight against COVID-19, we are always grateful and are particularly thankful for this machine which is key in our battle against the virus. This machine augments our arsenal in saving lives. We thank STEM Uprising for these live-saving interventions" Mr. Nichols said.

For Senior Medical Officer at the facility, Dr. Carlos Wilson, the hospital is extremely grateful for the partnership with STEM Uprising Corporation.

"This non-profit charity sought us out as a smaller lesser recognized hospital and has partnered with us (including the first blood drive), from before the COVID-19 Pandemic began. When we only had a single high-flow nasal oxygen machine to serve 32 admitted suspected/confirmed COVID-19 patients, STEM rose to the occasion and donated a second high-flow nasal machine. So, after yet another successful blood drive, grateful is the word that comes to mind. We hope this partnership continues to grow from strength to strength in the future" Dr. Wilson said.

CEO/Founder of STEM Uprising Corp. Wayne Williams explained that his organization is honoured to partner with the hospital.

"We consider it a privilege to be able to collaborate on such a worthy cause that continues to be successful and vital for the hospital and the people in the community. The doctors and staff of the PJH have welcomed STEM with open "arms and veins", and we have enjoyed working with the team on the last two successful blood drives, and we look forward to having the third blood drive in 2022" Mr. Williams said.

SRHA Regional Office Roof Repaired at J \$4.9 Million



Photograph showing removal of existing waterproofing membrane/medium on the Regional Office roof.

The Southern Regional Health Authority's (SRHA) Regional Office located in Manchester benefitted from roof repair works valued at J \$4.9 million.

The roof repairs will help to extend the useful life of the building as well as provide staff and clients with an environmentally friendly atmosphere in which to work and conduct business.

The repair works were carried out by Modern Waterproofing and Construction and included the removal of defective waterproofing membrane, screeding of roof to allow better water run-off and installation of new waterproofing membrane.

The SRHA was able to secure part funding from the National Health Fund (NHF) in the amount of J \$2.5 million.

SRHA Regional Director, Michael Bent noted that the roof had severely deteriorated and the office experiences leaks when it rains.

"The leaks pose a threat to the existing light fixtures, air-conditioning vents, ceiling tiles as well as the electromechanical services installed in the cavity of the ceiling, such as the ducting for the air-conditioning installation. The boost to staff morale that will be achieved will further strengthen the effectiveness of the Region to deliver quality health care in an environment that fosters a guiding philosophy of CARE- Compassion, Accountability, Respect and Efficiency" Mr. Bent explained.

He thanked the NHF for its continued support to advancing public healthcare.



Black River Hospital Receives Medical Supplies Valued at \$1 Million



Hospital much needed medical supplies such as gloves, isolation gowns, incontinent products, peel away disposable sheets etcetera, because this hospital serves the people of Parottee as well. Hence, we are partners in uplifting the quality of life for our people. We appreciate the opportunity given to us by the hospital to be of service to the community" Albert Daley from the Parottee Enrichment Project Inc. said.

The Parottee Enrichment Project is a non-profit organization that serves residents of Parottee in St. Elizabeth.

The Black River Hospital (BRH) in St. Elizabeth has received J \$1 million worth of medical supplies, donated by the Parottee Enrichment Project Inc.

The items including rubbing alcohol, surgical gowns, disposable sheets, underpads, hand sanitizers, masks and gloves were handed over to the facility on November 9, 2021.

CEO for the hospital, Diana Brown-Miller expressed gratitude to the non-profit organization for the items, noting its importance to the hospital's COVID-19 response.

"The utility of these items at the hospital is extremely relevant to our COVID-19 response especially in the isolation wards and general delivery of service in other service units. The BRH registers its profound gratitude for this donation and look forward to a continuous partnership with this organization" Mrs. Brown-Miller said.

"Our organization's headquarters is in Florida; however, we are scattered throughout the world, including but not limited to the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, the Cayman Islands and other countries. We undertook the project of giving to the Black River



Clayton McCalla Awarded Civil Servant of the Year



The Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) congratulates Driver with the Clarendon Health Department, Clayton McCalla, for being selected as one of three persons chosen as Civil Servant of the Year for 2021/2022.

Mr. McCalla was awarded on Friday (November 26), at the Knutsford Court Hotel, in New Kingston, at an event, organised by First Heritage Co-operative Credit Union (FHC) in partnership with the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service.

