



Percy Junor Hospital Celebrates 80 Years



Some of the team members from the Percy Junor Hospital, following their outreach initiative at the New Vision Children's Home.

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Percy Junor Hospital Celebrates 80 Years



A donor giving blood at the blood drive on June 20.

The Percy Junor Hospital in Manchester is celebrating 80 years of service to its clients, in June, under the theme, “Honouring Service From the Past, Looking to the Future”.

The Type C facility serves more than 300,000 people from across four primary parishes, Manchester, Clarendon, St. Ann and Trelawny.

The hospital kickstarted its celebration with a 5K Run/Walk on Sunday, June 15 and will continue on Friday, June 20 with a blood drive on the hospital grounds at 9:00 a.m.

The team will continue the celebrations with a church service on Sunday, June 22 at the Spalding Gospel Assembly Church in Manchester; an outreach initiative at the Mount Olivet Boys Home on Monday, June 23 and end with a customer appreciation and wellness day on Wednesday, June 25 at the hospital.

The hospital is staffed by 366 employees and provides services including: curative management, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatric, psychiatry, X-ray, laboratory, pharmacy and general medical and surgical services, with weekly surgical and medical outpatient clinics.

The hospital boasts several notable achievements including provision of laparoscopic and robotic assisted surgeries to clients; Public Sector Best Hospital Award in Jamaica-2005/2006; Cabinet Secretary's trophy for the most creative/innovative Public Sector agency in 2006; National Award for Outstanding Customer Service in 2013, among others.

The construction of the hospital began with Mr. Percival Sigismund Junor, a Justice of the Peace, businessman, financier, planter and philanthropist who approached the government to finance the plans.

The proposal was accepted and with the assistance of his sister 23 acres of land was identified and purchased. The hospital’s construction began in 1943 and lasted until 1945. The original structure of the facility is made from cut stones.



A section of the hospital depicting the cut stones structure.

In the News: Southern Regional Health Authority

Clients Embrace Advanced Laparoscopic Surgeries by Mandeville Hospital; Team Performs Most Surgeries in Public Sector



Dr. Ashok Kotagiri and the team perform a laparoscopic surgery during the mission.

Clients have been embracing advanced laparoscopic surgeries provided by the Mandeville Regional Hospital in Manchester, as the hospital steadily becomes a leader in public laparoscopic surgeries in Jamaica.

Performing some 200 laparoscopic surgeries yearly, the hospital is most likely performing the most laparoscopic surgeries in the public sector.

Senior Registrar and General/Laparoscopic Surgeon at the hospital, Dr. Ashok Kotagiri explained that laparoscopic surgery, or minimally invasive surgery, is a modern technique in which operations in the abdomen are performed through small incisions, rather than the larger incisions needed in open surgery. This provides the patients with increased benefits such as shorter hospital stays and quicker recovery time.

“Our patients like laparoscopic surgeries, they always find out about them from their relatives overseas and they sometimes come and ask us if we can get it done laparoscopically, and we

say of course. We have been offering it in our hospital for a while but we are moving on to the advanced laparoscopic surgeries now so patients can benefit from these advanced surgeries” Dr. Kotagiri added.

The surgeon explained that some of the advanced surgeries being provided to clients include: ventral and inguinal hernia repairs, colon resections, hysterectomies and ovarian cystectomies.

He added that some of the other surgeries that the team provided before include: laparoscopic cholecystectomy, laparoscopic appendectomy, diaphragmatic repair, hernia repair, diagnostic laparoscopy, bilateral tubal ligation, ovarian cystectomy, diagnostic laparoscopy and peritoneal stripping, nasal polypectomy, laparoscopic hysterectomy, ovarian cystectomy, and endoscopic sinus surgery.

“These surgeries are mainly elective but sometimes emergency as well. We want to advance our skills and offer to more patients for a different variety of surgeries like hernias and colon cancers also. Our team is very excited to be able to offer laparoscopic surgeries to our patients and they are very thankful to us and when they get better we feel happy. The urology team will also start performing laparoscopic surgeries soon” Dr. Kotagiri said.

The hospital team along with surgeons and nurses from the Jamaica Awareness Association of California performed 12 laparoscopic surgeries at a surgical mission at the hospital from June 10 to 13.

For Regional Director of the Southern Regional Health Authority, which administrates the hospital, Mr. Michael Bent, he is happy with the team’s constant drive to offer efficient and cutting-edge services to clients.

“This is another display of the commitment of the team to maximize on the use of technology and the skillset of our team members to improve the services we offer. Most of our hospitals are offering laparoscopic surgeries and it is a delight to see that our patients are embracing this technology” Mr. Bent said.

