



## Mandeville Regional Hospital Performs First- Ever Colonoscopy



**Surgical Consultant at the Mandeville Regional Hospital (MRH), Dr. Andrew Joseph’s (right) guides MRH General Surgeon, Dr. Karen Colley during the hospital’s first colonoscopy procedure.**

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## In the News: Southern Regional Health Authority

### Mandeville Regional Hospital Performs First– Ever Colonoscopy



**The Olympus GI endoscopy system, Mandeville Regional Hospital's first colonoscopy machine.**

The Mandeville Regional Hospital (MRH) in Manchester has performed its first-ever colonoscopy procedure, signaling a breakthrough in public healthcare for residents of Manchester and neighbouring parishes.

Colonoscopy is a procedure where a thin flexible tube, with a light and camera at the end, is inserted into the rectum and guided through the colon. This allows the lining of the colon to be examined in detail, take biopsies and perform medical measures where necessary.

Dr. Andrew Josephs, a surgical consultant at the MRH, trained in endoscopy, laparoscopy and minimally invasive procedures, explained that the hospital has not traditionally offered colonoscopy services, resulting in patients seeking alternative care from other major public hospitals, privately or overseas. The hospital is now able to offer this procedure, following the generous donation of the

colonoscopy equipment by the Food for the Poor and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints recently.

"We were able to get the system through a set of donors. So, there's Food for the Poor and there's the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, they were really the main donors for this system" Dr. Josephs explained. He added that the introduction of colonoscopy services at the hospital is expected to improve early detection of colorectal cancer, the third most common cancer in Jamaica.

The surgical consultant pointed out that the system sets a new standard for medical technological infrastructure on the island. "After a number of years, we are finally here, we have one of the most advanced system actually on the island, possibly I think within the Caribbean as well, it really is a state-of-the-art system," Josephs said.

Since the service was introduced recently, MRH has completed two colonoscopies and one upper gastrointestinal gastroscopy, despite delays caused by hurricane-related setbacks. Certification training for the service has now been completed, and the programme is expected to expand. Josephs noted that once fully operational, the hospital aims to perform six to ten endoscopic procedures per day, with at least one dedicated day per week for colonoscopies and other endoscopic services. Plans are also in place to increase training opportunities for surgical residents. Dr. Josephs stressed that colon cancer can be asymptomatic in its early stages and encouraged patients to maximize early screening. "Essentially between age 45 to 50, everyone should have some form of colonic evaluation. What we advocate for, is doing what's called a faecal occult blood test or fit test, it's a stool-based test... if that comes back positive, then you definitely should move on to get something definitive like a colonoscopy."

Addressing public hesitation surrounding the procedure, he offered a simple message: "It is better to know than not to know. It's not a painful procedure, there may be mild discomfort, but the other good thing is that, if your colonoscopy is normal, it's seven to ten years before you have to repeat." He urged the public to take advantage of the new service, encouraging them to get tested.

**Credit: The Southern Regional Health Authority**

## In the News: Southern Regional Health Authority

### Percy Junor Hospital Becomes 12th Baby-Friendly Certified Institution



Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (centre), unveils the new Percy Junor Hospital baby-friendly sign at the institution in Spalding, Manchester on Thursday (Feb. 5). Sharing in the moment are (from left) Acting Chief Executive Officer of the hospital, Faith Sterling; Custos Rotulorum of Manchester, Hon. Garfield Green; Nutrition Officer, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), Vonetta Nurse; Director for Disaster Management and Special Services in the Ministry of Health & Wellness, Dr. Nicole Dawkins-Wright; and Director of the Health Promotion & Protection Branch, Dr. Simone Spence.

The Percy Junor Hospital in Manchester has been accredited as a baby-friendly institution, becoming the 12<sup>th</sup> local public hospital to be certified under the global initiative.

A programme of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) recognises health facilities that provide optimal care for mothers and newborns and actively support breastfeeding. The initiative promotes practices that have proven to improve infant survival and long-term health outcomes. These include early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, and continued breastfeeding with appropriate complementary foods for up to two years or beyond.

Speaking at the accreditation ceremony held at the hospital in Spalding on Thursday (Feb. 5), Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, congratulated the management and staff of Percy Junor Hospital on the achievement, noting that it reflects a commitment to quality

standards in infant and maternal care.

