Additional Bandwidth from USF for KPH, VJH and Regional Office

The Kingston Public Hospital (KPH) and the Victoria Jubilee Hospital (VJH) and the Regional Office received additional bandwidth sponsored by the Universal Service Fund (USF).

Under a three-year contract agreement that was announced on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, the USF will be making monthly payments of US$1,950 for increased bandwidth service at the institutions.

With the support bandwidth, the Regional Office will move from 10 megabytes (MB) per second to more than 100 MB per second, while service to KPH and VJH will increase from two MB per second to 60 MB per second.

The hospitals and the Regional Office’s use of information systems and the transfer of scanned images and laboratory tests have been enhanced since this development.
The Board and Management of the South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA) congratulates the cardiac team at the Bustamante Hospital for Children (BHC) and Dr. Sherard Little, Consultant Paediatric Cardiothoracic Surgeon and Head of the Cardiac Unit at the BHC for performing successful life-saving heart surgeries over the years free of cost to children who were suffering from various heart related conditions. In January 2020, the local team performed 12 cardiac surgeries and in February 2020, 11 catheterization procedures were done with the Chain of Hope UK volunteer medical team.

Dr. Sherard Little, Consultant Paediatric Cardiothoracic Surgeon and Head of the Cardiac Unit at the Bustamante Hospital for Children

Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, shares photo with Mrs. Camile-Wallen Panton, Chief Executive Officer, BHC and members of the Cardiac Mission team.
The St. Catherine Health Department hosted a town hall meeting to address the issues of Coronavirus, Dengue and other health related matters in the parish. The meeting was held at St. Helen’s Roman Catholic Church Hall in Linstead, St. Catherine on Thursday, February 20, 2020. Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, Minister of Health and Wellness, announced that approximately JA$3.5B is invested to expand the Spanish Town Hospital. He further noted that the health centre in Old Harbour will also be renovated and transformed into a Type 5 health facility at the cost of approximately $400 M. Meanwhile, Dr. Francia Prosper Chen, Medical Officer of Health, St. Catherine Health Services, reported that there are 24 suspected dengue-related deaths and 9 of the suspected cases of dengue-related deaths are in Linstead.

Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton, addresses a town hall meeting at St Helen’s Roman Catholic Church Hall in Linstead, on Thursday February 20, 2020.

Dr. Francia Prosper Chen, Medical Officer of Health, presents at the town hall meeting at St. Helen’s Roman Catholic Church Hall, Linstead.

In an effort to combat the dengue outbreak, the South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA), conducted several dengue activities across the parishes. Part of the initiative included school tours to encourage clean-up activity. Students from Calabar High School’s Science and Technology Society participated in the activity that was scheduled in February 2020.
HMHW Tours Health Centres in St. Catherine

Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, Minister of Health and Wellness, Mr. Mark Martin, Parish Manager, St. Catherine Health Services, Dr. Prosper Chen, Medical Officer of Health, St. Catherine Health Services and other SERHA officials toured several health centres in the parish of St. Catherine including Riversdale, Guys Hill, Redwood and Brown’s Hall on Thursday, February 20, 2020. The aim of the tour was to assess the needs of the health centres and to discuss plans to improve primary care services being offered to the communities. Here are the highlights:

Franklin Town Primary School has now become a part of the Jamaica Moves in Schools Programme. The Programme is a joint effort between the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the Ministry of Education, Youth and information to promote healthy lifestyles in schools. Health Promotion Officer for Kingston and St. Andrew Health Department, Mrs. Zoey Wellington, coordinated some of the activities to include nutrition presentation and exercise session during the launch that was held at the school on February 14, 2020.
Following extensive renovation to the Brown’s Hall Health Centre, which is expected to serve the growing population in the parish of St. Catherine, this Type 2 facility is now able to accommodate additional patients. The newly built facility is equipped with a self-contained flat for staff and other necessary amenities.

The project is being funded by the National Health Fund, KemTek Development and Construction Ltd and Omni Industries Ltd. The official opening of the centre will be announced at a later date.