Facilities on the Move

Board and Senior Managers Retreat Strategizes for Excellence

The annual board and senior managers retreat was held June 3 to 6, to assess the Authority’s accomplishments and challenges, in addition to planning for the new fiscal year, under the theme, “Dedicated to Quality: Committed to CARE.” The ingenuity, resourcefulness, commitment and excellence deminstarted by the team members was on full display.

Please see below highlights.



Facilities on the Move

Successful Mental Health Hybrid Seminar

The second Annual Mental Health Hybrid Seminar hosted by the Clarendon Health Department and the May Pen Hospital was a success.

The team hosted professionals from the Jamaica Constabulary Force, Circle of Care Jamaica, May Pen Hospital, and expert counselling psychologists who shared insights on key mental health issues like bipolar disorder, acute psychosis, and challenges within both the education and criminal justice systems.

Vital resources for families, caregivers, and professionals were shared, which is a step forward in reducing the stigma surrounding mental illness.

Please see below highlights.



Facilities on the Move

JCF Welcomes Mental Health Workshop

The Mental Health team once again hosted a successful and dynamic mental health workshop in collaboration with the Jamaica Constabulary Force.

The session focused on supporting officers in managing mental health challenges, especially in crisis situations. Topics included self-care, crisis response, stigma reduction, and the JCF's mental health policy.

The Know Your Numbers team was on site offering health screenings for the officers. The event was held at the New Beulah Moravian Church in Manchester on June 11. Please see below highlights.



Facilities on the Move

Wholesome Caribbean Nutrition Day Staged in Clarendon

Caribbean Nutrition Day 2025, held at the Hayes Primary & Infant School in Clarendon on Tuesday, June 10 was a success. Under the theme "Healthy Eating, Active Living: Empowering Jamaicans through Health, Culture & Wellness," more than 500 students participated in a day filled with fun, learning, and flavour.

Highlights included: jingle & poster competitions, most creative nutrition hat contest, healthy smoothie demos (no added sugar), black bean mango salsa tasting, lentil veggie balls with pumpkin cheese dip, red peas fudge, in addition to fun and excitement.

Please see below highlights.



Facilities on the Move

SEHD Hosts 'Science in Action' World Food Safety Day Expo

The St. Elizabeth Health Department celebrated World Food Safety Day under the theme 'Food Safety: Science in Action' on Friday, June 6.

The expo in Santa Cruz brought together partners from both the public and private sectors to raise awareness and empower everyone to make safe, healthy food choices. Attendees were reminded to: wash their hands, keep their plates clean, store and prepare food safely.

See below highlights.



Facilities on the Move

CHD Celebrates World Food Safety Day

The Clarendon Health Department celebrated World Food Safety Day 2025, under the theme “Food Safety: Science in Action”.

To mark the occasion, the team hosted three impactful events: a specialised training session for restaurant operators on June 4, a vibrant 5K Run/Walk on June 7, an interactive food safety display, also on June 7.

The training session featured presentations from key partners including the Food Storage and Prevention of Infestation Division, Ebony Park HEART Academy, Southern Regional Health Authority, and the Clarendon Health Department team.

The goal was to equip operators with the knowledge and tools to meet and maintain public health standards in food safety. Please see below highlights.



Facilities on the Move

Manchester Team Advances Food Safety Through Science

The Manchester Health Department hosted the Food Safety Expo on Thursday, June 5, in celebration of World Food Safety Day under the theme “Food Safety: Science in Action.”

The event aimed to raise public awareness about food safety through interactive and educational engagement, while highlighting the critical role of science in advancing food safety practices globally. The expo educated attendees of all ages, encouraged creativity and innovation and promoted healthy lifestyle through a variety of engaging activities such as exhibitions, competitions, and a 5K run/walk.

Please see below highlights.



Facilities on the Move

SEHD Nutrition Team Brings Fun and Flavour to Caribbean Nutrition Day

The St. Elizabeth Health Department nutrition team in collaboration with The Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information (MOESYI) brought the celebration of Caribbean Nutrition Day to life with fun, education, and flavor.

The team incorporated free Know Your Numbers health checks, tasty nutrition demos & sampling and a cook-off show-down. A key highlight of the day's event included: healthy, low-sugar alternatives, like the pumpkin-banana ice cream (no added sugar) and lemonade with just 2.5g of sugar per 100ml. The students loved it— proof that with the right guidance, our youth can make smart, healthy choices.

Please see below highlights.



Staff Highlight

SRHA Wins Big at Diabetes and Hypertension Case Management Conference

The SRHA proudly walked away with four prestigious awards at the 2025 Annual Diabetes and Hypertension Case Management Conference.