Each awardee received a plaque, a citation, a cash prize of \$200,000 along with a \$150,000 allocation for a joint community project, courtesy of FHC.

The SRHA lauds Mr. McCalla for his dedicated service to the public sector and encourages him to continue giving of his best.



Petal Richards-Chambers Releases 'Let's Celebrate'



A Registered Nurse at the Mandeville Regional Hospital in Manchester, Petal Richards-Chambers is a gospel singer, who has been singing from the age of six.

She tells the Southern Pulse that she from age six she has been competing in various musical competitions, particularly from the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission.

She has been honing her craft by performing at concerts, weddings, awards functions and other celebrations.

"I have released some singles and my first gospel album since this year and recently downloaded my first Christmas EP called Lets Celebrate" she says.

She adds that she has CDs available and all her music are available online for downloading and streaming on all online platforms, mainly Spotify, Amazon Deezer etcetera.

Petal says she is looking forward to releasing more singles and albums in the future.

"I love to use my talent to minister to others, encourage others or just put a smile on their face depending on the genre. My favourite Bible text is Philippians 4: 13, I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."



'Mighty Little Flickers' Published by Janet Sloley



Mighty Little Flickers: A Memoir

By: Janet V. A. Sloley

Mighty Little Flickers: A Memoir, is a book which delivers the journeys of survival through fear, devastation, death, hunger, search for Christ and understanding His love.

The heart of the writer, Janet V.A. Sloley, is poured into the pages, as well as the lessons she has learnt and the power of the ministries of the Lord's retreat. These delicately woven pages are now in your hands.

Janet Sloley is an individual who enjoys journaling, mentoring and motivational speaking. For many years she has been invited by professional groups to make presentations on characteristics of an excellent Administrator and a number of church bodies to minister the Word of God.

Spending quality alone time or with her husband as they study the Word, affords her the ability to search out the scriptures for truth and live her life fulfilling her purpose and walking out her destiny.

Despite being deeply rooted in Christianity from very early, she also enjoys watching family comedies, romantic movies, DIY renovations and HGTV. She enjoys tending to her pet goats, dogs, cats and chickens.

Her secretarial career has propelled her into a managerial role with administrative responsibilities. She prides herself in allowing integrity and love to be her hallmark, working consistently smart, thorough and professional, adding a human touch in everything she does.



The Lighter Side



NEXT TIME WHEN I PREACH ON TITHING, DON'T SING 'JESUS PAID IT ALL' AS OUR OFFERTORY HYMN.



For 21 years, Anjelica Morgan has been giving selfless service to public health care, an experience she describes as incomparable, which has made significant changes to her personal and professional development.

She began working at the May Pen Hospital in 2000 as a Registered Nurse and then as a Specialist Nurse (Registered Nurse Midwife) from 2005 to 2010. She then began working as a Ward/Nurse Manager in 2010, where she continues to execute her duties.

Some of her responsibilities include management of the nursing services programme; preparing rosters, assignments to ensure coverage of the departments; ensuring appropriate deployment of nursing staff; initiating and supervising measures to improve the quality of nursing care and ensuring maintenance of standards, in addition to making daily department rounds, assessing both clinical and administrative practices, physical environment, equipment, supplies and materials.

She adds that she is also responsible for investigating critical incidents, unusual occurrences and complaints and taking appropriate actions; visiting and conferring with patients and relatives; reviewing, approving and submitting recommendations for promotion, education and training, among other duties.

Inspired to do her best by her mother, Anjelica aims to always promote good health practices and advocate for better healthcare for all people. She believes in treating others the way one would want to be treated because sickness does not discriminate. "Caring for patients and showing compassion, regardless of economic status because the patient you help today might turn out to be tomorrow's leader that helps you in your time of need" she adds.

This passionate, reliable and pragmatic nurse has received several awards and recognition including: Nurse of the Quarter on the Female Medical/Surgical Ward-2001; Dedication to Organizational Development, 2004; Outstanding Supervisor–2006; Sister of the Year–2016; recognition for 17 years of dedicated and loyal service to the May Pen Hospital-2017; and International Year of the Nurse and Midwife Award of Excellence, Honouring for Excellence in Management Practice-2020.

Described as firm, resourceful and a strong believer of maintaining high standards, Anjelica is encouraging her colleagues to lead by example, abide by the principles of the profession and never compromise.

Nurse Morgan is a great cook, an event planner and loves writing, drawing, interior decorating, coordinating colours and has great organization abilities.

