

SRHA Gets New Vehicles



Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (right), Minister of Health and Wellness, speaks with Chairman of the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), Wayne Chen (left) and Regional Director, Michael Bent. The occasion was the official handover of six vehicles, including four retrofitted ambulances, at SRHA's offices in Mandeville, Manchester, on Friday, January 13.

Inside This Issue

In the News:	Facilities on the Move:	Let's Meet:	Department Spotlight:	Wellness Bytes:
Southern Regional Health Authority	Chapelton Hospital Staff Members Host 2K Run/Walk	Nurse Extraordinaire -Jacqueline Leakey	Mandeville Regional Hospital A&E Department	Ackee Poisoning
Page 2	Page 3	Page 8	Page 9	Page 14

In the News: Southern Regional Health Authority

SRHA Gets New Vehicles



Three of the new vehicles procured by the SRHA, which includes four retrofitted ambulances.

The fleet of vehicles serving the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) has been boosted with the addition of four retrofitted ambulances, a passenger bus and a panel van.

Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon Christopher Tufton, officially handed over the keys to the six vehicles on Friday (January 13), during a ceremony held at the SRHA offices in Mandeville.

He lauded the SRHA team for the innovation in purchasing four 15-seater buses and converting these into ambulances using a design conceptualised by Fleet Manager, Robert Robinson, more than six years ago, which has also been adopted by the other health regions islandwide.

Purchasing the buses and customising them at a total cost of \$62 million, saved the Government millions of dollars, which was used to purchase the two additional vehicles for \$15 million. Each ambulance is equipped with a stretcher, suction machines, heart monitor, oxygen, siren, inverter, emergency LED lights, handwash station and storage area, among other emergency equipment and accessories.

Dr. Tufton said that the SRHA team has been using their knowledge and experience to design ambulances that best meet their requirements and the needs of their patients, while also realising cost savings in the process.

“You are best placed to do that because you know how the people look, what their concerns are and what you need as a healthcare worker to respond to those persons in the back of that vehicle needing stabilisation or support to a hospital,” he noted.

Dr. Tufton further hailed the drivers for their record of safety on the roads, with only one major accident over the last five years. He noted that the ambulances are timely, given the increasing number of accidents and trauma cases that call for their use.

“I am told that in the last year, SRHA recorded over 173,456 Accident and Emergency (A&E) visits. There were 2,666 motor-vehicle accidents, 4,816 patients visited trauma-related centres and 244 gunshot wounds were treated. This places demand on us as a country and directly on the healthcare infrastructure of the country,” the Health Minister said.

He said those numbers, when compared to the population of the region, leads one to conclude that “we were a country at war with ourselves, and we are not pursuing lifestyle practices that give us sufficient longevity and quality of life”.

The ambulances will be assigned to the Black River, Percy Junor, May Pen and Lionel Town hospitals. The panel van will be customised into a regional maintenance workshop and the bus will be used to transport staff. In 2021 and 2022, fleet drivers received defensive driving and fleet management training in preparation for the new Road Traffic Act.

Story Credit: The Jamaica Information Service

Facilities on the Move

Chapelton Hospital Staff Members Host 2K Run/Walk

The Chapelton Community Hospital (CCH) in Clarendon started the new year by hosting it's 2K Run/Walk on Friday, January 13 in an effort to promote healthy lifestyle practices among staff members.

It was also the precursor to the facility's staff wellness programme which consists of a work-out session and screening for all the staff members at the CCH.

Please see below photo highlights.



Facilities on the Move

Organization for International Development Tours Chapelton Community Hospital

Barbara Ellington, Resource Mobilization Officer from the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) (front row-2nd left), received a donation of a wheelchair and supplies for the SRHA, from Dr. Roy Streete, Founder/Chairman of the Organization for International Development (OID) (front row, 3rd right), as Joseph Grant, Parish Manager for the Clarendon Health Services (back row-2nd left) and Dr. Shanelle Dempster-Pearl, Regional Dental Surgeon (front row-2nd right) and members of the OID look on.

