Jamaica’s COVID-19 Response

Ministry of Health & Wellness
July 16, 2020
Dr. Jacqueline Bisasor-McKenzie
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER
Jamaica Overview

Largest English speaking country in the Caribbean, Area 11424km²; 14 parishes

Population 2.89 million (2018)

Ministry of Health & Wellness
Policy & Planning

* 4 Regional Health Authorities Operational arms

* 25 public hospitals, 320 Health centres

* Strong Primary Care System
Community Health Programme

Legend

- Health Regions
- Southern Public Hospitals by Type
- North Eastern
- Western
- South Eastern
- Parishes

Public Hospitals Located in Jamaica
The COVID-19 Situation NOW

- **763** Confirmed Cases
- **245** imported
- **39** local transmission (*not epidemiologically linked*)
- **236** contacts of a confirmed case
  - 42 import-related
  - 90 related to local transmission (*not epidemiologically linked*)
  - 102 related to one workplace cluster
  - 2 contact of confirmed cases under investigation
- **236** related to a workplace cluster
- **7** under investigation
- **28,959** Total Tests Performed; **2.7%** Positivity
Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Date of Confirmation and Source of Infection, March 10 to July 12, 2020

- **Imported Cases**:
  - 25 cases arrived prior to March 22, 2020
  - 8 cases arrived between March 23 and March 29, 2020
  - 1 case arrived on April 16, 2020

- **Controlled Entry Programme**:
  - 45 cases on cruise ships
  - 18 cases on flights from the UK (15 identified from a cruise ship)
  - 139 cases on flights returning from the USA
  - 8 cases on flights from Canada
  - 1 case on a flight from the Dominican Republic

### Number of Cases by Date of Confirmation

- **Imported**
- **Workplace Cluster**
- **Import Related**
- **Contact of a Confirmed Case**
- **Local Transmission (Not Epi Linked)**
- **Under Investigation**
COVID-19 Pandemic Plan

- Prevention and Containment
- Situation Monitoring Assessment
- Health System Response
- Planning and Coordination

Communication
1. Planning & Coordination

- Working Emergency Operations Centres at all levels
- Appropriately equipped
- Constant Communication
- Inter-sectoral NEOC
- COVID19 Sub Committee of Cabinet
- Parliamentary Sub Committee
2. Situation Monitoring & Assessment
Changing Surveillance Protocols in response to changing situation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surveillance Method</th>
<th>Positivity Rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact Tracing (Close Contacts)</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory Surveillance</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Hospital Surveillance</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care Worker Surveillance</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surveillance of Communities (cluster of cases)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infirmary Worker Surveillance</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point of Entry Surveillance</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Prevention and Containment

Reentry of Involuntary Return Migrants
- April 20
  - Mandatory State Quarantine & Rapid Isolation

Reentry of Cruise Ship Workers
- June 1
  - Test All Arrivals
    - HOME QUARANTINE
    - HOME ISOLATION
    - GEO FENCING

Controlled Reentry of Citizens
- June 15
  - Test All Arrivals
    - HOME QUARANTINE
    - HOME ISOLATION
    - GEO FENCING

Entry of Tourists & Business Travellers
- July 1
  - Test Flights from High Risk areas
    - HOME QUARANTINE
    - HOME ISOLATION
    - GEO FENCING

Entry To All Travellers
- July 15
  - Pretest Required
    - HOME MONITORING
    - APP
4. Health System Response

.........Educate, Detect, Contain, Cauterize, Monitor.........................
COMMUNICATION

From very early, Jamaica’s approach has been grounded in increased public awareness

- **January 20** Internal Sensitization Meetings
- **January 20** First Press Release & start of Public Sensitization programme

**Health Education**
HCW
General Population

**INCREASE Sensitization & Awareness**

**Personal Responsibility**
“Everyone Counts”

**Behavior Change**

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**PRESS RELEASE**
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Attention: All News Editors

721 interviewed, 137 sampled in West Kingston surveillance

KINGSTON, Jamaica Sunday, June 28, 2020

SOME 721 persons have been interviewed and 137 samples collected and sent to the National Public Health Laboratory for testing, as part of COVID-19 surveillance activities conducted in West Kingston last week.

The surveillance activities were conducted last Thursday and Friday following the recent confirmation of five COVID-19 cases in the community. More than 100 team members, including medical doctors, public health inspectors and public health nurses, were engaged in the effort.

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**Dr. Chris Tufton** @christufton · 12h
EVERYONE has a part to play - with the efforts of our hard working healthcare workers across the island and cooperation of every Jamaican, we can beat COVID-19.

**END.**
Capacity Building

– Flattening curve to build capacity
– Keep the number of cases below the capacity of health system to respond
– Less than 10% use of COVID Beds
– Less than 5% use of HDU/ICU Beds
– We have been successful so far
This is the end