

HEALTH HERALD

PROGRESS WITH DIGITISATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH – HEALTH MINISTER CHAMPIONS CHANGE MANAGEMENT AS KEY TO SUCCESS

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**HEALTH
SYSTEMS**
STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME
*Transforming Healthcare
for a better future*



More Dengue Cases Recorded, One Death Confirmed

The Ministry of Health & Wellness has advised that the number of presumed, suspected and confirmed Dengue cases has increased to 1,060. Of that number, 132 are confirmed Dengue cases with the Type 2 strain dominating the confirmed case count.

At the same time, four of the six deaths previously under investigation have been classified. One death was Dengue-related, while the other three were classified as suspected Dengue-related deaths.

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PROGRESS WITH DIGITISATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Health Minister champions change management as key to success

Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr the Hon. Christopher Tufton yesterday (September 27) provided the world with insight into Jamaica's efforts to leverage digital solutions for public health while emphasising change management as an important tool for success.

Speaking at a panel discussion, held on the sidelines of the 60th Directing Council of the Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO) in Washington DC, United States, the Minister said there can be no question of the value of adopting digital solutions, given the pressing challenges in public health, including that of ballooning non-communicable diseases (NCDs).



Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (left), Minister of Health & Wellness, shares a light moment with Mr. Ilan Goldfajn, President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), following a courtesy call at the IDB Headquarters in Washington DC, United States on September 27. The IDB has been a key partner in health infrastructural development and the digital transformation of Jamaica's health system.

In Jamaica, he said that adoption is clearly on show with the Health Systems Strengthening Programme for the Prevention and Control of NCDs and which has seen the development and application of digital solutions at the national, subnational and local levels.

Those solutions, he revealed, include telehealth networks to create secure linkages between local health centres and hospitals for specialised care to communities while reducing the burden of travel for NCD patients. At the same time, network integration is to allow functionalities in patient registration, health records, laboratory, outpatient scheduling, pharmacy, and other services.

Among other things, the Minister said, there is also the implementation of Electronic Health Records (EHR) for which Jamaica inked an agreement earlier this year.

The EHR is to allow the seamless management and exchange of patient information across 10 Primary Care and three (3) Secondary Care pilot health facilities. It will also facilitate the tracking of NCD risk factors, early diagnosis and the monitoring of treatment outcomes.

THE EHR IS TO ALLOW THE SEAMLESS MANAGEMENT AND EXCHANGE OF PATIENT INFORMATION ACROSS 10 PRIMARY CARE AND THREE (3) SECONDARY CARE PILOT HEALTH FACILITIES.

A promotional poster for the 'Know Your 4 Numbers Road Tour'. The poster features the Ministry of Health & Wellness logo at the top left. The main text reads 'OCT 11 11 AM to 6 PM 2023' and 'KNOW YOUR 4 NUMBERS ROAD TOUR'. Below this, it lists 'FREE' services: Health Screening, Dental Checks, Denture Impression, and Outdoor Workout. It also mentions 'PRIZES & SURPRISES' and 'HOSTED BY Dr. Chris Tufton, Minister of Health & Wellness'. A list of performers includes Ashman "Bruck Up" Clarke, Eric Gold, Copper Ranks, Glassford Black, Mad Alian, and Plat - Up. The event is held at Water Square, Falmouth, Trelawny. A photo of Dr. Chris Tufton is included at the bottom right of the poster.

A promotional poster for 'No Sugar Day'. The poster features the Ministry of Health & Wellness logo at the top right. The main text reads 'NO SUGAR DAY' with a crossed-out sugar cube icon. Below this, it says 'OCT. 3RD'. To the right, it says 'YOUR HEALTH IS TOO SWEET TO MISTREAT'. The background includes images of avocados and a bowl of salad.

PUBLIC ENCOURAGED TO PLAY THEIR PART TO MINIMISE DENGUE CASES

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All parishes have recorded Dengue cases, with Kingston & St. Andrew, St. Thomas, St. Catherine, Portland, and St. James recording the most confirmed cases. The 5–14-year-old age cohort continues to be the most affected, followed by persons 25–59 years old.

The Ministry again reminds the public that Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne disease that is usually a mild illness in which a person may get a fever, headache, joint, and muscle pains.



FIGHT THE BITE
DESTROY MOSQUITO BREEDING SITES

PREVENT MOSQUITO FROM BITING YOU AND TRANSMITTING DISEASES.

- ✓ Wear long sleeves and trousers.
- ✓ Use repellents on skin and clothing. Ask an adult for information and help.
- ✓ Avoid places with standing water, garbage piles, uncut grass, or vacant lots.
- ✓ Help eliminate mosquito breeding sites.
- ✓ If you have already been bitten and have fever + headache + rash + nausea or vomiting: do NOT medicate yourself. See a doctor.

SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND HELP THEM TAKE ACTION #fightthebite

Pan American Health Organization World Health Organization

Rest and adequate hydration are usually enough to see one through the period of illness. The recommended treatment for the fever is acetaminophen/paracetamol.

Members of the public are urged not to use aspirin, diclofenac, ibuprofen, or any of the medications/pain relievers known as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). These drugs, when used to treat the fever in Dengue, have been known to increase the severity of the disease.

On occasions the illness can progress to Severe Dengue, which can result in organ failure as well as bleeding (haemorrhage), and severe fluid depletion that can lead to shock and death.

Persons experiencing fever, vomiting, severe abdominal pain, bleeding under the skin (petechial rash), feeling very weak, or getting confused, are to seek immediate medical attention.

The public is also reminded that the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which causes Dengue, breeds in any containerized environment; that is in anything that can hold water. Some of the common breeding sites for the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito are drums, tyres, buckets, and animal feeding containers.

Persons are asked to play their part in ensuring that the Dengue cases are minimised by monitoring water storage containers for mosquito breeding; keeping surroundings free of debris; destroying or treating potential mosquito breeding sites; wearing protective clothing and using a DEET-containing mosquito repellent.