The team from OID toured the newly reopened Chapelton Community Hospital on January 18.



Resource Mobilization Officer, Barbara Ellington (right), hands over a bag of clothing to the administrator of Candle In The Dark, in Mandeville, Manchester, on behalf of Dr. Noel Streete from the Organization for International Development. Dr. Streete also donated a wheelchair to a member of staff of the Manchester Health Department, who is a recent amputee.

Facilities on the Move

Black River Hospital Receives Donation From We Care Social Outreach Development Limited

The Black River Hospital in St. Elizabeth was the beneficiary of several items including clothing, walking sticks and frame and other medical items valued at more than \$400,000.00 from the We Care Social Outreach Development Limited.

Founder and Director, Kevin Josephs noted that the organization has been in operation for more than seven years, donating items to infirmaries, hospitals and schools. He added that it is the intention of the group to expand its work in Jamaica, with the help of supporters in the United Kingdom. He expressed gratitude to the We Care Social Outreach Development Limited Director Devon Kinkead and Secretary Patsy Kinkead and also to Kingsley Shipping, David Johnson, Melita Cox, Janet Allman and David Murray and other donors.

Please see below photo highlights from the handing over of the items to the hospital on January 23, 2023.



Facilities on the Move

CCH Staff Members on Health & Wellness Drive to Boost Healthier Lifestyle

The newly renovated and expanded Chapelton Community Hospital in Clarendon was opened in December 2022 and the staff members have been on a health and wellness drive to boost healthier lifestyle practices.

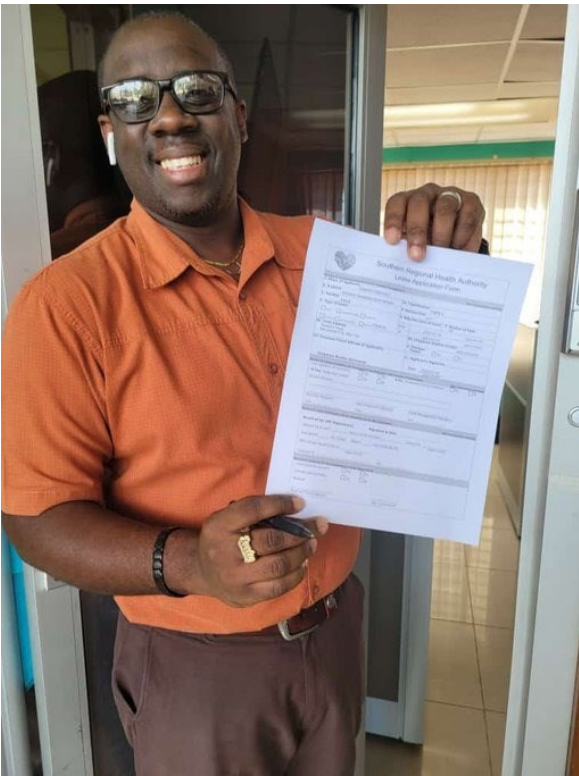
On Tuesday, January 31, 2023 the staff members participated in a workplace wellness programme which included health checks, physical activity sessions, health education & nutrition counselling.

Please see below photo highlights.



Staff Highlight

SRHA Employee Among First Men to Benefit From Paternity Leave



Mr. Dwayne Colquhoun, Software Database Administrator in the ICT department at the Southern Regional Health Authority is one of the first men to benefit from the Government of Jamaica's new paternity leave law, which went into effect on January 1, 2023.

Best wishes to Mr. Colquhoun as he bonds with his daughter.

Paternity leave with pay for fathers of newborns in the public sector and adoption leave for parents adopting and bringing a new child into the home are now in effect.

These leave entitlements for the public-sector workers took effect on January 1. Both categories will be entitled to 20 working days' leave with pay.

Sandia Chambers-Ferguson Awarded for 39 Years of Dedicated Public Service



Sandia Chambers-Ferguson, Parish Manager for the Manchester Health Services received a Long Service Award from the Jamaica Civil Service Association for 39 years of dedicated public service on Thursday, January 19, 2023 at the Ridgemount United Church in Man-deville, Manchester.