He noted that the accreditation aligns with the Ministry's broader strategy to reduce infant mortality, improve maternal health outcomes, and strengthen quality standards across the public health system. Dr. Tufton said that Percy Junor's accreditation takes the country just over the half mark in terms of the number of hospitals in the country that are baby-friendly certified. He noted that when he took office in 2016, only one of the island's 23 hospitals had baby-friendly designation.

"Today, there are 12 hospitals that have baby-friendly designation. That's a big deal! It means that we are improving standards... it means that the team in the respective institutions are doing the work, have been provided with the support, whether through our external agencies, our region, or the Ministry," Dr. Tufton said. "Today, I challenge the remaining 11 institutions, over the next three to five years – and I hope it's more three than five – to make us complete ... by doing the necessary work to achieve baby-friendly status," he urged.

"If 12 hospitals can achieve baby-friendly status, 23 can achieve baby-friendly status. If the people in 12 can do the work to get it done, the remaining 11 can do the work to get it done," he expressed. Noting that Percy Junor Hospital has seen a 64 per cent decline in births from 201 in 2024 to 71 in 2025, Dr. Tufton urged the community health aides to go into the communities to engage with families and promote responsible child-rearing.

For her part, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Percy Junor Hospital, Faith Sterling, expressed pleasure at the hospital's baby-friendly accreditation.

"I am absolutely elated. This does not only mean that our standards have been raised. It means a positive paradigm shift in the right direction in becoming a first-class hospital in not only Jamaica, but the Caribbean," she told JIS News.

**Credit: The Jamaica Information Service**

## In The News: Southern Regional Health Authority

### SRHA Launches Homegrown Maintenance Management System



**Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Hon. Krystal Lee (left), commends Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) staff, who designed the new Computerised Maintenance Management System, following the launch at the SRHA offices in Mandeville, Manchester, on Thursday (February 5). They are (from second left) Rohan Smith, Toni-Ann Rodney, Ryan Dixon (former employee), Saede Nisbeth, O'Nelvia Caballero and Jozané Bryan.**

The Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) has developed and implemented its own Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) to more effectively manage the maintenance of infrastructure and equipment at hospitals and health centres across the region.

The digital platform, built by staff members Rohan Smith, Toni-Ann Rodney, Ryan Dixon, Saede Nisbeth, O'Nelvia Caballero and Jozané Bryan, overhauls traditional maintenance approaches, improving the maintenance, tracking, and servicing of equipment across the parishes of Manchester, Clarendon, and St. Elizabeth. It is expected to improve efficiency, lower costs, reduce downtime for critical medical equipment, and support better healthcare delivery.

Addressing the official launch of the system at the SRHA offices in Mandeville on Thursday (February 5), State Minister in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Hon. Krystal Lee, hailed the ingenuity of the staff members.

“When I heard about the system, I kept asking, ‘Who’s the provider? Was it outsourced? How much did they pay for it?’ And all I kept hearing is, ‘They did it. They’re the ones that did it’... So, to hear that this very system that we’re celebrating today that we’re launching today, was done right here, built by the team internally at the Southern Regional Health Authority, is exceptional, we have to applaud them for that,” she said.

She informed that the agreement called for preventive maintenance procedures and the strengthening of equipment management. “Core aspects of this policy include training of technical in-house staff, mandatory user manuals, and maintenance agreements. Embedded within the policy is this CMMS system that we’re launching here today,” she pointed out. The system was piloted at the Percy Junor Hospital and is being implemented at all SRHA facilities.

Miss Lee said she hopes that the system will be shared with other regional health authorities. For his part, Chairman-designate, SRHA, Michael Stern, noted that the authority is leading the way in terms of governance setting higher standards for accountability and transparency.

“We’re going to incorporate many of the successes we have had into procedures and policies. Governance, to me, is a big deal. By the next two years, we will be the region in health that will receive awards in governance, because we’re laying the foundation for it today. This is a region that you can use as a benchmark. We have worked hard,” Mr. Stern said.

