

HEALTH HERALD

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**JAMAICA'S "DO YOUR SHARE" CAMPAIGN
WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD**

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KPH Highlights Kidney Health for Kidney Week



Kingston Public Hospital (KPH) marked World Kidney Week with a Health Fair and Blood Drive on Thursday, March 12, 2026 bringing screening, education, and donation services directly to the public as part of Renal Week 2026 and the hospital's 250th anniversary celebrations.

Led by Dr. Kimone Young, Nephrology Resident and Cosmo Queen 2025, the initiative was guided by the theme "Kidney Health for All: Caring for People, Protecting the Planet." The event focused on raising awareness about kidney disease while encouraging prevention, early detection, and healthier lifestyle choices.

Approximately 200 persons were screened, with total attendance reaching around 250 individuals who also engaged with educational booths and health professionals.

Chronic kidney disease remains a growing public health concern, often developing without symptoms and commonly linked to conditions such as diabetes and hypertension.

Patrons benefited from free services including blood pressure checks, blood glucose testing, and urine testing, alongside practical guidance on reducing risk.

The event also featured a blood drive facilitated by the National Blood Transfusion Service through its Mobile Blood Collection Unit, making it easier for persons to donate. State Minister in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Hon. Krystal Lee, who toured the unit, underscored the importance of community-based initiatives in strengthening preventive healthcare and expanding access to essential services.

Dr. Young emphasised that early detection remains critical, noting that increased awareness and community engagement can help individuals take proactive steps before complications arise.

The initiative forms part of KPH's Prevention, Education and Empowerment Programme, which supports sustained efforts to reduce the burden of kidney disease through public awareness and outreach.

Jamaica's "Do Your Share" Campaign Wins International Award



Jamaica's leadership in addressing mental health stigma has earned international recognition, with the Ministry of Health and Wellness receiving the International Public Body of the Year award at the 2026 IESE Public Sector Transformation Awards in London.

The award recognises the Ministry's national campaign, Do Your Share: Reducing Mental Health Stigma Through Collective Action, which calls on Jamaicans to play an active role in supporting mental wellness. The initiative promotes empathy, encourages open conversations, and reinforces the importance of shared responsibility in building supportive communities.

Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, acknowledged the importance of this award "This award represents international recognition of Jamaica's commitment to addressing mental health stigma and promoting a culture of compassion, understanding and shared responsibility. Mental wellness is a national priority, and initiatives such as 'Do Your Share' demonstrate the impact of collective action in advancing healthier communities."

Led by the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the campaign forms part of a broader strategy to expand awareness, encourage help-seeking behaviour, and integrate mental health into everyday life across communities, workplaces, and institutions.

Director of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Dr. Kevin Goulbourne, highlighted the importance of sustained collaboration in tackling stigma. He stated "Addressing mental health stigma requires sustained public engagement and collaboration across sectors. 'Do Your Share' has encouraged Jamaicans to recognise that mental health is a shared responsibility, and that small actions can make a meaningful difference in supporting those who may be struggling."

The IESE awards celebrate innovation and measurable impact across public sector organisations worldwide. This recognition reinforces Jamaica's position as a leader in progressive public health initiatives and its ongoing commitment to safeguarding mental wellbeing.

NHF Adds New Chronic Conditions and Diagnostic Benefits



Persons living with COPD, affecting around 35,000 individuals, will also benefit from subsidised pharmaceutical treatment to support long-term disease management. New provisions for IBD and bladder cancer further strengthen the programme's reach, particularly for patients who often rely on private care.

Diagnostic services have also been enhanced, with NHF now covering echocardiograms, an important tool in managing heart disease, with an annual subsidy of \$7,500 for eligible cardholders. In addition, prostate cancer patients will now have access to up to four subsidised PSA tests per year, improving continuity of care.

Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, described the expansion as a strategic investment in national health, noting its role in improving outcomes and strengthening the healthcare system.

With more than 356,000 beneficiaries, the NHFCard Programme continues to play a critical role in delivering equitable, people-centred care across Jamaica.

The National Health Fund (NHF) has expanded its NHFCard Programme, increasing access to affordable care for hundreds of thousands of Jamaicans through new conditions, enhanced diagnostics, and broader screening benefits.

Announced at a launch event on Wednesday, the expansion moves coverage from 24 to 28 chronic conditions, adding Heart Failure, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), and Bladder Cancer. These additions are expected to ease the financial burden on patients managing long-term illnesses while improving access to consistent treatment.

Heart failure support will include subsidies for approximately 25 medications and diagnostics, targeting an estimated 117,500 Jamaicans.





MINISTRY OF
**HEALTH &
WELLNESS**

Security Bulletin

A Publication of the Security & Transportation Unit

Importance of RFID

RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) is a wireless technology that uses radio waves to identify and track objects, animals, or people. It is designed to automatically capture data without needing a direct line of sight, making it a faster, more efficient alternative to traditional barcodes

1. Enhanced Vehicle Security

RFID-enabled keys contain a unique chip that communicates with the car's immobilizer system. Without the correct signal, the engine will not start—making it extremely difficult for thieves to hotwire or steal the vehicle.

