Over 200 Community Health Aides Are Being Trained to Support COVID-19

Thus far, over 200 Community Health Aides (CHAs) have been recruited and are being trained by the South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA) in keeping with the Ministry of Health and Wellness’ strategic framework to prepare the population to live with the coronavirus (COVID-19).

These new officers will take part in an 8-week training program which will in turn assist in bridging the gap between communities and public health.

The Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton, who met with some 41 Aides during a training session at Lyssons Primary School on Thursday (July 23), said that testing is one of the several approaches to controlling the virus.

According to Charmaine Vassell-Shettlewood, Senior Public Health Nurse, Kingston and St. Andrew Health Department, the training focused on the areas of population of the Caribbean, conflict management, public speaking, surveillance and primary health care in a changing environment. Shettlewood also noted that of the 200 that are being trained by SERHA, over 100 persons live in the parish of Kingston and St. Andrew.

SERHA is the largest Region and administers public healthcare in Kingston and St. Andrew, St. Catherine and St. Thomas.
1. **What year did you start working at Ministry of Health/SERHA?**

   I have started working at the Ministry of Health/SERHA since January 1998.

2. **What are some of the positions you have held?**

   Ward Manager, afternoon and night Supervisor, Infection Control Nurse.

3. **What do you like the most about your job?**

   What I like most about my job is the fact that I’m able to help people, to motivate others and to make a difference in people’s life. I also like autonomy as it allows me to be innovative.

4. **What inspires you?**

   I am inspired when there is collaboration, the fact that we all share the same vision and is dedicated towards the mission. Team work, makes the job easier and also being recognized for a job well done is a great inspiration to me.

5. **What is your greatest achievement?**

   My greatest achievement is my educational accomplishment and accepting and serving God.

6. **What word of advice would you like to give to the staff?**

   There is no success without hard work and that team work is the key in getting the job done effectively and efficiently.

7. **What is your personal mission statement?**

   There is no success without hard work and with Christ in the vessel I will smile at the storm.

8. **Did you always want to work in the health?**

   I have always wanted to work in the health field.

9. **What is the most important life lesson you have learnt?**

   That no man is island no man stand alone, hence team work is the key.

10. **What do you do in your spare time?**

    In my spare time I meditate on the word of god and also enjoy family moments.
The High Dependency Units (HDUs) for neonatal and maternal care have been official opened at the Spanish Town Hospital (STH) at an estimated 22 million Euro.

It is the third of four high-dependency units now in operation and is made possible through the Programme for the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality (PROMAC), with donor assistance from the European Union (EU).

Dr. Christopher Tufton, Minister of Health and Wellness, said that the PROMAC places Jamaica firmly on the road to sustainable Development Goal 3, which is good health and well-being for all, at all ages.

Meanwhile, Head of the EU Delegation to Jamaica, Ambassador Malgorzata Wasilewska, said the provisions for the health facilities result from four decades of successful cooperation between Jamaica and the EU.

Spanish Town Hospital is a Type B health facility that serves the parish of St. Catherine, and has about 100 admissions to the nursery per month. Five to eight percent of babies are delivered prematurely.

The High Dependency Unit Officially Opened at BHC

A state-of-the-art High-Dependency Unit (HDU) for neonatal and maternal care has been opened at the Bustamante Hospital for Children on Tuesday (July 14, 2020).

The 4,359 square-foot facility, established at a cost of $315 million, provides specialized bed spaces for critically ill neonates.

It comprises 10 beds (including two isolation rooms), a nurses’ station, one sluice room, a breastfeeding area and a restroom.

Dr. Michelle-Ann Dawson, Senior Medical Officer, BHC, thanked the EU for the unit that will benefit thousands of critically ill children and their parents.
Ultrasound services at the Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre (SJGRC) have been improved primarily because of the donation of a $1.5-million portable ultrasound machine from CHASE Fund, the Rotary Club of St. Andrew North and PROVEN Investment limited.

Speaking at the official handover presentation on Friday (July 3), Dr. Rory Dixon, Senior Medical Officer, SJGRC, said that the machine will improve the hospital’s ability to screen more patients. He also thanked the donors for the kind support.

In 2019, the SJGRC received 17 wheelchairs from Community and Workers of Jamaica (C&WJ) Co-operative Credit Union Limited, and a suction machine from Rotary Club of St. Andrew North.

Ms. Maureen Golding, Regional Director, SERHA, wishes to salute our hard working responders who worked at one of the quarantine sites in Kingston and St. Andrew during this pandemic. She thanked the Management Team who is responsible for the dormitory for their kind assistance to the Ministry of Health and Wellness for housing the patients.

It is to be noted that 76 persons recovered from COVID under their care.
VJH Gets Mechanical Ventilator

Neonatal services at the Victoria Jubilee Hospital (VJH) have been boosted with the donation of a mechanical ventilator, valued at approximately JA $4M, from the Guardian Life Limited and the Guardian Group Foundation.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony on July 30, 2020, Dr. Yanique Brown, Consultant Paediatrician and Head of the Neonatal Care Unit, VJH, said that the machine, which has already been put into use by the hospital since March 2020, has strengthened the efforts made by the department to treat more babies with severe respiratory challenges. She added that the hospital now has three ventilators.

Dr. Brown also expressed thanks to the donors for their demonstration of corporate social responsibility and in the public health interest of Jamaicans.

Congratulations to the Team at KPH who performed the first Historic Brain Surgery

The Board of Management of SERHA extend heartiest congratulations to the medical team at the Kingston Public Hospital (KPH) who performed the first open brain surgery on 49-year old Majorie Pearson.

