

PM Holness Announces No Movement Days

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness has announced seven no movement days in a bid to curb the latest surge in coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Jamaica.

The no movement days which started on Sunday August 22, continues on Monday, August 23; Tuesday, August 24; Sunday, August 29; Monday, August 30; Tuesday, August 31; and Sunday, September 5.

Tightening of the curfews, which form part of the Government's infection prevention and control measures, is also aimed at reducing hospitalisations and deaths.

The new measures come as the more transmissible Delta variant of the virus was confirmed to be present in Jamaica.

Prime Minister Holness made the announcement during a virtual press conference on August 19.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness addressing a virtual press conference on August 19.

The curfew on Wednesdays to Fridays will be 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. on Saturdays following the no movement days.

The Prime Minister said as part of efforts to also allow persons to prepare for the three-day lockdowns, workplaces and businesses will be

asked to close at midday on Friday, August 27.

Mr. Holness informed that workplaces or businesses not required to close at midday on those days are the courts; establishments providing security, finance, transportation, and health services; the National Water Commission; Jamaica Public Service Company; gas stations; public works and sanitation entities; fire stations; supermarkets, wholesales, and stores; restaurants and corner shops, among others.

No Funeral Services From August 25 to September 7

NO FUNERAL services will be allowed during the period August 25 to September 7, as the Government moves to contain the current spike in COVID-19 cases.

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness made the announcement during a digital press conference on August 19, where he outlined new COVID-19 containment measures.

Mr. Holness said, however, that burials will be allowed during the same period with a maximum of 15 persons at the burial site including mourners, officiating clergy, grave diggers and undertakers.

Burials will only be allowed Mondays to Fridays between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. for 30 minutes. However, no burials will be allowed on no movement days.

On Sunday, August 29 and Sunday, September 5, places of worship will be allowed to have 20 persons physically present in the building in order to allow for

the transmission of online services.

Mr. Holness pointed out that no crusades, conferences and conventions will be permitted during this period.

“No physical attendance at any event hosted by the Government will be permitted and this will start on Wednesday.”

For weddings, he said no more than 20 people will be permitted to physically attend. “Persons physically attending annual or extraordinary general meetings will be restricted to 20 persons.

No physical attendance at any event hosted by the Government will be permitted and this will start on Wednesday,” he said.

Meanwhile, the general public gathering limit remains at 10 and the existing work-from-home directive in the public sector is being extended until September 7.

Jamaica Receives Over 200,000 Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccines

JAMAICA HAS received the first tranche of the Pfizer vaccines, donated by the United States (US) Government.

The vaccines, which arrived at the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston, on August 19, will strengthen the national effort to contain the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

They have been earmarked by the Government to prioritise the vaccination of children, 12 years and older, with parental consent.

This initial shipment comprises 208,260 doses, augmented by kits that include syringes, needles and diluents

needed to administer the vaccines.

The tranche is the first of multiple shipments slated to arrive from the US in the coming weeks and months.

Over 600,000 doses of Pfizer vaccines are being donated by the US Government to Jamaica.

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness and Chargé d’Affaires at the United States Embassy in Jamaica, Scott Feeken, headed officials who were on hand to receive the vaccines.

Mr. Holness expressed gratitude to US President,

Joseph Biden, and Vice President, Kamala Harris, for the donation.

“These vaccines will be used primarily to target our youth population, to enable them to go back to school,” he stated.

Mr. Holness, again, encouraged all Jamaicans to take the vaccines, adding that the Government will not consider mandatory vaccinations at this time.

For his part, Mr. Feeken said the Pfizer vaccine has been proven safe and effective against COVID-19 and all known variants.

Zero Tolerance to COVID-19 Breaches in Tourism Sector

MINISTER OF Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, says there will be a zero-tolerance approach to COVID-19 breaches within the tourism sector.

Mr. Bartlett, who was in Ocho Rios on August 16, to greet the arrival of the 3,100 passengers and crew of the Carnival Sunrise cruise vessel, said the police and other state agencies will remain vigilant in providing oversight.

“We are all pleased that cruise shipping has returned to Jamaica. We welcome this resumption as we know that thousands of Jamaicans depend on the cruise shipping industry for their livelihood, and it will have a positive impact on our economy in general,” he noted.

“I want to, however, inform the public that all cruise calls are being managed in accordance with strict health and safety COVID-19 protocols which are guided by global standards and best practices to



Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett (right), receives from Captain Isidoro Renda, a miniature version of the Carnival Sunrise cruise ship, which docked in Ocho Rios on August 16.

ensure the safety and protection of our citizens as well as visitors,” he added.

The Minister further noted that all cruise vessels are being managed in alignment with the Conditional Sailing Order for Simulated and Restricted Voyages, promulgated by the US

Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

He said the phased return of the ships “marks a significant milestone in recovery efforts and the resumption of cruise operations, which were suspended in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.”



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right) in discussion with Chargé d’Affaires at the United States Embassy in Jamaica, Scott Feeken (2nd right), as they view the container bearing 208,260 doses of Pfizer coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines, which arrived at the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston on August 19. Others from left are: Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, and Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Fayval Williams.

48 Beds Donated For COVID-19 Wards



Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (right), examining one of 48 beds that were donated by the government of Canada, during the handover ceremony which was held at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Kingston on August 19. He was joined by the Canadian High Commissioner to Jamaica, Her Excellency Emina Tudakovic.

PICA Opens Document Forensic Laboratory

THE PASSPORT, Immigration & Citizenship Agency (PICA) on August 19, officially opened its document forensic laboratory.

With approximately \$20 million funding support from the UK Government, the facility is expected to boost the capabilities of the agency in detecting forged documents and in its fight against organised crime and international criminal activities.

Speaking at the official opening of the lab located at 21 West Kings House Road, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of National Security, Senator the Hon. Matthew Samuda, said the Government remains resolute in improving border security. He said the investment will assist in boosting the integrity of PICA’s system.



Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of National Security, Senator the Hon. Matthew Samuda (right), and British High Commissioner to Jamaica, His Excellency Asif Ahmad (centre), listen as Manager, Security and Safety, Passport, Immigration & Citizenship Agency, Miguel Cordwell, explains the features of the VSC80 machine during the official opening of the agency’s document forensic laboratory at 21 West Kings House Road in St. Andrew on August 19.

“This sort of investment moves us into the 21st century.

It moves us into being able to say to our partners, to

businesses locally who have to use passports to verify identity, that they can trust the systems that we have in place, now that trust is particularly important as we seek to become a digitised society, as we seek to grow our country in the 21st century,” he said.

He thanked the British Government for the investment. “We look forward to the benefits that we know will accrue from this investment,” he said.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PICA, Andrew Wynter, said the lab will improve PICA’s decision-making process and the agency’s overall efficiency and intelligence gathering capabilities.

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