2. Keyless Entry Convenience

RFID allows remote unlocking and push-button start, eliminating the need to insert a physical key. This improves ease of use, especially in emergencies or when carrying items.

3. Reduced Risk of Unauthorized Duplication

RFID car keys are digitally coded, unlike traditional metal keys. Duplicating them requires specialized programming equipment, reducing the chances of unauthorized copying.

4. Integration with Advanced Vehicle Systems

Modern RFID keys can store driver preferences such as seat position, mirror alignment, and climate control settings. This enhances personalization and overall driving experience.

5. Improved Theft Tracking & Control

Some RFID systems can be linked to vehicle tracking or alarm systems. If suspicious activity is detected, the system can trigger alarms, disable ignition remotely, and assist in recovery of stolen vehicles.

WORLD KIDNEY DAY 2026 PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



NHF BENEFITS LAUNCH PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Staff Spotlight

Linnees Green-Baker

#PeopleInHealth

NAME: Linnees Green-Baker

JOB TITLE/POSITION: Environmental Health Specialist, Programme Manager (Institutional Health)

DIVISION/DEPARTMENT/UNIT: Technical Services Division / HPPB / Environmental Health Unit

WHAT IS YOUR CORE FUNCTION: Providing strategic oversight for institutional health, including policy development, guiding regional and parish teams, and ensuring compliance with health and safety standards

MY VISION FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS IS: To lead with innovation, strengthen partnerships, and ensure environmental health remains central to national wellness and development

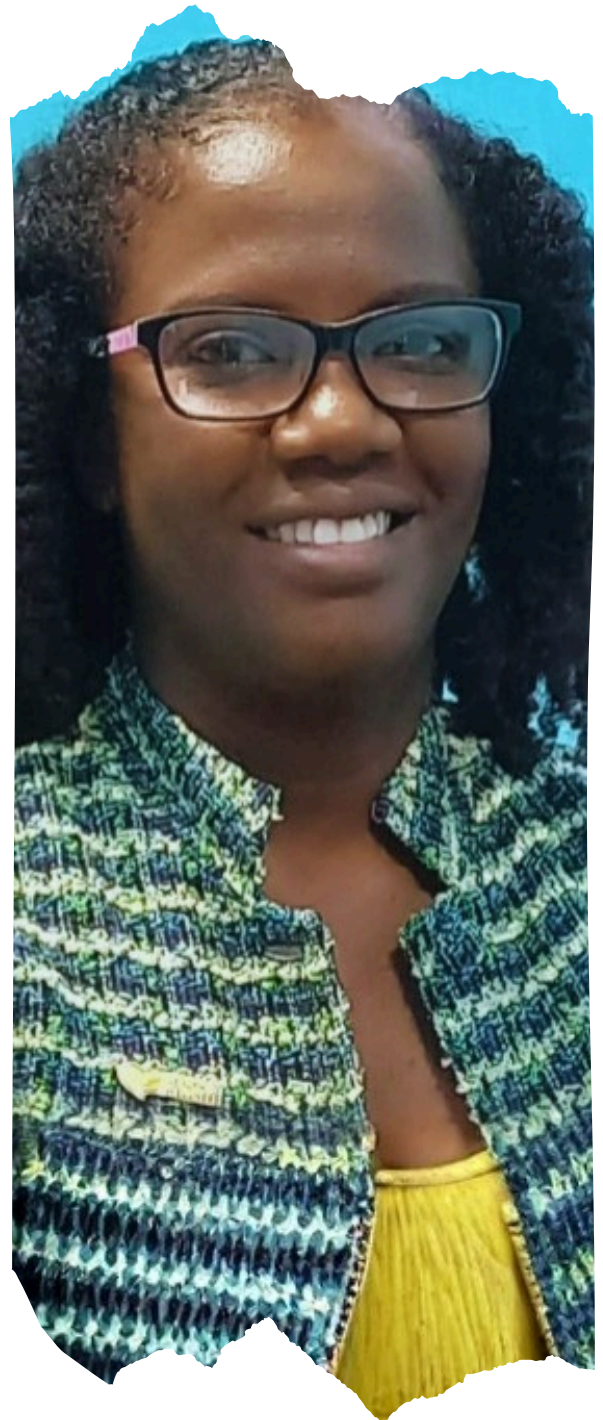
WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB: Being able to influence lives from the womb to the tomb by helping to prevent disease, protect health, and promote wellbeing and environmental stewardship

WHICH HIGH SCHOOL DID YOU ATTEND: Rusea's High School, Lucea, Hanover

FAVOURITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY: Listening to my father's storytelling, where he always had a quick and logical answer, teaching me Anancy stories, Jamaican parables, the sport of cricket, and a deep appreciation for nature, culture, and shared wisdom

FAVOURITE COLOUR: Army green

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR DREAM VACATION: Spending time in the Japanese Alps during autumn, enjoying nature in a peaceful setting away from the distractions of busy cities, surrounded by family



CREDITS:

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