WRHA

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



WRHA Celebrates Healthcare Workers with "Fun in the Sun"

STORY ON PAGE 7

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2026
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WESTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
Healthy Families living in Healthy Communities

HEALTHCARE WORKERS APPRECIATION MONTH
HONOURING COMMITMENT, SERVICE & SACRIFICE

Table of Contents

July Activities

04-05
WRHA HOSTS INAUGURAL QUARTERLY SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

06
NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA CRH CHAPTER HOSTS OPEN DAY

07-08
WRHA HOSTS FUN IN THE SUN FAMILY FUN DAY

August Activities

12
UNFDA DONATES REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH KITS TO WRHA FACILITIES

13
WRHA DRIVERS RECEIVE DEFENSE DRIVING BOOST

14-15
WRHA HOSTS WORLD MOSQUITO DAY

16
WRHA LAUNCHES FIT TESTING AT SAV HEALTH CENTRE

September Activities

18
MBCCI AND ST. JAMES MINISTER'S FRATERNAL PLEASED WITH CRH PROGRESS

19-20
WRHA HOSTS BOARD OF MANAGEMENT RETREAT 2026

21
GRANVILLE HEALTH CENTRE LAUNCHES MOTHER TO MOTHER BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUP

22
ST. JAMES HEALTH DEPARTMENT HOSTS FREE PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING

23
WRHA WELCOMES 20 GHANAIAN NURSES

WRHA

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JULY ACTIVITIES



WRHA Quarterly Service Excellence Awards



The Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) hosted the first staging of its Quarterly Service Excellence Awards Ceremony on July 15, 2026, recognising employees who demonstrate exceptional commitment to service delivery across the region.

Launched in the 2026/2027 financial year, the programme aligns with the Government of Jamaica's Service Excellence Policy and aims to foster a culture of professionalism, accountability, teamwork and continuous improvement.

Awardees are selected based on five pillars: Customer-Centric Service, Performance Excellence, Collaboration and Engagement, Innovation and Responsiveness, and Integrity and Accountability. Each recipient receives a personalised plaque and a gift card.

The ceremony celebrated the dedication of staff members whose contributions help to enhance patient experiences, support colleagues and strengthen healthcare delivery across western Jamaica.
The WRHA congratulates all awardees and encourages employees to continue recognising colleagues who exemplify excellence in their daily work.

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Quarterly Service Excellence Awards

NAJ, CRH Chapter Hosts Nurses Week Open Day

The Nurses Association of Jamaica (NAJ), Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH) Chapter, hosted its Open Day on July 20, 2026, as part of Nurses' Week, observed from July 18–24, under a celebration marking 80 years of dedication to the nursing profession.



Held at the hospital's third-floor car park, the event highlighted the invaluable contributions of nursing professionals, showcased healthcare services and strengthened engagement with the community and healthcare partners.



The Open Day provided an opportunity to recognise the commitment, compassion and professionalism of nurses who play a vital role in patient care and healthcare delivery across the Western Region..

As the nursing profession celebrates eight decades of service, the occasion also reflected on the importance of continued growth, collaboration and innovation in shaping the future of patient care at Cornwall Regional Hospital.

The WRHA recognises and applauds its nursing professionals for their unwavering dedication to improving health outcomes and serving the people of western Jamaica.





WRHA Celebrates Healthcare Workers with "Fun in the Sun"

The Savanna-la-Mar Public General Hospital, Westmoreland's main public healthcare facility, is finally set to receive a long-overdue expansion.

Thanks to a renewed national focus on healthcare infrastructure, the hospital is now the subject of a significant multi-phase expansion project, which is expected to be completed over the next two years.

The expansion project will begin with the construction of a brand-new Accident & Emergency wing to accommodate the growing number of trauma cases in the region. The existing A&E space will then be repurposed to add more ward capacity. Later phases will see the development of a modern outpatient department, diagnostics centre, and additional inpatient wards, along with upgraded administrative spaces. Plans also include constructing two new floors above the former COVID-19 ward to provide approximately 80 more bed spaces.