Congratulations Mrs. Chambers-Ferguson as she continues to contribute positively to healthcare development in Jamaica.



Jacqueline Rose Mary Leakey

Nurse Manager
Mandeville Regional Hospital, Manchester

“Nurse Extraordinaire-Jacqueline Leakey”



With some 22 years under her belt in the nursing profession, Jacqueline Leakey has proven to be a committed and hardworking nurse, who executes her duties with passion.

Presently serving as the Nurse Manager at the Mandeville Regional Hospital (MRH) in Manchester, assigned to the accident & emergency department, Jacqueline has several critical responsibilities including supervising and installing systems to enable effective ward management, application of the nursing process, ensuring patient quality assurance, infection prevention and control, supervising and developing the maintenance of an environment that is conducive to safe physical and social psychological care, among other responsibilities.

She explains that her experience with the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) has been rewarding and empowering.

“I have gained a wealth of exposure that enhanced my capacity as a nurse to excel in my profession. I have been tremendously inspired through recognition, support and collaboration from the SRHA team which enabled the opportunity to showcase creativity and innovation in nursing nationally and internationally. The journey with the region really gives a sense of dignity, self-worth and meaning in life. I am extremely grateful for the privilege given to serve for the SRHA and will continue to hold the banner of excellence in service high” Nurse Leakey adds.

This nurse extraordinaire spreads her wings to other areas as she is a member of the In-Service Committee at the hospital and the Baby Friendly Hospital Coordinator, who successfully steered the hospital to achieving baby friendly status, the first Type B hospital to do so in Jamaica. She is also experienced as a registered nurse/midwife, a critical care nurse and in nursing administration.

Jacqueline tells the Southern Pulse that her greatest professional achievement is receiving an Award of Excellence in Educational Practice in 2020, by the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) during the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife celebrations.

Nurse Leakey boasts several awards, recognition and feats, including: MOHW In-service Education Unit Award for Outstanding Clinical Performance in the Nursing Administration Course 2012; request to participate in a paediatric training course in China, 2013; award for volunteerism in the One Love, One Blood Drive, 2016; award from the MRH nursing services department for critical care, flexibility and reliability, 2016; commendation from the desk of the MRH CEO for exemplary work, passion, commitment and determination in the advocacy for the development of the high dependency unit and the achievement of higher standards of operation, 2016; member of the SRHA Human Resource Sub-Committee, 2016; MRH Pathway to Excellence, Nursing Services Department, Certificate of recognition and appreciation for continued service and dedication, 2017; certificate of appreciation in recognition of outstanding support to enhance student’s understanding of Jamaica, Shepherd University of Shepherdstown, West Virginia, USA; 2017 and MRH Worker of the Year, Nurse Manager, 2018.

Some others include: request by the MOHW to participate in the special interest group of critical care nurses in training to China for their clinical experience, 2018; MOHW International Year of the Nurse & Midwife Award of Excellence in Educational Practice, 2020; the high dependency unit at MRH award for indelible contribution to the management of the unit, 2020; recognition and appreciation from the Knox College nursing students for tireless service, infectious spirit of enthusiasm, endless love and for going above and beyond to ensure success, 2020; appreciation for extraordinary effort for the A&E department from the CEO.

In her younger years, Jacqueline desired to be a public health inspector or nurse and is encouraging her colleagues to remain competent through educational advancement. “Be resilient despite the challenges, compassionate and caring wholeheartedly, pay attention to your health and wellbeing and serve with dignity and excellence” she says.

She describes herself as disciplined, dedicated, relentless and resilient.

MANDEVILLE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

A&E DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT



Staff members from the accident and emergency department.

The accident and emergency department is charged with dealing with emerging life-threatening and non-life-threatening problems and always has to be prepared for an emergency. The team operates by a comprehensive protocol, designed to treat patients according to their conditions and not in the order that they present to the unit.

Providing service in intense situations such as treating life-threatening situations can be hard but the team must embrace standards in order to achieve higher efficiency, clearer communications and uniformity of services in the department.

