

Stricter COVID-19 Measures Coming - PM

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness has warned that stricter measures to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) are coming, following an increase in the number of cases.

He made the announcement during a digital press briefing held on August 6 at the Office of the Prime Minister Media Centre in Kingston.

Mr. Holness said the Covid-19 sub committee convened a meeting on Independence Day consequent on the recent uptick in cases, which has been a cause for concern, and flouting of the safeguards and protocols by persons in different areas. The committee has



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness

decided to institute stricter measures for churches, funerals, the entertainment sector, and beaches, details of which he said will be announced shortly.

"I've always said that if the situation warrants it, then

we will have to extend existing measures or implement new restrictive measures. We have spent a lot of time and effort and resources on moral suasion, asking you the citizens, appealing to your good conscience and your reasonableness, to observe the protocols. With what is happening now, I think we are at the limit in moral suasion," the Prime Minister said.

He added that the Government is now moving into a different phase of the management of the pandemic that is strict enforcement, "because it is now clear to us that, despite our best efforts and despite the best efforts of the majority of Jamaicans, as my grandmother said to me when I was a child, 'If you [can't] hear, you will feel'."

Full Resumption for Hundreds of Schools in September

ACTING CHIEF Education Officer in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, Dr. Kasan Troupe, says 569 schools will resume full operations when the 2020/21 academic year commences in September.



Acting Chief Education Officer in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, Dr. Kasan Troupe

information virtual town hall on August 4.

Dr. Troupe noted that other institutions will be implementing a blended learning approach where educators would use face-to-face engagements among other methods and forging stakeholder partnerships aimed at adequately facilitating physical-distancing protocols for students when the new academic year gets under way, in keeping with COVID-19 safeguards being emphasised by the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

"Some of these schools will establish temporary learning spaces, to include tents, rental agreements with nearby institutions, such as churches or places that have conference halls," she outlined.

Also, an additional 303 primary and secondary schools will resume operations under the rotation model.

"This means that some days, students will operate in the virtual space from home, while others are at school. Because of the limitations of the physical infrastructure, some schools have opted to operate in this way," Dr. Troupe said.

Additionally, the extended day model is part of the blended approach being explored by several institutions.

USF Opens Two New Community Access Points in St. Mary

HUNDREDS OF residents in Oracabessa and Three Hills in Tower Isle, Western St. Mary, are now benefitting from internet and other related services, which are being provided at two community access points (CAP) that have been established in those areas.

The facilities, the Spicy Grove Youth Centre CAP in Oracabessa, and the Three Hills Resource Centre, were officially commissioned into service on August 5 by Science, Energy and Technology Minister, Hon. Fayval Williams, and Transport and Mining Minister and Member of Parliament, Hon. Robert Montague.

Minister Williams said the opening of the facilities is timely, as preparations for the start of the 2020/21 academic year in September have heightened, while noting that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

pandemic has resulted in the introduction of alternative teaching methods to the traditional classroom setting.

"Many teachers and schools are using online platforms for the delivery of content to their students. The internet, therefore, has become even more essential to our lives," the Minister said while speaking at the Spicy Grove Youth Centre CAP opening.

Mrs. Williams, in urging the residents to make the best of the facilities, which were financed by the Universal Service Fund (USF) facilities, said online platforms are tools to maintain businesses and assist in educational pursuits.

These, she noted, "are fundamental to boosting the socio-economic possibilities and prospects for students and citizens, alike".



Science, Energy and Technology Minister, Hon. Fayval Williams (2nd right), and student of Oracabessa Primary School in St. Mary, Treshawn Byfield (2nd left), view a display on one of the computers at the newly opened Spicy Grove Youth Centre Community Access Point in the parish, on August 5. Others (from left) are: President of the Centre, Reverend Harry Myers; and Universal Service Fund (USF) Chief Executive Officer, Daniel Dawes.

Jamaicans Celebrate Independence 58



Jamaican Reggae entertainer, Orville Burrell (centre), expresses gratitude after being awarded a Reggae Icon Award at the 2020 Independence Day celebrations held inside the National Arena, on August 6. Sharing the moment are: Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange (left), and President of the Senate, Senator the Hon. Tom Tavares-Finson.

Tavares-Finson, presented the awards to the recipients.

Immediately after accepting her award, Ms. Griffiths said: "To God be the glory. Thank you Jamaica for the love and support over the years," which was followed by the fitting performance of her song, 'I Shall Sing'.

Meanwhile, Shaggy thanked the people of Jamaica. "We are celebrating for culture... The other two

"I want to thank the entire world; the people that supported us over the years. Thank you very much," was the response from Mr. Boothe.

recipients, who are stalwarts, I'm honoured and I'm in good company," he said.

In addition to the awards, Jamaicans were treated with live performances by Kukudoo, Kemar Highcon, Dre Island, Richie Stephens, Tessanne Chin, Chris Martin, and Kevin Downswell.

Brown's Town Market to be Rehabilitated



Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie, engages with vendor Kemeisha Lynch, during a tour of the Brown's Town Market in St. Ann on August 4.

provision and the haberdashery market. I am really

not satisfied with what I have seen, and there is no excuse

for the condition that the vendors are operating under," Minister McKenzie said.

"We are about getting things done... and I have made a decision, which the technical team in the Ministry will now fine-tune with all the necessary documentation, so that the work can commence as quickly as possible," he added.

Mr. McKenzie said he expects that all the proper procedures will be followed and that the work will be carried out in a proper and orderly fashion. He indicated that he will return to assess the finished renovations.

Specialised Operations Branch of the JCF Officially Opens



Minister of National Security, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang (2nd right), cuts the ribbon symbolising the official opening of the Specialised Operations Branch of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), located at Harman Barracks in St. Andrew, on August 4. Sharing the moment (from left) are Battalion Commander, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Warren Clarke; Commissioner of Police, Major General Antony Anderson; and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Dianne McIntosh.