The project is not only about expanding square footage—it's about delivering more timely, dignified, and effective care to the people of Westmoreland and neighbouring parishes. With the architectural designs and costing already completed, ground-breaking is expected soon.

This initiative marks a turning point for the Savanna-la-Mar Hospital, setting the stage for a healthier future for all who depend on it.















Fun In The Sun






Congratulations
to
Dr. Marcia
Johnson-Campbell
Regional Priority
Non-Communicable
Diseases Coordinator/
Family Health
on being named the
Governor-General's
Achievement Award
recipient
for
St. James Parish
in the
35 YEARS AND OVER
category.

WESTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
Healthy Families living in Healthy Communities



Congratulations!

MRS. REMONA ALIXUS WILSON-GRANT

★

MIDWIFE
NOEL HOLMES HOSPITAL

2026

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

FOR THE PARISH OF HANOVER
IN THE 25 TO 35 AGE GROUP CATEGORY

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AUGUST ACTIVITIES



UNFDA Donates Reproductive Health Kits To WRHA Facilities

The Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) received a donation of reproductive health kits from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) during a handover ceremony held on August 11, 2026.

The donation is intended to strengthen the delivery of essential reproductive health services across the region, supporting healthcare professionals in providing critical care to women, girls and other vulnerable populations.

The kits will help to improve access to essential reproductive health supplies and support continuity of care, particularly during emergencies and periods of disruption to healthcare services







The WRHA welcomed this contribution from UNFPA and recognises the importance of partnerships in strengthening healthcare delivery across western Jamaica. The donation underscores the shared commitment to protecting the health and well-being of vulnerable groups and ensuring access to quality reproductive healthcare.



WRHA Drivers get defensive-driving boost

The Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) conducted its Regional Defensive Driving and Driver Sensitisation Programme from August 10–20, 2026, under the theme “Driving Excellence: Safety, Compliance & Accountability.”

The initiative, implemented in collaboration with the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the Island Traffic Authority, focused on defensive driving techniques, hazard recognition, traffic regulations and responsible vehicle operation.

The training aimed to improve driver competence, reduce road accidents and promote greater accountability among staff who operate government vehicles across the region.

Through this initiative, the WRHA continues to prioritise staff development and road safety, recognising the critical role drivers play in supporting healthcare delivery and protecting lives.





WRHA Hosts World Mosquito Day

The Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA), on August 20, 2026 organized an outreach and parade in the region's communities to mark World Mosquito Day, drawing attention to the dangers of mosquito-borne illnesses and the essential role of community participation in prevention. Health workers, vector control officers, and public health inspectors came together carrying posters and placards with messages urging residents to eliminate breeding sites, protect themselves, and support local efforts to reduce mosquito populations. At the booths, participants distributed flyers, engaged passersbys in conversation about dengue, Zika, chikungunya, and other mosquito-transmitted diseases, and encouraged people to join in the fight by practicing measures such as cleaning up stagnant water and covering containers.



WRHA Vector Control Specialists acknowledged the ongoing challenge of vector-borne diseases in the region and reaffirmed their commitment to increasing surveillance, conducting fogging and larvicidal operations, and partnering with communities for long-term behavioral change. The outreach underscored the message that mosquito control is not just the work of health authorities, but a shared responsibility of every citizen.

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World Mosquito day







WRHA launches FIT Testing at Sav Health Centre

The Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) continues to strengthen access to preventive healthcare with the introduction of Faecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT) at the Savanna-la-Mar Health Centre.

FIT is a screening test used to detect hidden blood in stool, which may be an early indicator of colorectal cancer or other conditions requiring further medical assessment. The introduction of this service supports efforts to promote early detection and encourage persons to take a proactive approach to their health.

By expanding access to screening services within the region, the WRHA aims to improve opportunities for early intervention and strengthen public awareness of colorectal cancer prevention.

The Authority encourages members of the public to speak with their healthcare provider about colorectal cancer screening and whether FIT testing is appropriate for them.