The emergency department is the core clinical unit of a hospital and the experience of patients attending this department significantly influences patient satisfaction.

Jacqueline Leakey, Nurse Manager, responsible for the unit, notes that the team applies five principles to their emergency responses,

including: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. She explains that: “in order to ensure safety and awareness in the face of a crisis the officers must check to ensure safety for all, then make the necessary calls to the respective authorities and finally to deploy basic treatment/ care that can benefit the long-term wellbeing of patients.

She explains that in the event of a natural disaster, clear steps have been established which include training of the staff on new preparedness regulations.

“We assess the needs of the patients and procure required supplies necessary for survival. The emergency room is that part of the hospital most closely in contact with the public because it offers the most informal access. The emergency department utilizes the Emergency Severity Index (ESI) to triage each patient. It includes four levels: ESI 1 -Immediate life threatening, ESI 2 – Emergency could become life threatening, ESI 3 – Urgent but not life threatening, ESI 4 – Non-urgent, ESI 5 - Referral to Primary Care” Nurse Leakey adds.



Members of the accident and emergency department.

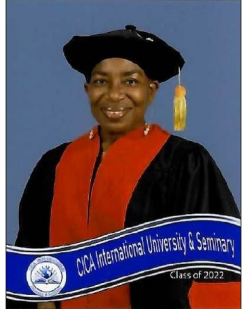
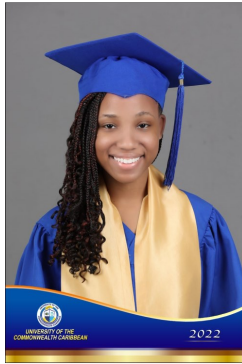


Staff Highlight

Congratulations on Your Academic Achievement

Congratulations to you!

The Southern Regional Health Authority applauds your commitment to personal and professional development. You overcame many obstacles to achieve this win and we are proud of your achievement. We welcome your new knowledge and skills as together we provide quality service to our communities.

Again, congratulations on a job well done!

	<p>Janet Sloley Regional Office/Administration Department Doctor of Ministry Master of Ministry Bachelor of Ministry and Administration Diploma in Chaplaincy, Leadership and Ministry</p>
	<p>Nevishae Richards Regional Office/Accounts & Finance Unit ASc. in Business Administration</p>
	<p>Leonard Salmon St. Elizabeth Health Department ASc. Information & Communication Technology</p>
	<p>Trudian Facey-Edwards St. Elizabeth Health Department BSc. in Nursing</p>

Staff Highlight

Congratulations on Your Academic Achievement



Rosemarie Brown
St. Elizabeth Health Department
Diploma in Assistant Nursing (1st Class Honors)



Simone Harris Williams
Clarendon Health Department
BSc. in Business Administration



Gillian Evans-Johnson
Manchester Health Department
MSc. Family Nurse Practitioner



Shameal Forrest
Percy Junor Hospital
BSc. in Nursing

Staff Highlight

Congratulations on Your Academic Achievement

	<p>Racquel Boothe Clarendon Health Department BSc. In Social Work</p>
	<p>Yanique Allen O'Connor Manchester Health Department BSc. in Midwifery</p>

Congratulations

★ Pricious Francis Davy
May Pen Hospital
BA in Guidance & Counselling

★ Naveta Wright
May Pen Hospital
ASc. Health Information Technology

★ Daneilia Anderson
May Pen Hospital
BSc. In Nursing

★ Karen Thomas-Hanson
May Pen Hospital
BSc. In Nursing

★ Idalee Brown
Clarendon Health Department
BSc. in Environmental Studies

★ Kennielle Munn
Clarendon Health Department
BSc. In Nursing

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



Plan



Prepare



Recover



ST. ELIZABETH HEALTH SERVICES COVID-19 FIXED VACCINATION SITES

MONDAY

- Santa Cruz Health Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Mondays (4th)

TUESDAY

- Santa Cruz Health Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Tuesdays (1st, 3rd)
- Junction Health Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Tuesdays (1st)