A series of workout exercise session was held at Emancipation Park in the month of February 2020 in order to commemorate World Cancer Month. Several workplaces including SERHA benefited from free health checks and other activities. The Move it Monday Workplace Edition was hosted by Jamaica Moves, Wata and Sweet Energy Fitness. See highlights below:
Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, Minister of Health and Wellness; Mr. Wentworth Charles, Board Chairman, SERHA; Mr. Angus Gordon, Board Director, SERHA and Ms. Maureen Golding, Regional Director, SERHA participated at the Sagicor Sigma Run 2020. Staff members from the Bustamante Hospital for Children (BHC), Regional Office, St. Catherine Health Department, Kingston and St. Andrew Health Department, Spanish Town Hospital, Linstead Hospital, Kingston Public Hospital and family members also took part. Over 800 persons registered to represent Team Bustamante Hospital for Children. Here are the highlights of the event:
The St. Thomas Health Department has reported that 200 men received prostate cancer screening under the Ministry of Health and Wellness Bossman Campaign at the Morant Bay Health Centre in St. Thomas on January 30, 2020. Additionally, the men received free PSA blood testing, a general health check and prostate examination. A part of the campaign message is to encourage early detection which could increase the life expectancy of men in Jamaica by 10 to 15 years. See highlights below:
Highlights of COVID-19 Flyers

In addition to 888-ONE-LOVE (663-5683), members of the public can now contact the Ministry of Health & Wellness with COVID-19 concerns at these numbers:

888-754-7792
876-542-5999
876-542-6007
876-542-6006
876-542-5998

Persons may also email us using:
covid19@moh.gov.jm
jacovid19facts@gmail.com

Wash your hands with soap and water:
- after coughing or sneezing
- when caring for the sick
- before, during and after you prepare food
- before eating
- after using the toilet
- when hands are visibly dirty
- after handling animals or animal waste

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS FROM GETTING SICK

REDUCE YOUR RISK OF CORONAVIRUS INFECTION

Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub

Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue

Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms

Thoroughly cook meat and eggs

MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT AT THE WORKPLACE

/// COVID-19

- Keep workplaces clean and hygienic
- Avoid close contact with people
- Promote regular and thorough handwashing
- Promote good respiratory hygiene
- Advise all employees and those who are sick to stay home
- Consult national travel advice before going on a business trip
- Have a medical kit on hand equipped with alcohol wipes, tissue, flu tablets, vitamin C, and other necessary medications.
I want to hear from you!
Tell me what is happening in your facility. Call Shuwana Johnson, Public Relations Officer at (876) 816-8058.
E-mail: shuwanaj@serha.gov.jm or serhapublicrelations@gmail.com

Excerpts from the Staff Order for Public Service

6.7.2 Seniority Allowance

ii). A weekly-paid officer who holds a post to which a scalar salary is attached, and who has served at a maximum salary of the scale for a period of two (2) years or more, will be eligible to receive a seniority allowance at a rate equivalent to the highest incremental rate of his/her salary scale, subject to paragraph (iii) of this section, except where there is established evidence that he/she is not performing satisfactorily.

iii). The grant of any seniority allowance will be made only if there is no increase in the number of increments attached to the particular scale.

iv). All officers who have been granted seniority allowance will be considered for the grant of one (1) further increment if, in the absence of promotional opportunity, he/she serves three (3) more years in the same post, except where there is established evidence that he/she is not performing satisfactorily.

v). Seniority Allowances are personal to the officers who have earned them and are taken into account in the calculation of retiring benefits.

6.7.3 Duty Allowance

i). A duty allowance may be payable to officers who are required to work beyond established working hours on a regular basis.

Continuation in the next publication

Deadline for all applications is Wednesday April 1, 2020.
Interested persons are asked to submit their applications with resumes to:

Director
Human Resource Management & Industrial Relations
South East Regional Health Authority
The Towers, 2nd Floor
Kingston 5
Or
Email: employment@serha.gov.jm