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES



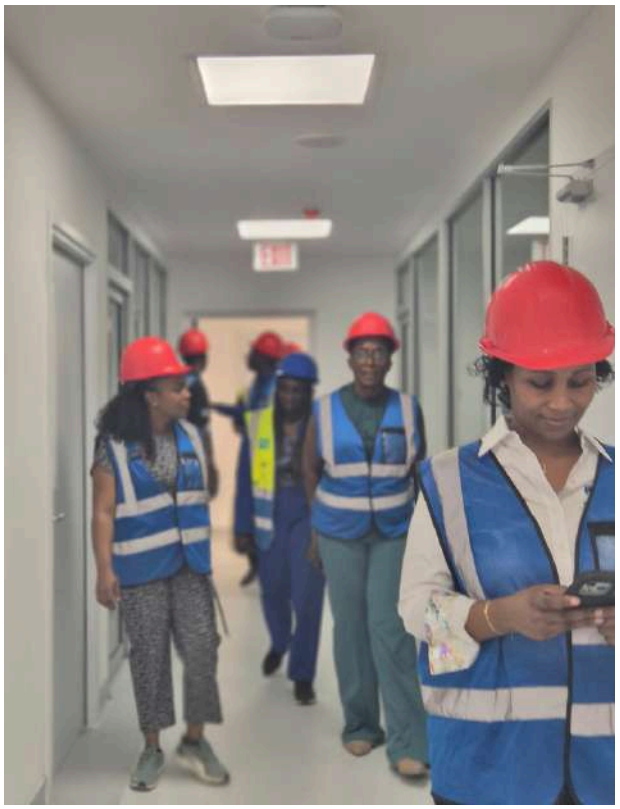
MBCCI and St. James Ministers' Fraternal Pleased With CRH Progress

The Montego Bay Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MBCCI) and the St. James Ministers' Fraternal have expressed satisfaction with the progress being made on the redevelopment of the Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH), following a tour of the facility on September 10-11, 2026.

The visit provided an opportunity for the stakeholders to observe improvements to the hospital's infrastructure and an get a firsthand look at the new Accident and Emergency department.

Among the developments highlighted were preparations for advanced diagnostic services, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography (CT) scanning, as well as improvements to intensive care capacity, increased number of operating theatres and other essential hospital facilities.





The stakeholders welcomed the ongoing investment in CRH, recognising the hospital's critical role in providing specialised healthcare to residents across western Jamaica and anticipate the soon to be reopened Accident and Emergency department.

The St. James Ministers' Fraternal also expressed its willingness to support the hospital through counselling and psychosocial services for patients and healthcare workers, acknowledging the emotional demands associated with healthcare delivery while the MBCCI noted the benefits to the business community.

WRHA Hosts Board Of Management Retreat 2026

The Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) convened its Board of Management and Senior Leadership Team for a three-day strategic retreat from September 16–18, 2026, at Moon Palace Jamaica, under the theme "The New WRHA: Excellence in Care, Service, People and Performance." The retreat provided an opportunity for the Authority's leadership to reflect on organisational priorities, assess emerging challenges and establish strategic objectives to guide the WRHA's continued development and healthcare delivery.

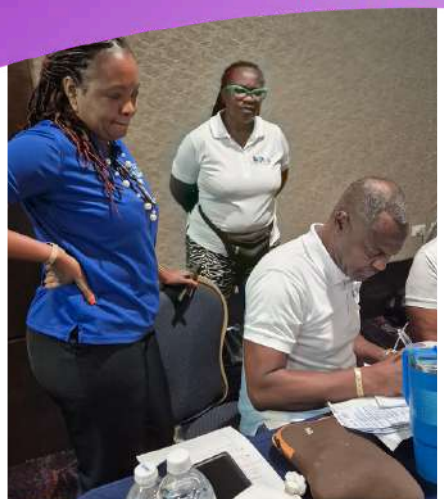
Day One focused on the Authority's strategic direction and performance, service excellence, digital innovation and artificial intelligence, workforce accountability, public procurement, capital projects and operational readiness. Discussions also highlighted the importance of placing people at the heart of the patient experience while strengthening the systems that support healthcare delivery.

On Day Two, participants examined change management strategies for the Western Children and Adolescents Hospital (WCAH) and Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH), alongside updates from the Regional Technical Department. Other key discussions addressed enterprise risk management, sustainable change, management accountability and healthcare reform. The programme also featured addresses by the Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, and Permanent Secretary, Mr. Dunstan Bryan.

