



WRHA

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

**S. James
Dental team
serves the
elderly**

STORY ON PAGE 22

JANUARY-MARCH
ISSUE #005



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JANUARY ACTIVITIES



WRHA HOSTS HEALTHCARE WORKERS SUPPORT FAIR



Phyllipia Whyte, Anna-Shai Stennett and Shelly-Ann Clarke, Dental Aids at the St. James Type V Health Centre, show off their goodie bags that they received during the WRHA Healthcare Worker's Support Fair

The Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) reaffirmed its commitment to staff welfare with the successful staging of a Healthcare Workers' Support Fair, held on January 9 at Pier 1 in Montego Bay, St. James. The initiative brought together scores of healthcare professionals from across the western region, providing a dedicated space for them to access a wide range of essential support services following the impact of Hurricane Melissa.

Designed to support the holistic well-being of staff, the fair featured services in financial literacy, psychosocial support, and general health and wellness. Public and private sector partners also offered assistance with personal matters such as document recovery and medical check-ups, ensuring that healthcare workers received practical help alongside emotional support.

The Healthcare Workers' Support Fair forms part of a wider initiative to ensure that those who care for others are themselves cared for. By prioritising the mental, emotional, and professional well-being of its workforce, the WRHA continues to strengthen the foundation of healthcare delivery across Jamaica's western region.





healthcare workers support fair



ST JAMES HEALTH SERVICES LAUNCH VECTOR CONTROL PROGRAMME



Vector Control Workers from the St. James Health Department stopped for a photo at the press launch of the St. James Health Department's Vector Control Programme

The St. James Health Department launched a \$50 million Integrated Vector Control Programme to reduce vector-borne diseases in high-risk communities across the parish.

The initiative was introduced at a press launch held at the St. James Type V Health Centre in Montego Bay on January 06, 2026 as part of intensified public health efforts following the passage of Hurricane Melissa, which increased the risk of mosquito breeding.

The programme focused on reducing the Breteau Index through targeted identification and treatment of breeding sites, supported by expanded field operations and the use of appropriate control measures. A strengthened rodent control component was also implemented.

Key activities included community clean-up efforts, public education, and targeted interventions in vulnerable areas, including the distribution of covered water storage containers.

The initiative reinforced ongoing efforts to protect public health by reducing environmental risks and encouraging community participation in vector control measures.





Red Cross Donates to the Savanna-la-mar Health Centre

The Jamaica Red Cross has strengthened support for frontline healthcare delivery in Westmoreland through a donation to the Savanna-la-Mar Health Centre, bolstering the facility's response to rising influenza cases.

The donation, made in partnership with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, included a supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) aimed at enhancing infection prevention and control measures at the health centre. The support comes at a critical time, as healthcare providers continue to manage increased flu cases alongside ongoing recovery efforts following recent hurricane impacts.

Health officials highlighted that the contribution significantly improves the facility's readiness to respond to public health demands, ensuring that both staff and patients are better protected. The donation is also expected to strengthen day-to-day operations at the health centre, which serves as a key access point for primary healthcare services in the parish.

Representatives from the Jamaica Red Cross underscored their continued commitment to supporting vulnerable communities and reinforcing Jamaica's public health infrastructure, particularly during periods of heightened health risks.

The donation reflects the ongoing importance of partnerships between humanitarian organizations and the public health sector in addressing emerging health challenges and building resilience within Jamaica's healthcare system.



FALMOUTH HOSPITAL RECEIVES DONATION FROM EXCELLENCE HOTELS AND RESORTS

The Excellence Oyster Bay has donated US\$21,000 to assist with ongoing restoration works at the Falmouth Public General Hospital, following the significant damage sustained during the passage of Hurricane Melissa.

The contribution, made through the We Care FPGH initiative, will support critical roof repairs after the facility lost a substantial portion of its roofing during the storm. The donation marks an important step in advancing recovery efforts and restoring full functionality to the hospital.