The team included Dr Dwaine Cooke, Consultant Neurosurgeon at KPH, and a team of Anaesthesiologists, Residents and Specialist nurses.

The procedure involved removing part of Pearson’s skull to operate on her brain – the patient talked to and responded well to the team of medics as they removed a tumour during the hours-long procedure. The operation went exactly as planned, to the relief of Pearson and the medical team, with the patient requiring minimal post-surgery assistance.
The Kingston Public Hospital (KPH) and the Bustamante Hospital for Children (BHC) observed national nurses week from July 15 to 22 under the theme, ‘Nurses a Voice to Lead: Nursing the World to Health’. Over 50 nurses at KPH including Patient Care Assistants were presented with gift certificates, token of appreciation and new badges at the presentation ceremony for their continuous and outstanding hard work, especially during this pandemic.
**Disaster Fact Sheet**

**A storm** is a rotating, organized system of clouds and thunderstorms that originates over tropical or subtropical waters.

**Tropical Depression:**
- A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 38 miles per hour.

**Tropical Storm:**
- A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 miles per hour.

**Hurricane:**
- A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of at least 74 miles per hour.

**Hurricanes category and expected impact:**

- **Category 1**
  - Winds: 74-95 mph (119-153 km/h)
  - Some damage and power outages

- **Category 2**
  - Winds: 96-110 mph (154-177 km/h)
  - Extensive damage

- **Category 3**
  - Winds: 111-130 mph (178-205 km/h)
  - Well-built homes suffer major damage

- **Category 4**
  - Winds: 131-155 mph (209-249 km/h)
  - Severe damage to well-built homes, trees blown over

- **Category 5**
  - Winds: 156+ mph (250+ km/h)
  - Many buildings destroyed, major roads cut off

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**Disaster Preparedness Promotional Flyers**

**Hurricane Survival Tips**

**Survival Kit 1: Water**

- *Store water in plastic containers. Avoid using containers that will decompose or break, such as glass bottles.*
- *Store one gallon of water per person per day.*
- *Keep at least seven-day supply of water for each person in your household. Do not forget water for your pets. They are also members of your family, if you have any.*

**Message from ODPEM**

**Hurricane Survival Tips**

**Survival Kit 2: Food**

- *Store at least a seven-day supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation of cooking and little or no water. These type foods include:*  
  - Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, and vegetables  
  - Canned juices  
  - Crackers  
  - Jams

**Message from ODPEM**

**Hurricane Survival Tips**

**Survival Kit 3: First Aid Kit**

**ITEMS INCLUDE:**

1. Supply of non-prescription medications such as over the counter painkillers
2. Supply of prescription medication, if you are taking
3. Assorted safety pins
4. Alcohol
5. Cotton
6. Small pair of scissors
7. Sterile gauze pads
8. Needle and thread
9. Adhesive bandages in all sizes

**Message from ODPEM**
I want to hear from you!
Tell me what is happening in your facility. Call Shuwana Johnson, Public Relations Officer at (876) 816-8058.
E-mail: shuwanaj@serha.gov.jm or serhapublicrelations@gmail.com

Excerpts from the Staff Order for Public Service Allowance

6.7.8 Uniform Allowance

i) Officers who are in positions where uniforms are considered necessary for organization, protective or identification purposes shall be provided with such uniform subject to the applicable conditions determined from time to time by the Ministry with responsibility for the Public Service.

ii) Temporary weekly-paid employees should have at least two (2) years continuous service in order to qualify for the grant of uniform.

iii) Where uniforms are considered necessary but not issued, employees who are eligible for the grant of uniform may receive payment in lieu of such uniform at the rate specified from time to time by the Ministry with responsibility for the Public Service. Such allowance would cover finished garments and shoes, or the cost of material and tailoring.

6.7.9 Laundry Allowance

Laundry Allowance Officers who are eligible for a uniform allowance may also receive an allowance for laundry at the rate established from time to time by the Ministry with responsibility for the Public Service.

Continuation in the next publication

Look out for more information on Compensation and Allowance in the next Newsletter.

KINGSTON PUBLIC & VICTORIA HOSPITALS
1. Medical Officers (HPC/MO1) General Surgery/Internal Medicine/Accident and Emergency
2. Registered General Nurse (HPC/RN1)
3. Registered Midwives (HPC/MW1)

SPANISH TOWN HOSPITAL
1. Medical Officers (HPC/MO1) General Surgery/Internal Medicine/Accident and Emergency
2. Registered General Nurse (HPC/RN1)
3. Registered Midwives (HPC/MW1)

BUSTAMANTE HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN
1. Specialist Nurse (A & E Operating Theatre, Critical Care)
2. Registered General Nurse (HPC/RN1)

LINSTEAD HOSPITAL
1. Medical Officer (HPC/MO1 & 2)

ST CATHERINE HEALTH DEPARTMENT
1. Parish Personnel Officer (GMG SEG 2)

KINGSTON AND ST. ANDREW HEALTH DEPARTMENT
1. Clinical Psychologist (HPC/ALH 1)

REGIONAL OFFICE
1. Senior Procurement Officer (GMG/SEG1)

Deadline for all applications is Thursday, August 25, 2020. Interested persons are asked to submit their applications with resumes to:

Director
Human Resource Management & Industrial Relations
South East Regional Health Authority
The Towers, 2nd Floor

SERHA TIMES 2020