



### Health Minister Assesses Post-Hurricane Operations in the Southern Region



**Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. The Hon. Christopher Tufton (left) accompanied by Parish Manager for the St. Elizabeth Health Services, Mr. Sean Brissett (centre); CEO for the Black River Hospital, Mrs. Diana Brown-Miller (right); and the hospital’s Senior Medical Officer, Dr. Sheriff Imoru (2nd left) and Director of Nursing Services, Ms. Maria Stamp, as they tour field hospital and other infrastructural development at the hospital.**

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## In the News: Southern Regional Health Authority

### Health Minister Assesses Post-Hurricane Operations at MRH

On Friday, January 23, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, toured the Mandeville Regional Hospital (MRH), to examine the impact of overcrowding at the hospital.

The MRH is experiencing increased pressure following a surge in patient admissions, resulting from the impact of Hurricane Melissa on health facilities in western parishes.

During the tour and meeting with hospital management and staff, Minister Tufton, reviewed the situation and discussed measures to ease congestion, particularly in the Accident and Emergency Department. He emphasized the need to strengthen primary health care services to reduce unnecessary hospital visits and assured that solutions are being actively pursued and commended the hospital's management and staff for their continued efforts, including the completion of seven refurbished operating theatres.

See below highlights.



## In the News: Southern Regional Health Authority

### Health Minister Tours Black River Hospital

Minister of Health, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, toured the Black River Hospital to review post-Hurricane Melissa's recovery. He highlighted ongoing construction, phased restoration of critical infrastructure, and the addition of hospital beds to meet rising patient demand.

The Minister praised the staff for their resilience and commitment, despite working under challenging conditions since Hurricane Melissa. See below highlights from the tour at the Black River Hospital.



## In the News: Southern Regional Health Authority

### Percy Junor Hospital Gets US\$30,000 in Supplies



**Minister without portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Efficiency, Innovation and Digital Transformation, Ambassador the Hon. Audrey Marks (centre), shares a moment with (from left) Chief Executive Officer of Percy Junor Hospital, Carlton Nichols; co-founders of Right Now For Jamaica (RNFJ), Dr. Trudy Hall Miles and Dr. Maurice Miles and Southern Regional Health Authority (SHRA) board member, Simone Scarlett. Occasion was the handover of US\$30,000 in supplies to the hospital by the RNFJ on Friday (January 30).**

The Percy Junor Hospital in Manchester has received a donation of supplies from newly formed United States (US)-based diaspora foundation Right Now For Jamaica (RNFJ).

The items, valued at US\$30,000, include forceps, bandages, syringes with needles, skin prep gel, antifungal cream, antiperspirant, water dispenser, gloves, baby diapers and incontinence pads, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

Also donated were 15 computers, several tablets, furniture for patient and administrative areas, a fridge, filing cabinets and desks.

The foundation was established to support the country's rebuilding efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa. Its founders are Manchester natives, Dr. Maurice Miles and his wife Dr. Trudy Hall Miles.

Minister without portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Efficiency, Innovation and Digital Transformation, Ambassador the Hon. Audrey Marks, in her remarks at the recent handover ceremony held at the hospital

on Friday (Jan. 30), expressed gratitude to the founders, noting that the donation was just the beginning of the support for Jamaica.

She informed that the team is also sourcing critical equipment, including adult and paediatric ventilators, electrocardiogram (ECG) machines and a dialysis machine in response to needs.

“After speaking to the founders and looking at all the things acquired but not here as yet, they have reached \$24 million mobilised in supplies, and so this shipment is just the start of a wonderful partnership to upgrade the PJH,” said Ambassador Marks, who is Manchester North Eastern Member of Parliament, where the hospital is located.

Speaking on behalf of RNFJ, Dr. Hall Miles said the team was happy for the opportunity to assist Jamaica, particularly in the area of healthcare.

“You have to give team members the tools they need to give compassionate care. It is my honour to be here and to tap into a group of Jamaicans and friends of Jamaica who are willing to give. This is just a drop in the bucket. We will also be purchasing intravenous (IV) poles and ventilators to transport patients,” she noted.

The Foundation is planning a fundraising gala in March, headlined by reggae singer Etana, the proceeds of which will support health and education projects in Manchester North Eastern.

**Credit: The Jamaica Information Service**

## In the News: Southern Regional Health Authority

### Percy Junor Hospital Receives Donation to Improve Services



Minister without portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister with Responsibility for Efficiency, Innovation, and Digital Transformation, Ambassador the Hon. Audrey Marks, who is also Member of Parliament for Manchester North Eastern, presents a Starlink unit to Senior Medical Officer (SMO) at the Percy Junor Hospital, Dr. Carlos Wilson (second left), and Chief Executive Officer, Carlton Nichols (second right). Occasion was the handover of several items at the hospital on Friday (January 16), which will also benefit the adjoining Spalding Health Centre. Looking on is Chairman of the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), Michael Stern.