Hospital leadership welcomed the timely support, noting that the gesture underscores the importance of strong public-private partnerships in strengthening the resilience of the region's healthcare infrastructure. The handover also served as a call to action for other stakeholders to honour pledges and contribute to the rebuilding process.

Funds were raised through the resort's "Share the Love" initiative, which dedicated a portion of guest bookings to the hospital's restoration. In addition to the financial contribution, the team also donated care items to the paediatric ward, bringing added comfort to young patients.

The Western Regional Health Authority continues to prioritise the rehabilitation of facilities impacted by Hurricane Melissa, as part of its broader mandate to ensure the delivery of safe, resilient, and high-quality healthcare services across the region.



FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES



CONGRATULATIONS

DR. MARCIA JOHNSON-CAMPBELL

ON ACHIEVING HER DOCTORATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH WITH HIGH COMMENDATION AND BEING AWARDED FOR BEST STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATION AND MOST IMPACTFUL ORAL PRESENTATION AT THE 16TH NATIONAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS RESEARCH CONFERENCE



Trelawny Cancer Support Group celebrates first anniversary

The Trelawny Cancer Support Group recently marked its first anniversary with a meaningful celebration at the Falmouth Public General Hospital, underscoring the importance of psychosocial support in cancer care across the Western Region.

The event brought together members of the group, healthcare professionals, and key stakeholders, highlighting the significant impact the initiative has had in providing a safe and supportive environment for persons living with cancer.

Guest speaker, cancer advocate Yvonne Dunkley, delivered an inspiring message, sharing her personal journey and emphasizing the importance of resilience, hope, and purpose in the face of a cancer diagnosis. Her testimony served as a powerful reminder of the value of support systems in improving patient outcomes and overall well-being.

Over the past year, the Trelawny Cancer Support Group has played a critical role in offering emotional and peer support, while also strengthening the connection between patients and available healthcare services. The initiative aligns with ongoing efforts to enhance patient-centered care and address the broader needs of individuals living with non-communicable diseases.

The Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) continues to support programmes such as this, recognizing that support groups are essential in complementing clinical care, promoting early intervention, and improving quality of life for patients and their families.

As the group celebrates this milestone, there is a renewed commitment to expanding its reach and ensuring that more persons across Trelawny and the wider western region can benefit from the vital support it provides.





MBCCI and WRHA Board tours CRH Rehab site.

Members of the Montego Bay Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MBCCI), alongside the Board of the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA), recently toured the rehabilitation works at the Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH), reaffirming their shared commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure in western Jamaica.

The tour provided stakeholders with a comprehensive update on the progress of the ongoing rehabilitation project, which remains a critical undertaking to restore full functionality to the region's main referral hospital. Representatives were guided through key sections of the facility, where improvements to structural systems, clinical spaces, and overall patient environments are being carried out.

During the visit, discussions focused on the scope of works, timelines for completion, and the long-term impact the upgraded facility will have on healthcare delivery across St. James and neighboring parishes.



WRHA hosts Safer Sex Week/World Cancer Day Intervention

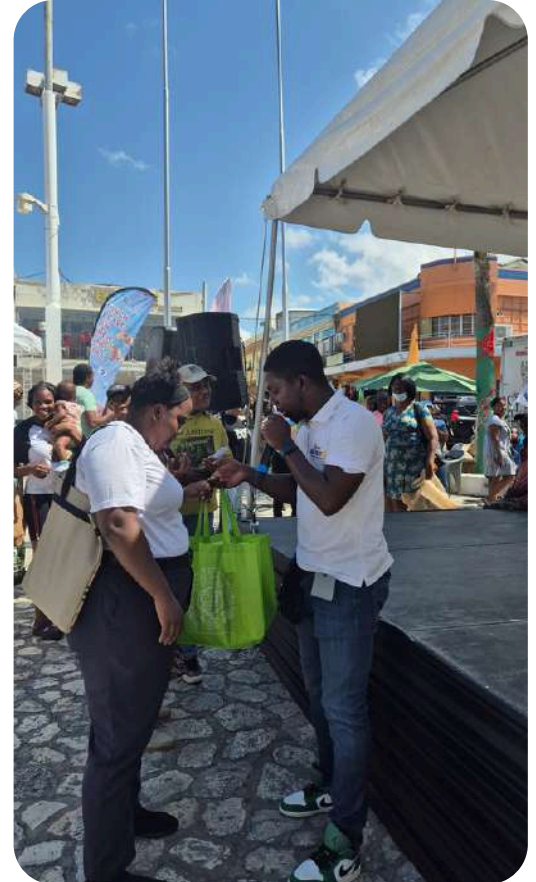
The St. James Health Services hosted a targeted public health intervention on February 13, 2026, at Sam Sharpe Square, in observance of Safer Sex Week and World Cancer Day.