**Credit: The Jamaica Information Service**

## In The News: Southern Regional Health Authority

### Bed Capacity Boosted at Mandeville Regional Hospital



**Chief Executive Officer of the Mandeville Regional Hospital, Alwyn Miller (right), and Kenisha Gibson (second right), representing the Shaggy Make a Difference Foundation and Project CURE, look on as beds donated to the hospital by the organisations are being removed from a truck. A total of 44 beds were handed over to the hospital in Manchester on Saturday (February 21).**

The Mandeville Regional Hospital in Manchester has received a donation of 44 hospital beds from the Shaggy Make a Difference Foundation in partnership with Project CURE.

The items, which were handed over at the public health facility on Saturday (February 21), will expand capacity at the hospital and enhance patient comfort. Chief Executive Officer of the hospital, Alwyn Miller, expressed gratitude for the donation.

“They will go a far way in strengthening our ability to accommodate our patients in a more comfortable and appropriate environment, and we are grateful that they have considered Mandeville Regional Hospital to be a recipient of these beds,” he said.

He noted that following the passage of Hurricane Melissa, and the damage to other

regional health facilities, Mandeville Hospital has been seeing an influx of patients, requiring increased bed space.

Kenisha Gibson, who represented the donors, informed that the Savanna-la-Mar General Public Hospital in Westmoreland has also received a donation of beds and “we will have other hospitals to distribute to as well”. The Shaggy Make a Difference Foundation is dedicated to improving the well-being of Jamaican children. The charity has raised millions to support the acquisition of life-saving equipment, upgrade of facilities and provision of specialised care for patients at the Bustamante Hospital for Children.

Founded by international reggae artist Shaggy in 2009, its mission focuses on transforming pediatric healthcare to provide hope and better outcomes for families. Project CURE has partnered with Jamaican hospitals and clinics for more than 21 years, providing essential medical supplies, equipment, and emergency aid, particularly in response to recent hurricane damage. The organisation collaborates with local partners, including the Shaggy Make a Difference Foundation and MedGive, to strengthen the public health system.

The Mandeville Regional Hospital is a key Type B facility serving as a major health hub for the Southern Regional Health Authority. Established in 1877, it provides comprehensive medical services, including emergency, paediatrics, obstetrics, and oncology, and is recognised for leading in laparoscopic surgeries in Jamaica’s public sector good value for money”.

**Credit: The Jamaica Information Service**

## In The News: Southern Regional Health Authority

### Black River Hospital Receives J\$9 Million in Relief Supplies to Strengthen Post- Hurricane Recovery



**(Left to right) Donmayne Gyles, Andrews Memorial Hospital CEO; Erica Myers, Infection Control & Prevention Nurse, BRH; Diana Brown-Miller CEO, BRH; Jodi-Ann Porter, Senior Customer Care Officer, BRH; Maria Stampp, Director of Nursing Services, BRH; Ingrid Stephens, Deputy Director of Nursing Services, BRH and Pastor Charles Brevitt, Vice President West Jamaica Conference are pictured here following the handover of donation to the hospital.**

The Black River Hospital (BRH) in St. Elizabeth has received a significant boost to its recovery efforts following the recent hurricane, with a donation valued at J\$9 million in medical supplies and 50 laptop computers.

The donation was made possible through the partnership of Andrews Memorial Hospital, Advent Health, and the West Jamaica Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

The medical supplies include dressing items, hazardous waste bags, and a wide range of essential medical materials to support daily clinical functions, which will directly enhance patient care and operational efficiency at the hospital.

CEO for the hospital, Mrs. Diana Brown-Miller, emphasized the timely impact of the donation, especially the laptop computers, as several units were lost during the hurricane.

She noted that the laptop computers will strengthen the hospital’s reporting systems, improving patient management, and increasing overall administrative efficiency.

“This is an opportunity for us to get better, for us to be more resilient. So, we’re very happy for all of this to help us, as a facility, to be even better at what we do,” Mrs. Brown-Miller said.

President and CEO of Andrews Memorial Hospital, Mr. Donmayne Gyles pointed out that the donation is part of a long-term commitment to support the BRH as it rebuilds and strengthens its services.

“One of the things we have said the last time we were here that this is not going to be the last. We will certainly engage our partners as we seek to ‘adopt’ the Black River Hospital, as the hospital seeks to regain its footing and focus within the landscape of Jamaica. And, might I say, this is not the last; this is the first, as we seek to build the engagement” Mr. Gyles said.