The Percy Junor Hospital in Manchester has received a donation of items, which will enhance patient care, operational efficiency and overall staff/visitor experience.

The items, which include a Starlink satellite unit, a generator, two water cooler dispensers and care packages, will also benefit the adjoining Spalding Health Centre.

Minister without portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister with Responsibility for Efficiency, Innovation, and Digital Transformation, Ambassador the Hon. Audrey Marks, made the presentation at the hospital on Friday (January 16).

Senator Marks, who is Member of Parliament for Manchester North Eastern, where the hospital is located, said that the contribution was made possible through the support of various donors.

She said that the items will enhance the care being provided by the

dedicated health team at the hospital, which primarily serves patients from Manchester, Clarendon, Trelawny and St. Ann.

“I know that you are not only at this time supporting the four surrounding parishes but I have noticed that with what happened in Westmoreland and St. Elizabeth, patients are coming from much further,” she pointed out.

The Minister noted that there are plans to conduct repairs and expansion of the accident and emergency area and surgical unit.

Chief Executive Officer of the hospital, Carlton Nichols, expressed gratitude for the supplies.

“We expect that these items will enhance our efficiency as we continue to deliver healthcare in keeping with the care philosophy that we strongly embrace – compassion, accountability, and respect,” he said.

The items were also welcomed by Senior Customer Care Officer at the hospital, Annette Gayle.

“This thoughtful donation demonstrates a strong commitment to supporting patient care and enhancing the overall experience of those who visit our hospital. The water cooler dispensers will provide much-needed comfort and relief to patients and visitors, while the Starlink system will significantly improve communication and connectivity, enabling our staff members to serve the public more efficiently and effectively,” she said.

Chairman of the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), Michael Stern, in his remarks, said that the hospital “will be getting an expansion project”, which will support the growth in the number of persons visiting the facility

**Credit: The Jamaica Information Service**

# Facilities on the Move

## Public Health Inspectors Equipped Through Donation After Hurricane Melissa



In a powerful show of partnership and resilience following Hurricane Melissa, Public Health Inspectors from the Southern Regional Health Authority and Western Regional Health Authority (areas most affected) were equipped with essential Tools of Trade, including food thermometers, Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) meters, and water quality test kits, to safeguard water quality and food safety and protect communities from potential health risks.

The donation was made to the Regional Health Authorities and the Jamaica Association of Public Health Inspectors (JAPHI) by Dr. Sylvanus Thompson (3rd right), Toronto Public Health Food Safety Consultant and Dr. Henroy Scarlet, (2nd right), Past President of the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH).

The donation was accepted by Michael Myles, President of JAPHI, (3rd left) who is also the SRHA Regional Public Health Specialist (Vector Control); Michael Blake, (left) Deputy Chief Public Health

Inspector, Manchester Health Department; Dr. Vitillius Holder, Regional Technical Director, SRHA (2nd left) ; and Mrs. Nicolette Edwards, Director of Human Resource Development, SRHA.

The SRHA is thankful for this donation which will strengthen public



## Staff Highlight

### Healthcare Heroes Shoutout

A former patient of the Mandeville Regional Hospital in Manchester shared a heartfelt message of gratitude, commending the staff of the Medical Extension Ward for their compassion, professionalism, and dedication during his recent admission.

The Southern Regional Health Authority remains grateful for our healthcare professionals who continue to serve with compassion, accountability, respect, and efficiency, even in challenging circumstances.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS

Southern Regional Health Authority  
Compassion | Accountability | Respect | Efficiency

# HEALTHCARE HEROES Shoutout

*So Grateful for the Gift you are*

To the staff of the medical extension ward,

I wish to say a big thank you to you for what you have done for me during my admission. In all of my 67 years, I have never been admitted to a hospital and was always fearful of this happening, and always hoped it would never happen. However, after spending that week there and witnessing the challenges that face the hospital, including the scarcity of beds and possibly overworked staff, I was truly overwhelmed by their treatment.

I must say special thanks to Nurse Dacasta and Nurse Smart; they did a great job. Special thanks also to Doctor McNellie, and thanks to the kitchen staff for the awesome cooking. Overall, a big thank you to you all, and may the blessings of God be with you, your families, and the institution throughout 2026.

Mr. J. Smith

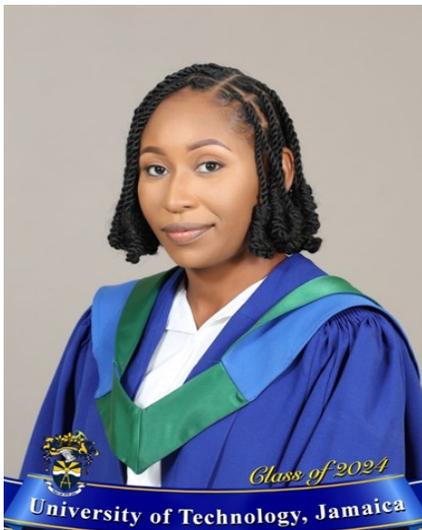
## Staff Highlight

### Congratulations Graduates of 2024

To our 2024 Graduates: Congratulations on your Achievements!