The initiative brought vital health services and education directly to the public, engaging commuters, vendors, and passersby in the heart of Montego Bay. Members of the public received information on safe sexual practices, including the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, as well as the importance of regular testing and responsible health behaviors.

In recognition of World Cancer Day, the intervention also focused on promoting early detection and screening. Health teams provided guidance on cancer risk factors, encouraged routine screenings, and educated individuals on the warning signs associated with common cancers.

Patrons also benefited from on-site health checks and consultations, reinforcing the importance of knowing one's health status and seeking timely medical care.

The initiative formed part of WRHA's continued efforts to expand community outreach and strengthen preventative healthcare, ensuring that critical health messages and services remain accessible to the population.





A.A. Laquis Supports WRHA Hurricane Melissa Recovery Efforts with Medical Equipment Donation



The Western Regional Health Authority (Western Regional Health Authority) has received a significant boost to its ongoing Hurricane Melissa recovery efforts through a donation from A.A. Laquis (Jamaica) Limited, a leading medical supplier in the Caribbean.

The donation includes essential medical equipment and supplies such as electric hospital beds, wheelchairs, blood pressure machines, and adult diapers, all aimed at strengthening patient care and supporting service restoration across affected facilities.

Key beneficiaries within the WRHA network include Cornwall Regional Hospital, Noel Holmes Hospital, Falmouth Hospital, and Savanna-la-Mar Public General Hospital.

The initiative was made possible through collaboration with partners including Food For The Poor, DRIVE, VIVE Health, ONTEX, and OMRON, reflecting a strong partnership approach to healthcare recovery and resilience building in western Jamaica.

Customer Service Department hosts Service Excellence Workshop

The WRHA customer service department successfully hosted its Customer Service Service Excellence Workshop 2026 under the theme “Mission Possible: Agents of Excellence” on February 25, 2026.

The workshop brought together staff from across the region to strengthen customer service delivery, enhance staff wellbeing, and reinforce a culture of excellence in patient care.

Participants received focused training on customer service standards and best practices aimed at improving patient experience across health facilities.



26.02.2026

A psychosocial segment titled “Caring for the Carer” highlighted the importance of mental wellbeing and support for healthcare workers, while an additional session emphasized the role of physical activity in maintaining overall health and workplace productivity.

The day also included interactive discussions on service improvement and employee wellbeing.

The workshop concluded with staff rejuvenation.

The WRHA continues to prioritise staff development, wellness, and service excellence as key pillars in strengthening healthcare delivery across western Jamaica.



26.02



**customer
service
retreat**

CRH to receive Medical Dome from Judah 1 and Kennedy Quick Reaction Fund.

Judah 1 and Kennedy Quick Reaction Fund. The workshop brought together staff from across the region to strengthen customer service delivery, enhance staff wellbeing, and reinforce a culture of excellence in patient care.

The medical dome, designed to withstand extreme weather conditions, will provide approximately 100 additional beds and serve as a critical extension to existing services at CRH. Once operational, it is expected to alleviate congestion—especially within the Accident and Emergency Department—while improving patient flow and overall service delivery.



The donation comes at a crucial time, as the hospital continues recovery efforts following the impact of recent hurricane activity. The additional capacity will enhance the region's resilience and ensure continuity of care during periods of increased demand.