**Credit: The Southern Regional Health Authority**

## In The News: Southern Regional Health Authority

### Mandeville Regional Hospital Gets Wellness Bench

A meaningful step towards supporting mental wellness.

On Thursday, February 5, 2026, the Ministry of Health and Wellness unveiled a Wellness Bench at Mandeville Regional Hospital, providing a safe and calming space to pause, relax, and promote mental health awareness for the staff, patients and the wider community. See photo highlights below.



Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Hon. Krystal Lee (second right), applauds the unveiling of a new wellness bench at the Mandeville Regional Hospital in Manchester. Removing the cover to reveal the seating are (from left) Chief Executive Officer, Mandeville Regional Hospital, Alwyn Miller; Regional Technical Director, Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), Dr. Vitillius Holder; and Chairman-designate, SRHA, Michael Stern.



Minister Krystal Lee shares a moment with staff members on the wellness bench.

## Facilities on the Move

### Mandeville Regional Hospital Expands Capacity with New Field Hospital

Following patient surges after Hurricane Melissa, Mandeville Regional Hospital has expanded its capacity with a new field hospital.

The additional space helps reduce overcrowding, improve patient flow, and ensure faster care for those affected by the storm.

This expansion allows the hospital to better manage emergency cases while continuing to provide essential services to the community.

Please see photo highlights below.



## Facilities on the Move

### Manchester Health Department Celebrates Jamaica Day 2026

On Friday, February 27, the Manchester Health Department proudly celebrated Jamaica Day with their “Out of Many” activity.

Staff members dressed to represent different countries and cultures, highlighting the richness of diversity and unity within the Jamaican people. From vibrant colours to traditional attire, the day was filled with pride and cultural appreciation.

Take a look at the highlights as we celebrate the spirit of “Out of Many, One People!”

Please see below highlights.



## Facilities on the Move

### World Cancer Day Forum at Mandeville Haemotology/Oncology Unit

On Friday, February 27, 2026 the team at the Haemotology/Oncology Unit in Manchester; the only dedicated cancer care unit in southern Jamaica, hosted a World Cancer Day forum, under the theme “United by Unique”.

The team engaged attendees in a rap session and educational talk, emphasizing important messages on cancer awareness and prevention.

See photo highlight below.



## Facilities on the Move

### Facilities, Operations & Maintenance Department Hosts Regional Training Session

On Thursday, February 12 and Friday, February 13, 2026, the Southern Regional Health Authority's Facilities, Operations and Maintenance Department held training sessions at the Regional Office in Manchester.

On the first day, participants learned how to assemble and disassemble air conditioning units, how to operate them, and the basic mechanics of AC systems. On the second day, they were trained in generator operation and maintenance.

Participants were highly engaged and receptive throughout the training. Many expressed interest in attending future sessions and indicated their intention to apply the knowledge and skills gained in practical ways within their respective departments and parishes. See below photo highlights.



# Staff Highlight

## Mandeville Regional Hospital Honours Outstanding Staff

Employees at the Mandeville Regional Hospital were recently recognised for their outstanding performance through the Performance Management and Appraisal System (PMAS) awards.

The recognition highlighted staff members who demonstrated excellence, dedication, and commitment to delivering high-quality healthcare services.

See photo highlights below.



# Staff Highlight

## Lionel Town Hospital Recognizes Outstanding Performers

Scores of employees at the Lionel Town Hospital were recently recognised for their outstanding performance recognized its employees for outstanding performance after meeting and exceeding established operational and service delivery targets. The awards ceremony formed part of the organization’s ongoing efforts to promote excellence, accountability, and high standards across the Performance Management and Appraisal System.

See photo highlights below.



## Staff Highlight

### From Aspiration to Achievement



With dedication, passion and the support of the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), Fitzroy Roberts has emerged stronger and more skilled after completing the Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Health.

Fitzroy, now Public Health Inspector (former Health Records Clerk) at the Manchester Health Department recently completed the BSc in Environmental Health marking a major milestone in his professional journey and the SRHA's commitment to workforce development. His story is one of determination, growth and service.

**Q. Why did you choose to pursue studies in Environmental Health?**

A. While working in the healthcare system, I realized that so many of the issues our communities face could be prevented with the right interventions. I wanted to be part of that solution. I wanted to be in a role where I could go out into communities, talk with people, and make a real difference.