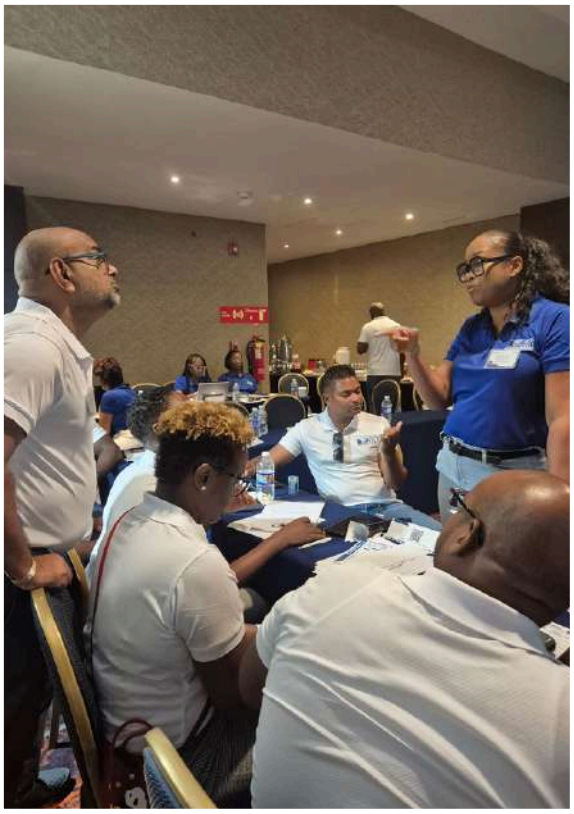
The final phase of the retreat focused on developing an action plan and identifying a way forward, ensuring that discussions translated into practical steps for organisational improvement.

















Board Retreat 2026





Granville Health Centre Launches Mother To Mother Breastfeeding Support Group







The Granville Health Centre has launched a Mother-to-Mother Breastfeeding Support Group to encourage breastfeeding, strengthen peer support and empower mothers with the knowledge and confidence needed to nurture their babies.

The initiative provides a supportive space for mothers to share experiences, learn practical breastfeeding techniques and receive guidance on the importance of breastfeeding for maternal and infant health.

Through peer engagement and education, the group aims to address common breastfeeding challenges, promote early initiation and encourage mothers to continue breastfeeding while building meaningful connections with other women on similar journeys.

St. James Health Department hosts free Prostate Cancer Screening

The St. James Health Department, in collaboration with the Jamaica Cancer Society and Guardian Group, hosted a free prostate cancer screening initiative on Friday, September 25, 2026, at the St. James Parish Church Hall in Montego Bay.



Held under the theme “Big Man Wise Up, Get Your Prostate Checked!!”, the initiative aimed to promote early detection, increase awareness of prostate cancer and encourage men to take a proactive approach to their health.



The screening, which ran from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., provided an opportunity for men to access screening services and learn more about the importance of regular health checks.

The initiative also highlighted the need to address barriers that may prevent men from seeking medical attention.

Through partnerships such as this, the Western Regional Health Authority continues to support preventive healthcare and raise awareness of non-communicable diseases across the region.





WRHA Welcomes 20 Ghanaian Specialist Nurses

The Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) welcomed 20 specialist nurses and midwives from Ghana on September 30, 2026. The nurses will support healthcare delivery at Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH) and Savanna-la-Mar Public General Hospital.

The arrival of the nurses represents an important addition to the region's healthcare workforce and supports ongoing efforts to strengthen staffing and improve patient care across western Jamaica.

During a visit to Cornwall Regional Hospital, Ghanian officials were welcomed by representatives of the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the WRHA, who highlighted the importance of collaboration and the contribution of healthcare professionals to delivering quality services.

The deployment also reflects the value of international cooperation in healthcare, bringing together professionals from different backgrounds to share expertise, strengthen clinical teams and support the delivery of essential health services.

The WRHA looks forward to the contributions of the Ghanaian nurses as they integrate into their assigned facilities and work alongside local healthcare professionals to serve patients and communities across the region.