The dome will be equipped with essential medical infrastructure, allowing healthcare teams to deliver timely and efficient care in a safe and controlled environment.

Once completed, the medical dome will play a vital role in bolstering emergency preparedness at Cornwall Regional Hospital, ensuring that the institution remains better equipped to serve the population in times of crisis and beyond.



BON VOYAGE ST. ANDRADE SINCLAIR

The Western Regional Health Authority extends sincere appreciation to St. Andrade Sinclair for his dedicated service and leadership as Regional Director, which have contributed significantly to the strengthening of healthcare delivery across the western region. We wish him every success in his new role as Project Lead for the Health Infrastructure Maintenance Fund at the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

MARCH ACTIVITIES



MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT



Deveta McLaren, JP, MBA, BA Regional Director (Acting), Western Regional Health Authority

The Chairman of the Western Regional Health Authority, Mr. Eric Clarke has announced that with effect from Monday, March 2, Miss Deveta McLaren, JP, MBA, BA, will act as Regional Director for the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA).

Miss McLaren is a results-driven management professional with 30 years of experience spanning sales, marketing, strategic planning, revenue generation, business restructuring, and project management. Her decades-long track record is one of excellent organisational and people management skills – the ability to navigate diverse stakeholder expectations, align people and processes with organisational objectives, build brand equity, and unlock growth across multiple sectors including public healthcare. She will oversee the Authority that manages health services in the Westmoreland, St. James, Hanover and Trelawny.

W E L C O M E

Jamaican and Canadian Red Cross donates over JMD\$42 million in equipment to WRHA



The Western Regional Health Authority (Western Regional Health Authority) has received a significant boost to its ongoing Hurricane Melissa recovery efforts following a \$42 million donation of medical equipment and supplies from the Jamaica Red Cross, in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross.

The handover, held in Montego Bay, forms part of continued humanitarian support aimed at restoring and strengthening healthcare services across the western region in the aftermath of the hurricane.

The donation includes a range of essential emergency and clinical supplies such as emergency airway management kits, suction catheters, and triage tools, along with other critical items used in emergency and frontline care. The equipment is expected to strengthen response capacity at hospitals and health centres across the region, ensuring continued delivery of essential services.

The WRHA indicated that the supplies will be strategically distributed across its network, which includes facilities such as Cornwall Regional Hospital, Savanna-la-Mar Public General Hospital, Falmouth Hospital, and Noel Holmes Hospital, based on priority needs.

The Jamaica Red Cross reaffirmed its commitment to supporting vulnerable communities and strengthening disaster response capacity, working alongside government and international partners to reduce the impact of emergencies on health services.

The WRHA expressed appreciation for the timely intervention, noting that partnerships of this nature remain vital in sustaining healthcare delivery and supporting recovery efforts following natural disasters.



UTech Students Support Savanna-la-Mar Hospital with Donation to Aid Hurricane Recovery Efforts



The Savanna-la-Mar Hospital has welcomed a donation from final-year students of the University of Technology, Jamaica (UTech), aimed at supporting recovery efforts at the Savanna-la-Mar Public General Hospital following the impact of Hurricane Melissa.

The donation, valued at \$200,000, will go towards rehabilitation work at the hospital, particularly repairs to the nurses' quarters, which sustained damage during the storm.

The initiative forms part of the students' Finance and Banking Seminar project, which encourages practical experience in fundraising, financial management and community outreach.

The donation is expected to complement ongoing rehabilitation activities and support improved staff wellbeing and service delivery.

The student-led initiative reflects a strong commitment to community service, with participants choosing to direct support to Westmoreland, one of the parishes significantly impacted by the hurricane.



St. James Dental Team cares for the elderly on Dental Hygiene Day



The St. James Health Department Oral Health Team, conducted home visits to immobile elderly residents in the Rose Mount and Cornwall Courts communities to ensure that essential oral health services were delivered directly to those unable to access traditional health facilities.