**Q. How did you balance the demands of work, study and personal life during the period of study?**

A. It was challenging, but I kept reminding myself why I started. I made a lot of sacrifices, especially with personal time, and learned to use every hour wisely.

**Q. How did the support from the SRHA help you to complete your studies?**

A. The study leave and financial assistance provided by the SRHA were instrumental in my completion of this degree. The study leave allowed me to manage the academic workload effectively, while the financial contribution

reduced the strain of tuition and related expenses.

**Q. What was the most rewarding part of your training experience?**

A. For me, the most rewarding part was seeing all the hard work pay off. Going into the field, interacting with communities, and putting theory into practice helped me understand the real impact of public health. It showed me that I'm in the right profession and that the work I do genuinely matters.

**Q. Has your new qualification opened up opportunities for growth and advancement?**

A. Yes, it definitely has. Since completing the degree, I've been able to step into a more impactful role and take on responsibilities that I wouldn't have had before. It has opened doors for my professional growth and boosted my confidence in the field.

**Q. How do you see your training contributing to better service delivery or improved outcomes for our patients/clients?**

A. My training helps me serve the public with more skill and understanding, which directly improves the quality of service and the health outcomes in the communities we work with.

**Q. Who/what kept you motivated throughout the journey?**

A. My family, my colleagues, and my own determination kept me going. I wanted to see my own personal growth, and I wanted to make a difference and that kept me motivated until the very end.

**Q. What advice would you give to colleagues who are thinking about applying training?**

A. Take the opportunity. It will challenge you, but it will also change you for the better.

**Q. Is there anything else you'd like to share about your experience?**

A. This journey has taught me resilience, patience, and the value of believing in yourself. It wasn't a straight or easy path, but reaching this point reminds me that with faith, hard work, and support, anything is possible. I'm proud of how far I've come, and I'm excited for what's ahead.

*Mr. Robert's story stands as a testament to the SRHA's vision of strengthening the region's workforce through continuous learning and professional development. His success is ultimately, a win for the communities he serves.*

**Credit: Human Resource Development & Management Department**

## Staff Highlight

### Celebrating the Success of our 2025 Graduates

On behalf of the Southern Regional Health Authority team, we would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations on your achievement. Your success is a testament to your commitment, resilience, and consistent hard work.

As you embrace this important milestone, we encourage you to reflect with pride on the knowledge, skills and competencies you have gained. You are well-equipped to excel in your professional journey, and we look forward with great anticipation to the meaningful contributions you will make to the SRHA.

Again, congratulations, we celebrate you and your continued success.



**Name:** Audrey Chambers Nichols  
**Position:** Registered Midwife  
**Facility:** Clarendon Health  
**Department**  
**Course:** Nursing Administration



**Name:** Karen Elliott  
**Position:** Specialist Nurse  
**Facility:** Black River Hospital  
**Course:** Nursing Administration



**Name:** Fitzroy Roberts  
**Position:** Health Records Clerk  
**Facility:** Manchester Health  
**Department**  
**Course:** BSc. Environmental Health



**Name:** Claudette Dunkley  
**Position:** Ward/Nurse Manager  
**Facility:** Percy Junor Hospital  
**Course:** Master in Public Health



**Name:** Davia Dwyer  
**Position:** Specialist Nurse  
**Facility:** Mandeville Regional  
**Hospital**  
**Course:** Certificate in Midwifery



**Name:** Allisa Williams-Glave  
**Position:** Community Health Aide  
**Facility:** Manchester Health  
**Department**  
**Course:** Diploma in Assistant Nursing

# Staff Highlight

## Celebrating the Success of our 2025 Graduates



**Name:** Christine Morgan  
**Position:** Public Health Nurse  
**Facility:** Manchester Health  
**Department**  
**Course:** Nursing Administration



**Name:** Dacia Smith  
**Position:** Community Health Aide  
**Facility:** Manchester Health  
**Department**  
**Course:** BSc. Nursing



**Name:** Jhaneil Clarke-Bernard  
**Position:** Registered Midwife  
**Facility:** Manchester Health  
**Department**  
**Course:** BSc. Midwifery



**Name:** Nadine Thompson-McKenzie  
**Position:** Public Health Nurse  
**Facility:** Manchester Health  
**Department**  
**Course:** Nursing Administration



