



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Attention: All News Editors

Public Health Response Intensified as Minister Tours Areas Affected by Hurricane Melissa

KINGSTON, Jamaica. Wednesday, November 19, 2025: The Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, CD, MP over the weekend (Friday and Saturday) conducted a comprehensive tour of the western parishes impacted by Hurricane Melissa, assessing recovery needs and meeting health response teams critical to safeguarding the nation's well-being during this period.

The Minister visited several affected communities and hospitals including: the Noel Holmes Hospital, Savanna-La-Mar Public General Health Hospital, and the Black River Field Hospital to evaluate the extent of the damage, with a focus on strengthening the Ministry's coordinated response to ongoing health and environmental risks. During the tour, he met with Vector Control workers, commending them for their continued vigilance and reminding them of their essential role in preventing mosquito-borne diseases, especially in the aftermath of heavy rains and flooding that create potential breeding sites.

"Our Vector Control teams are among the first line of defence in protecting communities from dengue and other vector-borne illnesses," the Minister said. "Their presence in the field during this recovery phase is vital to preventing a secondary public health crisis."

-MORE-



The Minister also held discussions with Public Health Inspectors (PHIs), who are being deployed across businesses and establishments to carry out critical inspections. Their work will ensure that food safety, environmental health standards, and accommodation conditions are upheld as communities rebuild and business resumes.

“As we focus on restoring normalcy, we must ensure that everything Jamaicans eat, drink, and every place they stay is safe,” the Minister emphasized. “Our PHIs will be working closely with business operators to ensure compliance and reduce any risk of foodborne or environmental illnesses.”

The Ministry of Health & Wellness continues to coordinate its response efforts with the Regional Health Authorities and other partners to support affected communities, mitigate health risks, and strengthen resilience in the wake of Hurricane Melissa.

-END-