A total of five elderly patients received personalized care in the comfort of their homes. Services included oral examinations, distribution of dental care packages, blood pressure and blood sugar checks, and a tooth extraction for one patient who required urgent dental intervention.

The initiative highlighted the WRHA's continued commitment to community-based healthcare delivery, particularly for vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations.

Patients expressed deep appreciation for the intervention, describing it as both timely and meaningful, especially given their mobility challenges. One beneficiary, who is immobile following a stroke, shared gratitude for the support, noting that accessing care independently has been difficult since his illness.

The WRHA continues to prioritise outreach initiatives that strengthen preventative care and improve quality of life for residents across western Jamaica, reinforcing its commitment to ensuring that no one is left without access to essential health services.



ROCHE PHARMACEUTICALS DONATES US\$20,000 TO STRENGTHEN CORNWALL REGIONAL HOSPITAL RECOVERY EFFORTS

The Cornwall Regional Hospital has received a timely boost to its ongoing Hurricane Melissa recovery efforts following a US\$20,000 donation from Roche Pharmaceuticals.

The contribution is intended to support the restoration and strengthening of key services at the hospital, particularly the oncology and nephrology departments, which were impacted by the hurricane. The donation also included Starlink connectivity devices to enhance internet access and improve digital communication within clinical operations which will support more efficient coordination of patient care, particularly in high-demand units.

Roche Pharmaceuticals highlighted its continued commitment to supporting healthcare resilience in Jamaica, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that environmental disruptions do not limit access to quality medical care.

The contribution adds to ongoing efforts to rebuild and enhance healthcare infrastructure following Hurricane Melissa, reinforcing the role of private sector partnerships in supporting Jamaica's public health system.



Savanna-la-Mar Hospital Receives Receiving Blankets from Support Your Girlfriends Foundation



The maternity department at Savanna-la-Mar Public General Hospital has been strengthened through the donation of more than 200 receiving blankets from a United States-based charity, providing critical support for newborn care.

The items were donated by the Support Your Girlfriends Foundation, an initiative led by returning resident Vanessa Moore, and were officially handed over during a presentation at the facility. The donation was inspired by a personal experience, after Moore witnessed a newborn being wrapped in a worn towel due to the lack of proper supplies.

Chief Executive Officer of the hospital, Mr. Roan Grant, welcomed the contribution, noting that it addresses an immediate need within the busy maternity unit. He expressed appreciation for the thoughtful gesture, describing it as a meaningful act of generosity that will directly benefit both mothers and newborns.

The Support Your Girlfriends Foundation has indicated its intention to continue supporting maternal health services in Westmoreland, signaling the potential for an ongoing partnership. This donation reflects the vital role of community and diaspora support in strengthening Jamaica's public health system and enhancing the quality of care provided to patients.

Media Blitz

HIGH DEMAND FOR MATERNITY SERVICES AT SAV HOSPITAL

There continues to be a high demand for maternity services at the Savanna-La-Mar Public General Hospital in Westmoreland with deliveries averaging approximately 2500 per year, says Senior Medical Officer at the facility, Dr. Suman Venu.

He noted that the number has fluctuated between 2000 and 2400 for the past four years but "not a major decline."

He said that the hospital experiences seasonal increases in deliveries, particularly towards the end of the year.

"We always call it crop season... close to December where we always see a high number of deliveries... so the situation is dynamic," he said.

Dr. Venu was speaking at the recent handover of 200 receiving blankets to the maternity ward by the United States (US)-based charity Support Your Girlfriends, at the hospital in Westmoreland.

He welcomed the donation, noting that such contributions support the hospital's ability to respond effectively to patients.

The Senior Medical Officer highlighted additional needs to strengthen maternity care such as cardiograph (CTG) machines,



Senior Medical Officer at the Savanna-La-Mar Public General Hospital, Dr. Suman Venu

compression devices and vital cardiac monitors.

For her part, Deputy Director of Nursing Services at the facility, Petunia Leslie Blair, noted that the contribution will benefit mothers who present without essential items.