THURSDAY

- Junction Health Centre (1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Thursdays (3rd)
- Maggotty Health Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Thursdays (1st, 2nd, 4th)
- Black River Health Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Thursdays (2nd)
- Balacava Health Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Thursdays (1st, 2nd, 4th)

FRIDAY

- Santa Cruz Health Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Fridays (2nd)
- Junction Health Centre (10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) Fridays (2nd, 4th)
- Black River Health Centre (1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Fridays (1st, 3rd, 4th)
- Balacava Health Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Fridays (4th)
- Southfield Health Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Fridays (1st, 2nd, 3rd)

Disaster
Preparedness Tips

SRHA Fixed Sites



CLARENDON HEALTH SERVICES COVID-19 FIXED VACCINATION SITES

MONDAY

- May Pen Hospital Vaccination Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
- Summerfield Community Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.), Mondays (2nd, 4th)
- Spalding Health Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.), Mondays (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th)

TUESDAY

- May Pen Hospital Vaccination Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
- Summerfield Community Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
- Lionel Town Health Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY

- May Pen Hospital Vaccination Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
- Spalding Health Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.), Wednesdays (2nd & 3rd)
- Summerfield Community Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.), Wednesdays (2nd & 4th)

THURSDAY

- May Pen Hospital Vaccination Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
- May Pen Health Centre (1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.), Thursdays (1st, 2nd & 4th)
- Spalding Health Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.), Thursdays (1st, 2nd & 4th)

FRIDAY

- May Pen Hospital Vaccination Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Fridays (1st, 2nd, 4th)
- Spalding Health Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.), Fridays (2nd & 4th)
- Summerfield Community Centre (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Fridays (2nd)



MANCHESTER HEALTH SERVICES COVID-19 FIXED VACCINATION SITES

MONDAY

- Mandeville Regional Hospital Vaccination Center (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
- Mandeville Comprehensive Health Centre (1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Mondays (1st, 2nd & 3rd Mondays)
- Porus Health Centre (1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

TUESDAY

- Mandeville Regional Hospital Vaccination Center (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
- Christiana Health Centre (1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY

- Mandeville Regional Hospital Vaccination Center (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
- Mandeville Comprehensive Health Centre (1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
- Newport Health Centre (2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
- Cross Keys Health Centre (1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
- Mile Gully Health Centre (1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

THURSDAY

- Mandeville Regional Hospital Vaccination Center (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
- Mandeville Comprehensive Health Centre (1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Thursdays (1st, 2nd & 4th Thursdays)

FRIDAY

- Mandeville Regional Hospital Vaccination Center (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

Wellness Bytes

“Ackee Poisoning”


Credit:
Ministry of Health & Wellness

Body


Spirit

Mind

Health & Wellness




MINISTRY OF
HEALTH &
WELLNESS




Southern Regional
Health Authority
Compassion | Accountability | Respect | Creativity


SYMPTOMS OF
ACKEE POISONING




VOMITING




STOMACH CRAMPS/
ABDOMINAL PAIN



DIZZINESS



DIARRHOEA



SWEATING

IF PERSONS ARE
EXPERIENCING THESE
SYMPTOMS AFTER THE
CONSUMPTION OF ACKEE,
THEY SHOULD SEEK
MEDICAL ATTENTION
IMMEDIATELY AND
SHOULD HAVE A SWEET
DRINK WHILE ON
THEIR WAY TO THE
NEAREST HEALTH CENTRE
OR HOSPITAL.

