**COVID-19 Update**

**Speaking Notes for Minister of Health & Wellness**

**Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton**

**Banquet Hall, Jamaica House, Kingston, Jamaica**

**Monday, March 17, 2020 at 5:00 PM**

Ladies and gentlemen of the press,

Good afternoon.

Thank you for joining us for this our latest update on Jamaica’s National Response Efforts toCOVID-19.

**STATUS REPORT**

* 413 persons have come into the island from a country of interest since January 31.
* There are now 13 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Jamaica.
* 27 persons are in quarantine in a Government facility.
* 52 are in home quarantine. Note that these home quarantine numbers do not include the residents of 7 & 8 Miles Bull Bay.
* 26 persons are in isolation in Government facilities.

Effective this **Wednesday, March 18 (2020)** all operations will be scaled down for seven (7) days.

* All public gatherings are limited to no more than 20 persons.

**PUBLIC SECTOR**

* Government workers will have their duties confined to the workplace with the exception of those in the essential services.
* Working from home is encouraged.
* The details are to be settled with permanent secretaries and heads of agencies.

**PRIVATE SECTOR**

* Private businesses are encouraged to minimise public engagement.
* Where possible, employers should have staff work from home.

**REMAIN OPEN:**

* Retail services for the provision of food, medicine and other necessities of life: supermarkets, pharmacies and markets.
* Restaurants remain open, but no dining in; take out is encouraged
* Markets should only operate from 6 a.m. – 2 p.m.
* Hospitals, Infirmaries and Nursing Homes
* Ministries, Agencies and Departments of Government
* Tax Administration Jamaica, Bank of Jamaica, Jamaica Customs Agency
* Banking Business – as defined by the Banking Services Act
* Services related to loading and unloading of ships
* Services related to oil-refinery – distribution, loading, transportation

**CLOSURE**

* Bars, night clubs, and places of amusement are to be closed.
* Places of amusement include: cinema, dance hall, club, open air dance venue, amusement arcade, skate rink, roller disco

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

* Public transport services [including JUTC and Montego Bay Metro] are limited to seated passengers only.
* Taxis are required to transport one less passenger.

**HOSPITAL/NURSING HOME/INFIRMARY VISITS**

* Hospital, Nursing Home and Infirmaries visits are now reduced to once per day and to one visitor per patient.

CLINIC/ HOSPITAL OPERATIONS

* Outpatient clinics in hospitals are to be scaled down.
* Main Services offered at Type 1 and Type 2 facilities are suspended.