The awards include: Regional Excellence in Hypertension Control – Honouring outstanding support in hypertension care; Parish Excellence in Hypertension Control – Awarded to Clarendon Health Department for excellence at the parish level; Regional Excellence in Diabetes Control – Recognizing commitment to diabetes management; National Award of Excellence Diabetes and Hypertension/Cardiovascular Diseases Programme Reporting – For top-tier reporting that drives evidence-based decisions. Please see below highlights.



Staff Highlight

PHI Danita Crawford is Miss Manchester Festival Queen First Runner Up

Congratulations to Danita Antonia Crawford who placed second in the Miss Manchester Festival Queen Competition.

At 27, Danita serves as a Public Health Inspector at the Manchester Health Department, championing causes close to her heart — environmental stewardship, fashion, and holistic wellness.

Guided by the philosophy: “Truth is God and God is Truth,” she believes that truth is the foundation of a meaningful life and a reflection of God’s divine nature.

She wore the sash of Miss Manchester Co-operative Credit Union Ltd.



Staff Highlight

LTH Hosts Inspiring Queen's Bloom Women's Health Symposium

On Monday, June 9, the Lionel Town Hospital hosted an inspiring Queen's Bloom Women's Health Symposium—a day dedicated to empowering women through knowledge and self-discovery.

From powerful presentations on self-care and mental health to insightful sessions on financial wellness and leadership, attendees left feeling motivated, informed, and ready to thrive. Please see below highlights.



Wellness Bytes

Physical Activity Program



MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS

JAMAICA MOVES

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAM

Engage in physical activity Before & after school

Be physically active during school

Participate in physical education class

Encourage staff to be active during and after school

Do physical activity with family and community members

Love Yuh BODY
 TREAT YUH BODY RIGHT
 At Least 30 Minutes of Physical Activity Daily

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HR And You:

“Political Activity”



Knowledge Bytes

Officers are expressly forbidden to engage in any type of partisan political activity in any elections at any level;

In the exercise of official duties, no service or benefit should be denied or provided to anyone on the basis of partisan political affiliation;

In the exercise of official duties, officers may be required to provide factual information to explain or clarify government policy.



Credit: Ms. Juline Singh
Manager, Human Resource
Development



Excerpt from the Staff Orders of the Public Service, 2004

Political Activity



**Southern Regional
Health Authority**
Compassion | Accountability | Respect | Efficiency

Embracing Enterprise Risk Management Within the Southern Region

THE ERM CORNER:

Treating Risks:

Transferring the Risk - Risk transfer moves some or all of the risk to an outside party. The most common method of risk transfer is through insurance, but contracts and partnership arrangements may also be a form of risk transfer.

Credit: Ms. Kimberley Trought
Enterprise Risk Management Analyst

(Source: GOI Enterprise Risk Management Guidelines)

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We welcome your input.
Please submit your articles and feedback for the July edition to:
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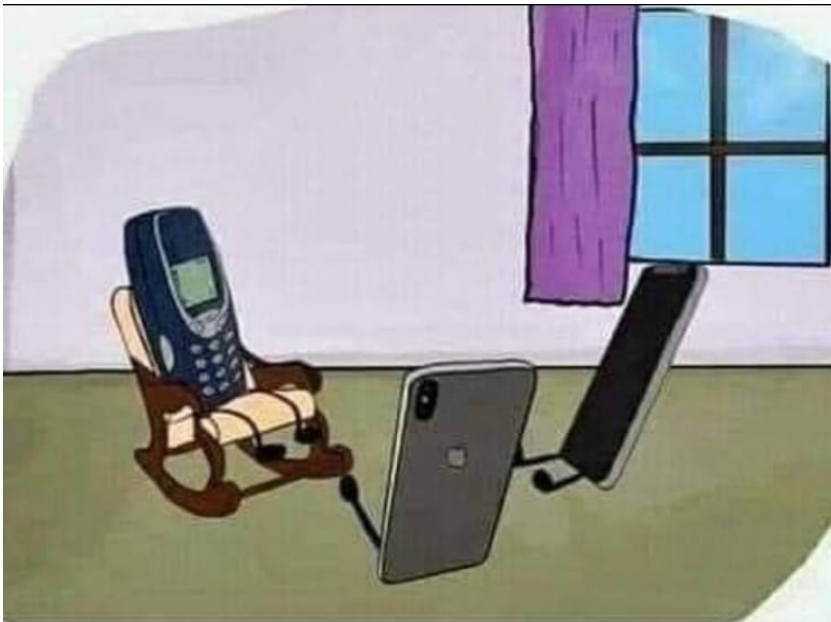
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"When I fell, nothing would happen to me. I wasn't delicate, like you kids."

The Lighter Side