"Some mothers do come in at times as emergencies and do not have the necessary things that they need to receive a baby into the world, so this is really an appreciated act," she said.

"We really thank you from the bottom of our hearts... it will be well appreciated by the mothers and also by the nurses who work in the department," she said.

ROCHE PHARMACEUTICALS GIVES US\$20,000 TO CRH

Cancer and renal patients accessing care at the Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH) in St. James are set to benefit from enhanced service delivery, following a US\$20,000 donation from Roche Pharmaceuticals to strengthen the hospital's oncology and nephrology departments.

The donation, which also includes two Starlink devices to improve digital connectivity, was officially handed over during a ceremony held at the Tye A facility on Friday (March 27) and forms part of ongoing efforts to strengthen healthcare services in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.

Clinical Coordinator at the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA), Dr. Delroy Fray, underscored the significance of the contribution, noting the high demand for specialised services at the institution.

"On a daily basis, the urology department sees (approximately) 70 patients," he said.

Dr. Fray further stated that the hospital also operates an extensive dialysis programme to meet patient needs, noting that the services provided are critical to patient survival and well-being generally.

He also highlighted the financial relief provided to pa-



Page 6 | THE WESTERN HERALD, Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Biker killed in mishap

More gifts for Sav hospital

The maternity department at the Savanna-la-Mar Public General Hospital in Westmoreland has been bolstered through the donation of approximately 200 receiving blankets by the Support Your Girlfriends charity based in the United States.

The donation, valued at up to US \$400 was made during a press briefing held at the facility on Friday (March 20), where hospital officials and public health representatives expressed gratitude for the timely contribution.

Patrick Manager for Westmoreland Public Health Services, Nivola Linds-Little, noted the importance of partnerships in strengthening healthcare delivery.

"Women supporting women is very critical in our society today... we are indeed grateful," she said.

She highlighted the significance of addressing the small needs within the health system. "Sometimes we talk about the big-ticket items as the gifts... we tend not to remember the small things... as I talk into that this time we are remembering the small ones and the small things," she said.

Chief Executive Officer at the hospital, Ross Grant, also



Chief Executive Officer at the Savanna-La-Mar Public General Hospital, Ross Grant (left), and Deputy Director of Nursing Services at the Hospital, Petunia Leslie Blair, accept a donation of receiving blankets from member of the Support Your Girlfriends charity, Vanessa Moore, at the health facility in Westmoreland on Friday (March 20).

welcomed the contribution, noting that the benevolent act will help to address an existing need within the maternity ward.

Member of the Support Your Girlfriends group, Vanessa Moore, who spearheaded the initiative, shared that the donation was in response to the need identified for blankets to wrap newborns.

She noted that the group mobilised quickly to respond to the need, emphasising their commitment to supporting women and newborns.

"From our perspective, it was really important for us to wrap all newborns... In total, with a receiving blanket," said Ms. Moore, who is a returning resident.

Red Cross delivers \$42M lifeline to health authority

March 10, 2026 | Share on % Post

Medical equipment and supplies valued at more than \$42 million have been donated to the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) to strengthen healthcare delivery and support recovery efforts following the impact of Hurricane Melissa.

The donation was formally handed over by the Jamaica Red Cross in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross last Wednesday at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church Hall in Montego Bay, St. James.

The items include emergency airway management kits, suction catheters, triage tools and emergency room and triage kit components, among other things.



State Minister in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Krystal Leo, (third right) looks at medical supplies donated to the Western Regional Health Authority, by the Jamaica Red Cross in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross.

Cornwall Hospital Grounds Being Prepared for Installation of Medical Dome

By: OKOYE HENRY, February 8, 2026



Photo: Okoye Henry

Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. Hon. Christopher Tufton (second left), joined by J-H Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Western Regional Health Authority, James Anderson (CEO and Founder of Judah 1 Limited, Amen and Chief Operating Officer at Amerey International Logistics and Services, Christie Pridemore, in displaying images of the medical dome, which will be erected on the grounds of the Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH) in Montego Bay, St. James. The installation is a medical facility to be used at the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) Technical Office at the Western Regional Health Centre in St. James on Saturday (Feb. 7).