She would love to see better governance of the health care system with emphasis on patient care.



Services are piloted through its Mission and Vision Statements which state: Vision Statement; 'We envision the department as a trendsetter in nursing practice and research in Jamaica, having the most satisfied customers and motivated staff, enjoying an optimal state of health and well-being'. Mission Statement: 'The May Pen Hospital Nursing Department is to provide quality, evidenced-based nursing care to improve and maintain the health status of the people of Clarendon and its environs; delivered by competent, dedicated and caring staff in a peaceful and safe environment.'

The May Pen Hospital Nursing Department

The Nursing Department went through a period of fear of the unknown, depression and anxiety as we continued to conform to

the changing dynamics of the COVID 19 Pandemic and its protocols. The COVID 19 pandemic impacted our nursing staff both positively and negatively. Some staff was empowered while others became withdrawn. Some of our staff also fell ill to the virus; others felt over worked, tired, depressed and felt undervalued. I believe that the words of Andrew Carnegie can be viewed as one of our motivating forces, "Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

The value and worth of Nurses were duly acknowledged, appreciated and known by all as our significance and work was seen and placed at the forefront as well as on the lips of everyone, from babies to the elderly, the sick and the healthy. We were supported with donations from the private and public sector organizations, in contributions of kind, cash and sponsorship including personal protective gears, meals, equipment, educational and motivational/ psychological webinars/sessions, discount on hotel accommodations, etc.

Despite the pandemic and the many challenges faced, we stood our ground and continued to offer exemplary care/ service. We have achieved successes in staff successfully completing courses, Staff trained in the care of critically ill patients, increase in nursing cadre posts with added positions such as two (2) Departmental Sisters, one (1) In-Service Education and One (1) Infection Control & Prevention Nurse. Some nursing staff received awards for their involvement in COVID 19 (Medal for COVID 19 Champion) and Contribution towards nursing service by the Nurses Association of Jamaica (NAJ) and the Ministry of Health & Wellness (MoH&W), respectively.

Different nursing personnel were consistently facilitated to participate in their different week of activities. The Southern Regional Health Authority gave the nursing staff tokens and care packages as a means of assisting staff. Members of the Nursing Services Department and Administrative staff treated the May Pen Police Federation, during Police Officers Week in 2020, with a day of Health Check, Massage Therapy and a Motivational Speech done by Ms. Andrea 'Delceta' Wright. We also gave them a framed Certificate of Appreciation for their 'Dedication and Commitment in Providing Security and Maintaining Law and Order while on Front Line Duty in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic'.

The department is very thankful for the new nursing staff received, but very saddened for the ones that left us inorder to attain their personal and professional growth, either through retirement, resignations, transfers or death. I applaud and acknowledge the dedicated nursing staff for their continued commitment and support to the nursing fraternity, the Southern Regional Health Authority and by extension the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the Jamaican population.



Selfless Service: Remembering Those Who Passed While Serving

DEATH AND GRI

INTHE

WORKPLACE

Karene Roache-Merchant



complete assigned duties and thoroughly fulfil her responsibilities.

She is truly missed by all the persons she would have come in contact with and especially by her colleagues on the maternity unit.

Registered Midwife Karene Roache-Merchant assumed duties at the May Pen Hospital on September 1, 2015. She remained in the same capacity up to the time of her passing on September 30, 2021.

Nurse Merchant was described as a jovial individual who liked adventures so she would often go on outings. She was also described as the life of the yearly maternity parties.

She is survived by her three children who she would speak highly of every chance she got.

She was a very soft spoken and respectful individual who was always looking to advance in her field.

In her most recent performance evaluation report she was commended for being a competent worker who could be depended on to





Selfless Service: Remembering Those Who Passed While Serving

DEATH AND GRIE

IN THE

WORKPLACE

Patricia Henry



Miss Patricia Henry assumed duties at the May Pen Hospital in Clarendon on August 4, 2008 as a Hospital Attendant.

She rotated through various departments during her tenure including the Laundry Department, the Operating Theatre and the Cough Centre which opened during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Described as a very jovial and loving person, Miss Henry is recalled as someone who never said no. Whenever there were functions, she could always be relied on to provide clean table covers and whatever else was needed. She received an award for staff of the year in December 2020 for her notable contribution.