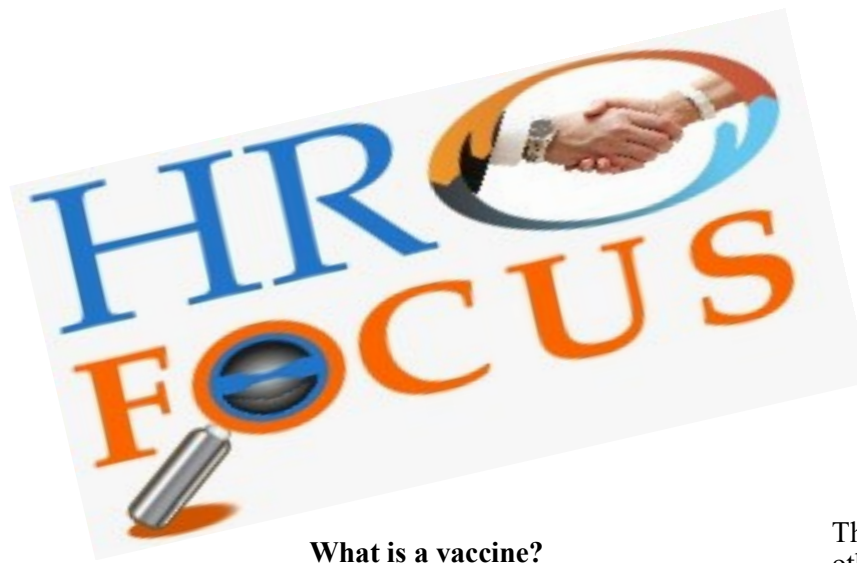
The Manchester Health Department is urging the public to be cautious in the preparation and consumption of ackee to avoid poisoning. Five cases of ackee poisoning have been reported in the parish in the past two weeks.

Medical Officer of Health for Manchester Dr. Nadine Williams explained that only fit and well opened ackees are to be used as ackee should be allowed to open naturally and fully on the tree before it is picked and eaten or sold.

“We are encouraging persons to be cautious in how they prepare the ackee. Improperly prepared ackee can lead to a high level of the hypoglycin toxin usually found in higher quantities in the unripe fruit and the seed and the pink or red membrane inside of the fit fruit. The seed and pink/red membrane should be removed, the ackee washed and then boiled by itself after which the water must be discarded” Dr. Williams said.

The Medical Officer of Health explained that the symptoms of ackee poisoning include vomiting, stomach cramps, abdominal pain, dizziness, diarrhoea and sweating.

“The blood sugar levels can fall to a critically low level leading to death. If these symptoms are experienced after an ackee meal, it is important to seek medical attention immediately and have a sweet drink on the way to the hospital” Dr. Williams added.



HR And You:

"VACCINES"

What is a vaccine?

A vaccine is a type of medicine that stimulates a person's immune system to produce immunity to a specific disease, protecting the person from the disease.

How do vaccines work?

Vaccines work with your body's natural defense to build protection. When vaccinated, your immune system is able to:

- Recognize the invading germ (e.g. virus or bacteria).
- Produce antibodies that fight and destroy the germ before you become unwell.

How vaccines help

Vaccines contain weakened or inactive parts of a particular organism (antigen) that triggers an immune response within the body. Newer vaccines contain the blueprint for producing antigens rather than the antigen itself.

Regardless of whether the vaccine is made up of the antigen itself or the blueprint so that the body will produce the antigen, this weakened version will not cause the disease in the person receiving the vaccine, but it will prompt their immune system to respond much as it would have on its first reaction to the actual pathogen.

Herd immunity

When someone is vaccinated, they are very likely to be protected against the targeted disease. But not everyone can be vaccinated. People with underlying health conditions that weaken their immune systems (such as cancer or HIV) or who have severe allergies to some vaccine components may not be able to get vaccinated with certain vaccines.

These people can still be protected if they live in and amongst others who are vaccinated. When a lot of people in a community are vaccinated the pathogen has a hard time circulating because most of the people it encounters are immune.

So the more that others are vaccinated, the less likely people who are unable to be protected by vaccines are at risk of even being exposed to the harmful pathogens. This is called herd immunity.

This is especially important for those people who not only can't be vaccinated but may be more susceptible to the diseases we vaccinate against.

No single vaccine provides 100% protection, and herd immunity does not provide full protection to those who cannot safely be vaccinated. But with herd immunity, these people will have substantial protection, thanks to those around them being vaccinated.

Credit: World Health Organization

SUBMIT AN ARTICLE

We welcome your input.

Please submit your articles and feedback for the February edition to:

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Public Relations Officer

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The Lighter Side

