



Statement of the Minister of Health and Wellness
Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, MP
Virtual COVID-19 Presser: April 22, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
Ministry of Health & Wellness, New Kingston

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of the press, colleague minister, Hon. Fayal Williams, Minister of Science Energy & Technology; Mr. Daniel Dawes, Chief Executive Officer, USF stakeholders all, members of the public.

CASE NUMBERS

- The number of confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (**COVID-19**) cases has risen to **252** in the last 24 hours.
- Included in those numbers are **19 new cases**.
- 9 of which, we have just received and information on those will be provided tomorrow.
- **Of the remaining 10**, 2 are males and 8 are females, with ages ranging from 20 years to 50 years.
- Seven (7) are associated with the workplace cluster
- Two (2) cases are contacts of confirmed cases
- One (1) is under investigation



- There are now 131 confirmed COVID-19 cases related to the workplace cluster.
- Their ages range from 18 to 52 years, including 104 females and 27 males.
- They are primarily from the parishes of St Catherine and Kingston and St. Andrew.

CASE CLASSIFICATIONS

There are now:

- **34** imported cases;
- **53** contacts of a confirmed case.
- **8** that are local transmission with no epidemiological link;
- **148** that are under investigation. Of that 148, **131** have been identified within a workplace cluster.

TESTING

- Yesterday, we commissioned the COBAS 6800 machine. Training of staff has also been completed and the facility is now able to complement the work done at the National Influenza Centre with the capacity to test approximately 380 samples per eight hour day.



So far, **2,125** samples have been tested:

- **252** are positive;
- **1,872** are negative; and **1** is pending.

ISOLATION, QUARANTINE & RECOVERIES

- There are 230 persons in isolation.
- 71 in quarantine in a Government facility.
- 814 in Home Quarantine in St. Catherine (related to a workplace cluster)
- 31 in Home Quarantine in Portland [Contacts of confirmed cases]
- 28 persons have recovered
- Six persons have died.

Contact Tracing

- The health departments across the island are currently tracing approximately 1,409 close contacts of the confirmed cases.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS

- We continue to be concerned with the staff members at the Ministry of Health & Wellness.
- Sanitization exercise has been completed in all buildings.
- Counselling for staff members has begun and will continue as necessary.
- Contact tracing at the head office has commenced and some members of staff,
- Today, over 100 additional samples, were collected from staff members. This sampling exercise will continue tomorrow.
- We are in the process of developing and circulating to our key stakeholders, a Staff Welfare Protocol that speaks to the care of team members, including those on the frontline, who may be vulnerable to COVID-19.



PUBLIC APPEAL

Members of the public are reminded to reduce their risk of COVID-19 by:

- Staying at home.
- Avoiding crowds.
- Frequently washing and sanitising hands.

Jamaicans are also encouraged to cover their mouths and noses if sick or when out in public.

CONCLUSION

- Ladies and gentlemen, if we are to be **#BeatCOVID-19**, it is now more important than ever to **#TanAhYuhYaad** and **KipYuhDistance**.
 - I know the situation may appear overwhelming, but together we are equal to the task. Together we can and **WILL** overcome this COVID-19 challenge.
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