On behalf of the Southern Regional Health Authority team, we would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to you on your graduation! This achievement is a demonstration of your hard work, dedication, and perseverance.

As you celebrate this milestone, we hope you take pride in knowing that you have acquired the skills, knowledge, and expertise to excel in your chosen field. Your academic accomplishments have prepared you for a bright future, and we are excited to see the impact you will make.



**Name:** Tanielle Coombs  
**Position:** Assistant Nutritionist  
**Facility:** St. Elizabeth Health Department  
**Course:** Post Graduate Diploma, Dietetics and Nutrition, Distinction



**Name:** Lotoya Johnson  
**Position:** Cashier  
**Facility:** St. Elizabeth Health Department  
**Course:** BSc. Nursing Second Class Honours



**Name:** Dasia Campbell  
**Position:** Community Health Aide  
**Facility:** St. Elizabeth Health Department  
**Course:** BSc. Nursing, First Class Honours



**Name:** Cassandra Blake-Smith  
**Position:** Specialist Nurse  
**Facility:** St. Elizabeth Health Department  
**Course:** Bachelor's Degree in Public Health Nursing (Lower Second Class Honours)



**Name:** Jervine Richards  
**Position:** Registered Nurse  
**Facility:** Percy Junor Hospital  
**Course:** Certificate in Midwifery



**Name:** Jovita Iwudyke  
**Position:** Ward/Nurse Manager  
**Facility:** Percy Junor Hospital  
**Course:** Master's Degree in Public Health Nursing

# Congratulations Graduates of 2024



**Name:** Racquel Burrowes-Blackwood  
**Position:** Ward/Nurse Manager  
**Facility:** Lionel Town Hospital  
**Course:** Certificate in Nursing Administration



**Name:** Prima Bryan  
**Position:** Specialist Nurse  
**Facility:** Clarendon Health Department  
**Course:** Certificate in Nursing Administration



**Name:** Everine Smikle  
**Position:** Public Health Nurse  
**Facility:** Manchester Health Department  
**Course:** Certificate in Nursing Administration



**Name:** Latoya Rose Pencle  
**Position:** Specialist Nurse  
**Facility:** Percy Junor Hospital  
**Course:** Certificate in Nursing Administration



**Name:** Nadia Campbell  
**Position:** Registered Nurse  
**Facility:** Percy Junor Hospital  
**Course:** Certificate in Emergency Nursing



**Name:** Nyasha Thompson-Bailey  
**Position:** Registered Nurse  
**Facility:** Percy Junor Hospital  
**Course:** Certificate in Psychiatric Nursing

# Congratulations Graduates of 2024



**Name: Shermaine Johnson**  
**Position: Registered Nurse**  
**Facility: Percy Junor Hospital**  
**Course: Certificate in Midwifery**



**Name: Alecia Whyte**  
**Position: Operating Theatre Attendant**  
**Facility: May Pen Hospital**  
**Course: Diploma in Enrolled Assistant Nursing**



**Name: Jacquelin Booth**  
**Position: Registered Nurse**  
**Facility: May Pen Hospital**  
**Course: Certificate in Critical Care Nursing**



**Name: Kavelle Craig**  
**Position: Registered Nurse**  
**Facility: May Pen Hospital**  
**Course: Certificate in Neonatology Nursing**



**Name: Vanessa Vassell**  
**Position: Registered Nurse**  
**Facility: May Pen Hospital**  
**Course: Certificate in Neonatology Nursing**

# Congratulations Graduates of 2024



**Name:** Keri-Ann Barnett  
**Position:** Public Health Inspector  
**Facility:** Clarendon Health Department  
**Course:** Diploma in Meat and Other Foods Inspection



**Name:** Ann-Marie Menzie  
**Position:** Public Health Nurse  
**Facility:** Clarendon Health Department  
**Course:** Certificate in Nursing Administration



**Name:** Petagaye Harrison  
**Position:** Public Health Inspector  
**Facility:** Clarendon Health Department  
**Course:** Diploma in Meat and other Foods Inspection



# Staff Highlight

## Manchester Health Services Staff Members Lauded for Performance

The Manchester Health Services recognized its employees for outstanding performance after meeting and exceeding established operational and service delivery targets. The awards ceremony formed part of the organization’s ongoing efforts to promote excellence, accountability, and high standards across the organisation.

See the photo highlights below.