**Name:** Tarasue Ebanks  
**Position:** Records Clerk  
**Facility:** Manchester Health  
**Department**  
**Course:** BSc. Nursing



**Name:** Tashema Williams-Bent  
**Position:** Health Records Clerk  
**Facility:** Manchester Health  
**Department**  
**Course:** BSc. Nursing

## Staff Highlight

### Celebrating the Success of our 2025 Graduates



**Name:** Tiffany Williams  
**Position:** Health Records Clerk  
**Facility:** Manchester Health Department  
**Course:** ASc. Health Information Technology



**Name:** Deanna Townsend  
**Position:** Health Records Clerk  
**Facility:** St. Elizabeth Health Department  
**Course:** BSc Nursing



**Name:** Melissa Tulloch Williams  
**Position:** Registered Nurse  
**Facility:** Percy Junor Hospital  
**Course:** Certificate in Psychiatric Nursing



**Name:** Anne-Marie Wright Campbell  
**Position:** Specialist Nurse  
**Facility:** Percy Junor Hospital  
**Course:** Nursing Administration



**Name:** Tamika Clarke  
**Position:** Enrolled Assistant Nurse  
**Facility:** Percy Junor Hospital  
**Course:** BSc. Nursing



**Name:** Rushelle McFarlane  
**Position:** Registered Nurse  
**Facility:** Percy Junor Hospital  
**Course:** Certificate in Midwifery

# Staff Highlight

## Celebrating the Success of our 2025 Graduates



**Name:** Cassandra Walker Pryce  
**Position:** Registered Nurse  
**Facility:** Percy Junor Hospital  
**Course:** Certificate in Operating Theatre Nursing



**Name:** Seymone Lewis  
**Position:** Registered Nurse  
**Facility:** Lionel Town Hospital  
**Course:** Certificate in Paediatric Nursing



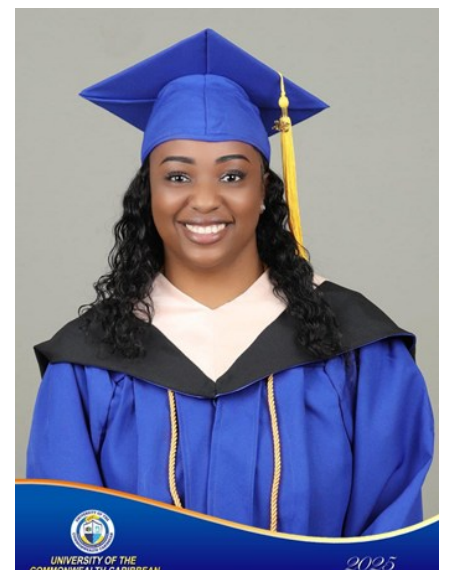
**Name:** Keonia Davis Brown  
**Position:** Registered Nurse  
**Facility:** Percy Junor Hospital  
**Course:** Certificate in Psychiatric Nursing



**Name:** Rochelle Bennett Alvaranga  
**Position:** Dental Assistant  
**Facility:** Clarendon Health Department  
**Course:** BSc. Social Work



**Name:** Yanique Jones  
**Position:** District Medical Officer  
**Facility:** Clarendon Health Department  
**Course:** Diploma in Family Medicine



**Name:** Melissa Lawson  
**Position:** Parish BCC Coordinator  
**Facility:** Clarendon Health Department  
**Course:** BSc. Social Work

# Staff Highlight

## Celebrating the Success of our 2025 Graduates



**Name:** Kimone Montaque  
**Position:** Public Health Inspector  
**Facility:** Clarendon Health  
**Department:**  
**Course:** Diploma in Meats and Other Foods Inspection



**Name:** Marcia Weathers  
**Position:** Public Health Inspector  
**Facility:** Clarendon Health  
**Department:**  
**Course:** MSc. Public Health



**Name:** Shanon Douglas Francis  
**Position:** Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector  
**Facility:** Clarendon Health  
**Department:**  
**Course:** MSc. In Public Health



**Name:** Meagan Christian  
**Position:** Registered Nurse  
**Facility:** Mandeville Regional Hospital  
**Course:** Certificate in Emergency Nursing



