New Community Health Aides are Being Trained by SERHA

SERHA has embarked on a training of over 200 persons so far in the Community Health Aides (CHAs) Programme, as part of the Ministry of Health and Wellness strategic framework to prepare the population to live with COVID-19.

The CHAs will successfully complete a eight week training certification.

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, basic mathematics, conflict management, public speaking and primary health care in a changing environment.

She was speaking during a training session at the Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre on June 30, 2020.

Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, says the Ministry will be employing 1,200 community health aides to assist in the continued fight against the coronavirus (COVID-19) islandwide. He was speaking during the a training session at Ascot High School on July 1, 2020.
The Board of Management of SERHA lauded the exceptional eight-member team from the Maintenance Department of the Liguanea Region for going beyond their call of duties especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Jacqueline Ellis, Chief Executive Officer for the Liguanea Region, said that her staff is very committed and dedicated to the task at hand. She added that they have done several other projects at different locations within the Region.
Fashion Designer, Lyndon “Balla” Johnson who donated 100 handmade face masks, along with the Management of KPH distributed the face masks to the cancer patients at the Radiotherapy and Chemotherapy Departments on June 4.

Mr. Johnson said that the initiative to donate the masks to the hospital is a collaborative effort with his friend, Faith McFarlane who resides in Boston.

Dr. Natalie Whylie, Senior Medical Officer, KPH, expressed sincere gratitude to Balla on behalf of the patients who are most at risk to the virus, for his generosity.

Dr. Whylie, further emphasized the importance of wearing masks in public spaces and observing the protocols outlined by the Government of Jamaica. She was speaking during the brief distribution exercise.

The Kingston Public Hospital (KPH) has received Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), valued at $1 M, from the Digicel Foundation, to boost safety against the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

KPH sees a high volume of patients to treat on a daily basis and this donation will no doubt be of great use to the staff and medical team at the facility.

Speaking during the handover presentation on June 24, the Minister of Health and Wellness thanked the Digicel Foundation for the generous donation.
The Isolation Unit at the Princess Margaret Hospital in St Thomas will be under 24-hour surveillance. This was made possible under the Good Samaritan Project of the parish’s Lay Magistrate Association, which donated four Hikvision Motorised Camera Systems valued at approximately $160,000.

Speaking at the handover ceremony on Wednesday, June 10, Senior Medical Officer, Dr Samantha Walker said the system will enhance the unit’s operations in the monitoring of COVID-19 patients.

“In caring for patients of COVID-19 we also have to be aware of the risks to staff themselves and that was the importance of having a surveillance system. It is very important, in terms of ensuring the safety of the staff, that we have access to observe our patients at all times.

The St Thomas Health Services received donation of seven new wheel chairs and gloves from Food For the Poor.

Mrs. Colleen Wright, Parish Manager, St. Thomas Health Services, thanked the company for the donation that will assist with transporting patients.

The handing over took place on June 25, 2020 at the institution.
The Bustamante Hospital for Children has received personal protective equipment (PPE), valued at more than US$10,000, from the German Embassy, to boost safety against the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The PPE items included surgical and N95 masks and thermometers.

Speaking at the handover ceremony on June 15, 2020 at the German Embassy, Senior Medical Officer (SMO) at the hospital, Dr. Michelle-Ann Richards-Dawson, said the team at the institution is “delighted” to have the equipment.

Chairman of the institution, Kenny Benjamin, told the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Jamaica, Dr. Bernd von Munchow-Pohl that the entire Ministry of Health and Wellness is pleased with the contribution to the health sector.

One Thousand (1000) frames and one thousand (1000) sheets of laminated face shields were donated to SERHA by Citizens Response Jamaica on June 16, 2020. The shields were designed and 3D printed by PreeLabs Ltd.

During the presentation exercise, Dr. Chambers thanked the group for the thoughtful donation that will assist in the fight against the coronavirus.

Present at the handover were the following persons from left are (pictured): Dr. Sandra Chambers, Regional Technical Director, SERHA; Kriston Kong, PreeLabs Ltd; Shane Smith, PreeLabs Ltd; Leah Goldson, CorpCare and Ali Matalon, CorpCare.
The PROMAC HDUs Opened at VJH

On June 24, the Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, along with Ambassador Malgorzata Wasilewska officially opened the maternal and neonatal high dependency units (HDUs) at the Victoria Jubilee Hospital (VJH). This is the second such facility under the Programme for the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality (PROMAC).

Dr. Garth McDonald, Senior Medical Officer, VJH, expressed the hope that with the outputs from PROMAC, including four high dependency units across the country, equipment supplied and training provided to medical personnel including obstetricians. Jamaica will see a reduction in its maternal, neonatal and perinatal mortality rates comparable to developed countries within the next five years.

Health Ministry Distributes Masks at Half Way Tree

Health and Wellness Minister, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, along with members of SERHA, distributed 2,000 masks to commuters in Half Way Tree square on the first day (June 1) of the lifting of the work-from-home order. The work-from-home order was part of measures to contain the spread of COVID-19.

According to Tufton, the risk of new infections has become greater and Jamaicans should take seriously the order to wear masks that cover their mouths and noses.
Changes at Princess Margaret Hospital to Deal with COVID-19

The Princess Margaret Hospital in St. Thomas has implemented significant changes to deal with the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and stands ready to continue to deliver high-quality healthcare to its clients.

Ms. Melecia Linton, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PMH said that with the advent of COVID-19, the hospital, which is the only secondary healthcare facility in the Parish, had to make adjustments in order to respond effectively to the new disease. These included the retrofitting of some areas and scaling back some services.

Dr. Samantha Walker, Senior Medical Officer noted that the hospital recently went through an extensive reconstruction and renovation of the A&E Department and that the three isolation rooms are housed within that department, in keeping with the structural mandate from the Ministry of Health and Wellness and based on international guidelines.

She added that the children’s ward is to be used as a dedicated COVID-19 ward.

Lasco Financial Services Donates Care Packages

Representatives from Lasco Financial Services distributed 80 care packages to the staff and patients at the Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre on June 15, 2020. Ms. Jacqueline Ellis, CEO, SJGRC, thanked the company for graciously donating the packages.
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

6.7.6 House Allowance

i) Officers who are entitled to be provided with official quarters as a condition of their appointment, but for whom no quarters are available, may be paid a rent or house allowance in lieu, at such rates as may be established by the Ministry with responsibility for the Public Service.

ii) Officers who are in receipt of house or rent allowance may be called upon to occupy such Government quarters as become available. Failure to comply may result in the withdrawal of the allowance.

iii) Officers acting in a position to which a house or rent allowance is attached, shall receive the applicable allowance if the acting appointment exceeds twenty (20) consecutive working days.

6.7.7 Utility Allowance

i) The Ministry with responsibility for the Public Service may authorize the payment of utility allowance to certain grades of Officers within the Public Service.

ii) An Officer acting in a position to which a utility allowance is attached shall receive the applicable allowance, if the acting appointment exceeds twenty (20) consecutive working days.

Continuation in the next publication

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