Work is underway to prepare the Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH) grounds for the installation of a state-of-the-art medical dome, which will accommodate up to 100 beds.

The 10,000 square-foot facility, engineered to withstand a category 4 hurricane, is being donated through partnership involving the Jamaican Government and international non-governmental organisations Judah 1 and Kennedy (Quick Reaction Fund).

The setting up of the facility was first announced by Health and Wellness Minister, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, during a tour of the hospital in Montego Bay, St.

'They chose us'

Noel Holmes Hospital grateful for \$12 million in donated supplies

Anthony Lewis | Observer Writer

February 19, 2026



CEO of Noel Holmes Hospital Process Riddemorn speaking about how the donation will benefit the hospital and its patients. (Photo: Anthony Lewis)

UCEA, Hanover - This parish's Noel Holmes Hospital has received a significant boost in medical supplies thanks to a generous donation from Help For Healthcare Professionals (HFCP), a charitable organisation based in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mosquito control measures ramped up

February 24, 2026 | Share on % Post

Public health teams in Westmoreland inspected more than 25,000 homes in January as part of intensified mosquito control measures, identifying nearly 3,000 premises with active breeding sites.

Chief Public Health Inspector, Steve Morris, reported that inspections were conducted in 2,209 localities during the month, resulting in the identification and treatment of thousands of mosquito-breeding containers. He outlined that 72,941 containers were found, with 6,259 confirmed as breeding mosquitoes. Morris was addressing the Westmoreland Municipal Corporation's monthly meeting, held recently in Savanna-la-Mar.

The large-scale inspections formed part of intensified vector-control measures implemented following heavy rainfall and flooding associated with Hurricane Melissa, which heightened the risk of mosquito proliferation. Morris reported that 116



Media Blitz

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Public health teams intensify mosquito control measures in Westmoreland

1 Comment · Make a comment


February 23, 2026



The malaria-bearing Aedes aegypti mosquito. On this day 1972, DDT, the first of the modern insecticides used against malaria and typhoid, is banned by the United States Environmental Protection Agency after evidence of adverse environmental side effects (Photo: Pixabay)

St James health department reports major mosquito control gains

Updated February 23, 2026



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OBSERVER NEW PRODUCT ALERT **PGJ VINEGAR**

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Jamaica can treat most burn victims, Tufton insists

1 Comment · Make a comment

Anthony Lewis | Observer Writer

February 27, 2026



Health and Wellness Minister Dr Christopher Tufton (third right) addressing a press conference in St James on Thursday. Flanking him are Senior Medical Officer Dr Curtis Yeates (left); chief executive officer at the Cornwall Regional Hospital, Charmaine Williams Beckford; and the clinical coordinator for the IIRCA Dr Dany Fey. (Photo: Anthony Lewis)

JAMAICA INFORMATION SERVICE

Cornwall Regional Hospital to Receive Boost in Bed Capacity

By: OROYE HENRY, January 25, 2026



Photo: Oroye Henry

Health and Wellness Minister Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (right) interacts with (from left) Dr. Paul Ganemayo, Acting Deputy Chief of Nursing Services, Cornwall Regional Hospital, and Chief Executive Officer of the Cornwall Regional Hospital, Charmaine Williams Beckford, during a tour of the hospital on Saturday (January 24).

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Western Regional Health Authority reports stable STI and HIV trends in Western Jamaica

February 19, 2026



POPULAR NEWS

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The Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) is reporting that the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STI) and HIV across western Jamaica has remained relatively stable over the past three years, with occasional fluctuations.

"We would not say we have seen any significant increase at this time in STI. In 2023, we saw a very slight increase, but in 2025, we noticed that it returned to our 2023 baseline," WRHA Regional Priority Communicable Disease Coordinator, Dr. Tereza Hickman, indicated.