**Name:** Martina White  
**Position:** Registered Nurse  
**Facility:** Mandeville Regional Hospital  
**Course:** Certificate on Paediatric Nursing



**Name:** Keira-Lee Smith  
**Position:** Registered Nurse  
**Facility:** Black River Hospital  
**Course:** Certificate in Critical Care Nursing

## Staff Highlight

### Celebrating the Success of our 2025 Graduates



**Name:** Nicole Lewis  
**Position:** Registered Nurse  
**Facility:** Black River Hospital  
**Course:** Certificate in Emergency Nursing



**Name:** Renae Foster  
**Position:** Registered Nurse  
**Facility:** Black River Hospital  
**Course:** Certificate Psychiatric Nursing



## Staff Highlight

### Jamaica Civil Service Awards 2025: Honouring 25 Years of Service

Employees from the Southern Regional Health Authority Regional Office were recognized at the Jamaica Civil Service Awards 2025 for reaching an impressive 25 years of service.

The awards highlight public-sector team members who consistently go above and beyond in their roles, putting country first and helping to improve the delivery of public services.

Although the official ceremony took place in November 2025, the team members received their awards on February 2, 2026, at the regional office.

It was a proud and well-deserved moment celebrating years of dedication and hard work in the health sector. Among the awardees were: **Donna Clayton-Baldwin, Natasha Coley-Blythe, Nadene Williams, Dr. Carolyn Melbourne.**

See photo highlights below (Dr. Melbourne missing).



**Mrs. Hershel Ismail (left) with Mrs. Donna Clayton-Baldwin.**



**Mrs. Hershel Ismail (left) with Natasha Coley-Blythe.**



**Mrs. Hershel Ismail (left) with Mrs. Nadene Williams.**



# HR And You:

“Knowledge Bytes”

**HR Knowledge Bytes**

Professional development is a continuous, intentional process of learning and skill-building designed to keep individuals relevant and competitive in a constantly evolving job market. It is not a one-time event but a lifelong commitment to growth that benefits both the individual and the organization.

Take ownership of your career growth and maximize your true potential!

*“Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow” Anthony J. D’Angelo*



**Professional Development**

# Infohub

**THE ERM CORNER:**

**Controls:**

Controls are the existing measures designed to reduce likelihood and/or impact of a risk event. They can be:

- Preventive (stop the event from happening),
- Detective (alert when it occurs),
- Corrective (limit impact or restore conditions).

(Source: GAO Enterprise Risk Management Guidelines)

# Wellness Bytes

## “Safety Tips After Flood Rains”

- Do not go outside unnecessarily.
- Wear water boots or closed shoes when going outdoors.
- Wear gloves when clearing debris or handling of dirty water.
- If you get a puncture wound, a nail stick or a cut, seek medical attention immediately.
- Do not allow children to play in the floodwater or any other dirty or stagnant water.

### SAFE WATER

After heavy rainfall and flooding, water may become contaminated. To prevent diseases and maintain good health, it is important to use SAFE WATER. Water can be made safe by treating with household bleach or by boiling.

- **BLEACH**
- For 1 litre of water (1 quart)
- Add 2 drops of bleach
- Mix well and leave for 30 minutes
- For 20 litres of water (5 US gallons)
- Add ½ teaspoon of bleach
- Mix well and leave for 30 minutes
- For 170 litres of water (45 US gallons)
- Add 4 ½ teaspoons of bleach
- Mix well and leave for 30 minutes



- **BOILING**
- Allow water to “boil up” for at least one minute before removing from the fire. Keep covered at all times.

### TREAT WATER BEFORE USING FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Drinking or making drinks
- Washing fruits and vegetables
- Making ice
- Preparing food
- Washing dishes and utensils

### DEAD ANIMALS

- Dead animals should be buried as soon as possible after the rains subside.

**Report any potential health hazard (open graves, broken sewage main, chemical spill) to the Parish Health Department immediately.**

**Credit: Ministry of Health & Wellness**

# SUBMIT AN ARTICLE

We welcome your input.  
Please submit your articles and feedback for the March edition to:  
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Email: [latoya.laylor@srha.gov.jm](mailto:latoya.laylor@srha.gov.jm)

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The Lighter Side



**“You have to bear with us.  
Our computers have  
a virus too”**