### Mandeville Health District



### Christiana Health District



### 100 percent Acheivers



### Porus Health District (left) & Manchester Health Department Office

# Manchester Health Services Staff Members Lauded for Performance



**Porus Health District**



## Mile Gully Health Department



## Newport Health District



# New Year, New You? Healthy Eating Made Easy

## Cauliflower Chicken Fried Rice

### Prep (10–15 minutes)

1 medium head cauliflower → cut into florets and pulse into rice-sized pieces (*or ~4 cups store-bought cauliflower rice*)

1 lb chicken breast or thighs → diced small

2 eggs → lightly beaten

3 cloves garlic → minced

½ cup onion → diced

½–1 cup frozen peas & carrots

Green onions → sliced (optional)

### Additional Ingredients

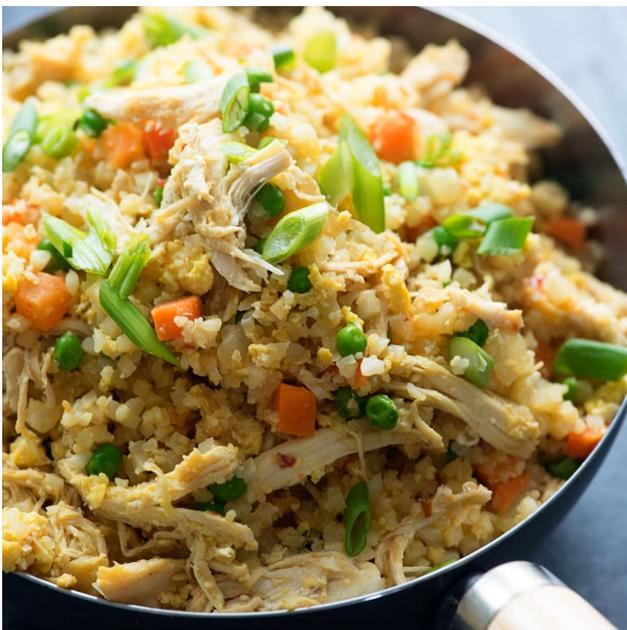
2 tbsp oil (avocado, sesame, or olive)

2–3 tbsp soy sauce or tamari

1 tsp sesame oil

Salt & pepper

Optional: grated ginger, chili flakes, or sriracha



### Cooking Instructions

1. Cook the chicken
2. Heat 1 tbsp oil in a large skillet or wok over medium-high.
3. Season chicken with salt and pepper.
4. Cook until browned and cooked through. Remove and set aside.
5. Scramble the eggs
6. Add a little oil if needed. Pour in eggs, scramble gently, then remove and set aside.
7. Sauté aromatics & veggies
8. Add remaining oil. Sauté onion for 2–3 minutes, then add garlic (and ginger if using). Stir in peas and carrots.
9. Add cauliflower rice
10. Cook 3–5 minutes, stirring often, until tender but not mushy.
11. Combine & season
12. Return chicken and eggs to the pan.
13. Add soy sauce and sesame oil. Toss well and cook 1–2 more minutes.
14. Finish Taste and adjust seasoning.
15. Top with green onions or chili sauce if desired.



Credit: Food Network Recipes



# HR And You:

“Interim Corner”

**INTERIM CORNER**

**WHY SHOULD I MAKE A COMMENT BEFORE SUBMITTING?**

**Supervisor:** To summarize the employee’s overall performance.

**Employee:** To respond to the feedback provided by the supervisor and share your thoughts on the assessment.

**Reviewing Officer:** To review the assessment, ensure fairness and equity, and discuss any discrepancy identified with the relevant parties.

HRM&D Unit

Infohub

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
FROM **Mr. DPO**

- ★ Ensure your space is securely locked
- ★ Make sure you secure the keys
- ★ Back up all important data
- ★ Stay Safe!

*Let's make 2026 a productive and compliant year!*

# Wellness Bytes

“Protecting Your Wellbeing After a Hurricane”



**Southern Regional Health Authority**  
Compassion | Accountability | Respect | Efficiency



## FEELING OVERWHELMED AFTER THE HURRICANE?



*Come Talk to Us*

## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT - ST. ELIZABETH

Santa Cruz Health Centre  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays; 4<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Junction Health Centre  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Elderslie Health Centre  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Maggotty Health Centre  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday and 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Fridays  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

New Market Health Centre  
3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Lacovia Health Centre  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Balaclava Health Centre  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Southfield Health Centre  
3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Newell Health Centre  
Mondays  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Black River Hospital  
Wednesdays  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

# SUBMIT AN ARTICLE

We welcome your input.

Please submit your articles and feedback for  
the February edition to:

The Corporate Communications & Public  
Relations Branch

Email: [latoya.laylor@srha.gov.jm](mailto:latoya.laylor@srha.gov.jm)

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When you accidentally eat your  
lunch on your 9 AM break



The Lighter Side