In her last performance evaluation report, her supervisor noted that she was a very hard working, dedicated and industrious worker who was a good team player and always willing to go the extra mile.

Miss Henry became ill in the latter part of 2020 and unfortunately died on April 28, 2021. She will be missed by her family and colleagues.



• Balaclava Health Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Thursdays (114)



1

Plan

O

Prepare

Recover

Santa Cruz Health Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Fridays (2nd)
Junction Health Centre (10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) Fridays (2nd, 4th)
Black River Health Centre (1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Fridays (1st, 3rd, 4th)
Balaclava Health Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Fridays (4th)
Southfield Health Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Fridays (1st, 2nd, 3rd)

Wellness Bytes

"Coronavirus"

What is a coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

Credit:

Inist of Health and Wallness

Bod

What is a novel coronavirus?

A novel coronavirus (CoV) is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans.

Can humans become infected with a novel coronavirus of animal source?

Detailed investigations found that SARS-CoV was transmitted from civet cats to humans in China in 2002 and MERS-CoV from dromedary camels to humans in Saudi Arabia in 2012. Several known coronaviruses are circulating in animals that have not yet infected humans. As surveillance improves around the world, more coronaviruses are likely to be identified.

What are the symptoms of someone infected with a coronavirus?

It depends on the virus, but common signs include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.

Can coronaviruses be transmitted from person to person?

Yes, some coronaviruses can be transmitted from person to

person, usually after close contact with an infected patient, for example, in a household workplace, or health care centre.

Is there a vaccine for a novel coronavirus?

When a disease is new, there is no vaccine until one is developed. It can take a number of years for a new vaccine to be developed.

Is there a treatment for a novel coronavirus?

There is no specific treatment for disease caused by a novel coronavirus. However, many of the symptoms can be treated and therefore treatment based on the patient's clinical condition. Moreover, supportive care for infected persons can be highly effective.

What can I do to protect myself?

Standard recommendations to reduce exposure to and transmission of a range of illnesses include maintaining basic hand and respiratory hygiene, and safe food practices and avoiding close contact, when possible, with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing.

Are health workers at risk from a novel coronavirus?

Yes, they can be, as health care workers come into contact with patients more often than the general public WHO recommends that health care workers consistently apply appropriate infection prevention and control measures.

Page 18

The Southern Pulse



HR And You:

"VACCINES"

ers who are vaccinated. When a lot of people in a community are vaccinated the pathogen has a hard time circulating because most of the people it encounters are immune. So the more that others are vaccinated, the less likely people who are unable to be protected by vaccines are at risk of

even being exposed to the harmful pathogens. This is called herd immunity.

This is especially important for those people who not only can't be vaccinated but may be more susceptible to the diseases we vaccinate against. No single vaccine provides 100% protection, and herd immunity does not provide full protection to those who cannot safely be vaccinated. But with herd immunity, these people will have substantial protection, thanks to those around them being vaccinated.

Credit: World Health Organization

What is a vaccine?

A vaccine is a type of medicine that stimulates a person's immune system to produce immunity to a specific disease, protecting the person from the disease.

How do vaccines work?

Vaccines work with your body's natural defense to build protection. When vaccinated, your immune system is able to:

Recognize the invading germ (e.g. virus or bacteria).

Produce antibodies that fight and destroy the germ before you become unwell.

How vaccines help

Vaccines contain weakened or inactive parts of a particular organism (antigen) that triggers an immune response within the body. Newer vaccines contain the blueprint for producing antigens rather than the antigen itself. Regardless of whether the vaccine is made up of the antigen itself or the blueprint so that the body will produce the antigen, this weakened version will not cause the disease in the person receiving the vaccine, but it will prompt their immune system to respond much as it would have on its first reaction to the actual pathogen.

Herd immunity

When someone is vaccinated, they are very likely to be protected against the targeted disease. But not everyone can be vaccinated. People with underlying health conditions that weaken their immune systems (such as cancer or HIV) or who have severe allergies to some vaccine components may not be able to get vaccinated with certain vaccines. These people can still be protected if they live in and amongst oth

SUBMIT AN ARTICLE

We welcome your input. Please submit your articles and feedback for the December to:

Latoya Laylor Brown, Public Relations Officer

Email: latoya.laylor@srha.gov.jm

Like and follow us:

Facebook: southern regional health authority

Instagram: southernregionalhealthJA

Twitter: SRHAJamaica

Youtube: SouthernRegionalHealthAuthority