

SOUTHERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

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PRESS RELEASE

February 16, 2016 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Mass Cervical Cancer Screening for Manchester on Tuesday, February 23

Hundreds of women between the ages of 25 and 54 will enjoy free cervical cancer screenings on Tuesday, February 23 at the St. Mark's Anglican Church Hall in the town centre.

The initiative being spearheaded by the Southern Regional Health Authority's Non-Communicable Disease Prevention and Control team is in commemoration of World Cancer Day which was celebrated on February 4, 2016 under the theme, "We Can I Can".

The day's activities will begin with a march at 8: 30 a.m. through the town and followed by an opening ceremony at 10: 00 a.m. In addition to the screening activities free health checks for adults will be provided. Members of the public will have access to health education activities throughout the day.

Regional Chronic Disease Coordinator for the Southern Regional Health Authority, Dr. Nadine Williams noted that the team will utilize the Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid method for the cervical cancer screenings which allows for immediate results.

"This method allows for us to give the clients their results on the spot and if there is no abnormality then the test would not have to be repeated for another three years. This screening test has been utilized in Manchester since 2014 with a favourable response from the clients" Dr. Williams explained.

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For more information contact: Latoya Laylor Brown Public Relations & Advocacy Officer Southern Regional Health Authority Tel: 962-8232/779-2663 Email: <u>latoya.laylor@srha.gov.jm</u>

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