She said 65 cases that a similar trend has been observed in HIV cases, with no overall rise in reported cases.

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Ja equipped to stabilise severe burn cases, says health officials

February 27, 2026



POPULAR NEWS

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- December 2025: US\$7.1m to restore operating theatres hit by Melissa, says health minister

WESTERN BUREAU

amid public concern over local treatment options for severe burn victims, health officials have insisted that Jamaica's health system has the capacity to stabilise critical cases during the most delicate phase of care.

Survival in severe burn cases depends largely on the first 24 to 48 hours of treatment, a window in which Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH) says it is fully equipped to respond through its high-dependency and intensive care services.

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Hundreds of bait stations deployed in Westmoreland to control rodent population

March 24, 2026



POPULAR NEWS

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- January 2026: Rebuilding with rubbish
- April 2026: Probe deepens after Carrivert night eruptions in gunfire
- February 2026: Over 1,200 bait stations deployed in Westmoreland to strengthen rodent control
- February 2026: Over 1,200 bait stations deployed in Westmoreland to strengthen rodent control

The Westmoreland Public Health Department has deployed more than 1,500 bait stations in several communities as part of its ongoing rodent control programme across the parishes.

Chief Public Health Inspector for Westmoreland, Steve Morris, said the initiative has already yielded impressive results, with a significant level of bait uptake recorded in targeted areas.

"At the end of February, we had set 1,599 bait stations, and revisited 1,059 of them," Morris reported.

He was speaking at the recent monthly meeting of the Westmoreland Municipal Corporation, held in Spanish Town.

Morris highlighted that the programme has recorded a 5x per cent uptake of bait at monitored sites, showing active rodent presence.

Health Services extend clean-up, rodent control as waste crisis persists in St James

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Published: Friday | January 23, 2026 | 12:09 AM | Christopher Thomas/Gleaner Writer



Lennox Wallace, parish manager for the St James Health Services.

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Yeates says major CRH concerns to be addressed in weeks

Updated January 29, 2026



POPULAR NEWS

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- March 2026: Woman tried to straggle partner from leaving home before confrontation with cop left her, two others dead

WESTERN BUREAU

Dr Curtis Yeates, the senior medical officer of health at the Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH) in Hanley Bay, St James, has issued a public analysis of patients and staff for the poor working conditions and overcrowding of the Parishes, saying the situation has put lives at risk.



DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT (DPIA) IN A NUTSHELL

WHAT IS A DPIA?

A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) is a written assessment of the impact of planned processing operations on the protection of personal data. DPIAs provide a structured way of thinking about the risks posed to the people whose data you process. DPIAs also help us comply with the requirement of data protection by design.

WHEN IS IT MANDATORY ?

A DPIA is mandatory for data processing operations presenting high risks to data subjects such as when two or more of the following criteria applies:

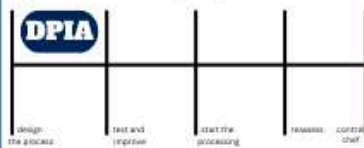
- Systematic evaluation/ profiling/ monitoring
- Automated decision making
- Sensitive data processing
- Large scale processing
- Match combine data sets with different purposes
- Vulnerable data subjects
- New technologies
- New way of processing

WHY IS A DPIA NEEDED?

- To comply with a legal obligation (section 45 of the Jamaica Data Protection Act, 2020)
- To understand and mitigate risks to people's rights

WHEN TO DO A DPIA?

Start with the screening questionnaire when designing a new processing operation.



WHO GETS INVOLVED?

- Senior Management
- Head of Department
- Project Owner
- DPO
- ICT Department
- Processors

WHAT SHOULD A DPIA INCLUDE?

- Description of the planned processing and its purposes
- Necessity and proportionality assessment
- Risk assessment and measures to assess the risks

IF IN DOUBT, COMPLETE THE SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE!!!!

For further information:

- Click here:
- Contact DPO at (876) 808-6347 or dataprotection@wrha.gov.jm