

Prime Minister Appeals to Unvaccinated Persons

WITH THE country in the early stages of a third wave of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness is again appealing for Jamaicans to take the vaccine once it becomes available to them.

He warned that the country's unvaccinated population "could become the foundation on which the third wave [is] carried".

"Therefore, I think every single Jamaican, when the opportunity comes, when your time comes, you should do what is in your best interest, what is in your parents' and grandparents' best interest, and what is in the interest of the country, in the interest of your children to return to school. Take the vaccine," he implored.

He noted that even if persons who have been vaccinated contract COVID-19



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness addresses a virtual press conference on July 26.

they will not suffer the worst effects of the virus.

"We tried to give a little relief, but this pandemic, this virus is serious and I can only appeal to the good sense and reason of the people of Jamaica," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Holness announced an adjustment in the curfew hours, as well as other COVID-19 containment measures.

The new curfew hours are from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. on weekdays and Saturdays.

On Sundays and the upcoming public holidays – Emancipation Day, which will be observed on Monday, August 2 and Independence Day on Friday, August 6 – the curfew time will be 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

Education Ministry Preparing for Face-to-Face and Online Learning September

EDUCATION, YOUTH and Information Minister, Hon. Fayval Williams, says the Ministry is preparing to employ both face-to-face and online learning modalities when the new academic year begins in September.

"Back to school is going to be dependent on where we are in the pandemic. We are guided by the Ministry of Health and Wellness, but what we are doing is we are planning for different scenarios," she said.

Minister Williams was addressing a virtual roundtable discussion organised by the Ministry and the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ) on July 28.

She informed that as part of the preparations, inspection and repair of school plants are being undertaken. Internet service will be provided for schools without connectivity.

"On September morning, if it is face-to-face, we will be ready in terms of the physical infrastructure and connectivity in our schools as well. Another scenario could be the online or virtual world, so we have to be



Education, Youth and Information Minister, Hon. Fayval Williams

prepared for that as well. So, the plan is to have all our schools with connectivity," she said.

The connection of 196 public schools to the existing islandwide broadband network to enable access to high-speed Internet is expected to be completed in the new school term.

The works will be carried out under the first phase of the overall US\$237 million National Broadband Initiative, which aims to have every household and every community connected to the Internet by 2025.

\$8B Facility to Replace Tower Street Adult Correctional Centre

LANDS HAVE been identified for construction of a new state-of-the-art correctional facility to replace the Tower Street Adult Correctional Centre located in Kingston. The new structure is expected to cost at least \$8 billion.

This was revealed by Minister of National Security and Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, in an interview with **JIS News** following the orientation session for members of the Board of Visitors and Parole Board, at the Jamaica Conference Centre in downtown Kingston on July 28.

"Tower Street is to be replaced. We are going to build a new prison. It's an expensive programme, ... we had to slow down a bit [due to] the economic realities, but it is not suitable for occupation in the long run," he said.

Dr. Chang stated that the decision has been taken to



Minister of National Security and Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang (right), in discussion with Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of National Security, Senator the Hon. Matthew Samuda (centre), and Commissioner of Corrections, Lt. Col (Ret'd) Gary Rowe, during the orientation session for members of the Board of Visitors and the Parole Board at the Jamaica Conference Centre in downtown Kingston on July 28.

relocate the facility, as it is in need of "major reworking".

"Tower Street was ... a slave trade post, it was never designed for regular occupation," he said. In 1845, the British

colonial government commissioned the facility into a prison.

Dr. Chang noted that while the discussions are at the early stages regarding con-

struction, the new modern facility "will be a properly designed prison that will be secure and meet the standards required for occupancy in all areas".

Repairs to Roads, Drains and Bridges in St. Ann

THE MINISTRY of Economic Growth and Job Creation will be undertaking repairs to road infrastructure in St. Ann at an estimated cost of more than \$400 million.



Portfolio Minister in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Everal Warmington

Over \$200 million will be spent to carry out works on several roads, drains, and bridges, with priority attention to be given to roadways such as Hampstead to Mount Ararat, Priors to Bamboo, Cardiff Hall to Tripoli and Islington to Bengal.

Portfolio Minister, Hon. Everal Warmington, who

toured sections of the parish on July 27, informed that \$45 million has been approved to commence long-standing rehabilitation work on roads in the Lewis community.

He also shared that \$25 million will be allocated to carry out "urgent" river training work at Sleepy Hollow near Bamboo, while \$8 million has been earmarked to effect repairs to drains in sections of Bamboo.

In addition, Mr. Warmington informed that funding will be procured to fix the Red Carpet Bridge in Dumbarton and the Discovery Bay Bridge that have been undermined.

"These are two other items that we will have to look at very urgently to ensure that the problems we have there are corrected, and the citizens of the constituency are protected," he said.

Meanwhile, he said that infrastructure works will be undertaken on the Runaway Bay to Brown's Town thoroughfare, which is estimated to cost \$225 million.

Governor-General Awards Outstanding Achievers



Governor-General His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen (left) presents a trophy to Krisan Chantae Ennis, from the county of Middlesex at the Governor-General's Achievement Awards 30th Anniversary Presentation Ceremony held at King's House on July 29. She was one of three special award recipients who were recognised for their efforts in community service.

Network of Cameras Under JamaicaEye Being Expanded

THE MINISTRY of National Security is steadily increasing the network of cameras that are a part of the country's national closed-circuit television (CCTV) surveillance programme, dubbed 'JamaicaEye'.

The public-private partnership, launched in 2018, is designed to network CCTVs owned by the Ministry as well as accommodate

feed from privately owned cameras.

The number of cameras has grown from 180 to 840

Right across the island where the cameras have been installed, members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) are leveraging the cameras to assist their

investigations of crime and maintaining public order.

The feeds provide useful footage in relation to criminal activity and other emergencies and are monitored by a team of security professionals.

Senior Director in the Major Technology Transformation Branch at the Ministry of National Security, Arvel Grant, told **JIS News** that the number of cameras



Senior Director, Major Technology Transformation Branch at the Ministry of National Security, Arvel Grant

has grown from 180 to 840 currently.

He noted that CCTVs were recently installed at strategic locations in Santa Cruz and Black River in St. Elizabeth, and they will be brought fully online by the end of July.

Mr. Grant said that expansion continues through both Government-owned cameras and private partnership.

He noted that the participation of and partnership with private citizens who share footage from their cameras free of cost is integral to the success of the programme.

Jamaicans interested in connecting to JamaicaEye can register online at <https://jamaicaeye.gov.jm/>.

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