



PRESS RELEASE

April 17, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Improved Mental Health and Psychological Support for Healthcare Workers in Central Jamaica

The Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) has rolled out improved mental health and psychological support services for its healthcare staff members in the parishes of Manchester, Clarendon and St. Elizabeth, during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) crisis.

These services include counseling and welfare support for staff members who are given support from social workers, psychiatrists, psychologists and the mental health team. Members of staff can access services 24 hours daily.

Regional Director for the SRHA, Michael Bent noted that COVID-19 has caused a high level of concern and anxiety among the general population, including healthcare workers because of the nature of their jobs.

“Through the SRHA Employee Assistance Programme, which has been implemented for a few years now, staff members had access to counseling support, however, because of this crisis, we saw the need to improve those services and have made preparations to support the social, mental and psychological needs of our staff members” Mr. Bent said.

The Regional Director pointed out that the Regional Health Authority has been focusing on keeping its staff members motivated during this period, noting the importance of their wellbeing to be able to provide care for the population during this period.

He added that focus will also be placed on staff members who may need to be quarantined or isolated. These persons will be assigned a designated counsellor, who is required to follow up with the staff member during the period of quarantine or isolation.

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Chairman: Wayne Chen; Vice Chairman: Michael Stern, **Board Members:** Dr. St. Aubyn Bartlett, Lorraine Green Mason, Marcus Greenwood, Stafford Haughton, Winston Maragh, Lennox Powell, Dr. Lloyd Reynolds, Albert Williams, **Permanent Secretary's Nominee:** Dr. Naydene Williams, **Regional Director and Secretary:** Michael Bent; **Regional Technical Director:** Dr. Vitillius Holder; **CEO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Alwyn Miller; **SMO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Dr. Everton McIntosh

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