

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 8 July 2024, all hospitals were functioning with 19 offering full services and 5 emergency services only.
- Normal services are being provided by all public Primary Care Facilities (Health Centres) except those in St. Elizabeth and 5 in the North-East Region (parishes of Portland, St. Mary and St. Ann), including 2 of which remain inaccessible.
- 22 of 24 (92%) hospitals were supplied with electricity from the national grid, and 2 (Black River Hospital, St. Elizabeth (Southern Region) and Port Antonio Hospital, Portland (North-East Region) are still utilizing generators; all Health Centres in the Southern Region are still supplied by generators.
- Staff welfare is a priority of the MOHW. 101 staff members in the Southern Region were affected by the hurricane and support is being provided by MOHW and partners.
- Assessments of damage and needs are continuing.

IN NUMBERS

2.8m

Potentially exposed¹

03 Deaths²

68 Injured³

00 Missing⁴

00 Evacuated⁵

82 Health facilities with major damage

1: Statistical Institute of Jamaica data

2,3,4,5: Assessments are still ongoing and what is reported is based on preliminary information.

6: Ministry of Health and Wellness report (9 July 2024)



Figure: Map of Jamaica with Parishes and Capitals



HEALTH

SERVICE DELIVERY – 8 July 2024

- As of July 8, 2024, normal services are being provided by all public Primary Care Facilities (Health Centers) except those in St. Elizabeth.
- Only partial services are being offered from the following health centers: Southern Region – all health centers; North-East Region - 3 Health Centres, with 2 additional health centers remaining inaccessible.
- In-patient bed occupancy ranges from 33% to 122.4%. Staffing levels have increased and are between 81-100% at health care facilities.

Pharmacy Services

- All hospital pharmacies are functioning at normal levels. Those in Primary Care are operational once the health center is functioning at normal levels, except for 3 where the lack of electricity has affected the ICT support to these pharmacies.

SURVEILLANCE

- No changes were noted in the MOHW HEOC surveillance report for 8 July 2024. No additional outbreaks were recorded up to 8 July 2024.
- Challenges were experienced with obtaining surveillance data from the field, due to limited internet and telephone connectivity.



HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT

- Due to the on-going outbreak of dengue and increased 7-day positivity rate for COVID-19 at 1 July 2024 (24.5%), there is a very high risk of heightened transmission of these diseases and other respiratory and vector -borne diseases.
- The lack of running water and pooling of water will also increase the risk of water-borne outbreaks.
- The lack of electricity and running water also exacerbates the risk of food-borne outbreaks.
- Limited telephone services and internet connectivity continues to hinder the timeliness of alerts and reports.



INFRASTRUCTURE

- The MOHW continues assessments islandwide to determine the total number of health facilities with damage (major, medium and minor). Updated information is awaited.
- The preliminary estimate for repairs of all health facility damage is JMD 1.9B (USD 1.2M).



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Food Safety: Inspections continue with closures as necessary. Seizures and condemnation of food and drink items not suitable for human consumption have been carried out.
- Vector Control: Interventions continue with the emphasis on reduction of breeding sites and larvicidal and adulticidal activities for mosquitoes.

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Heightened RCCE activities are underway with a focus on maximizing The all-media program continues to be implemented.
- Public Health teams are engaging communities and partners during their field visits on priority aspects for health.



SHELTERS

- As at 8 July 2024, there were 12 shelters open with a total of 384 occupants, including patients from the infirmary.



HEALTH NEEDS

Immediate needs

- Urgent repairs to damaged health facilities - mainly for roofing, windows and doors.
- Provision of generators for service delivery and maintaining the cold chain.
- Repairs and replacement of damaged equipment
- Items for improving operational capacity of sub-national HEOCs-20 laptops, printers, scanners, etc
- Emergency care equipment and other items for patient care and transportation – field hospital and equipment, jump kits for field response teams
- Enhancement of cold chain – vaccine refrigerators (66)
(See MOHW Needs List-8 July 2024)



RESPONSE

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE:

- The Minister of Information is responsible for coordination of relief efforts.
- The National Emergency Operations Center remains activated at Level 2 since 6 July 2024.
- The MOHW HEOC remains activated at national and sub-national levels to coordinate the health response and early recovery.
- Dialogue on humanitarian assistance is on-going with partners to determine pledges and reduce overlap.
- Damage assessment continues for all sectors to determine and prioritize needs.

PAHO RESPONSE:

- PAHO JAM EOC and Incident Management Team remain activated since 1 July 2024
- Provision of technical guidance to the MOHW Executive and HEOC on all matters for health..
- Implementation of activities within projects that will support the MOHW response.
- Involvement with UN Country Team and UN Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) to develop/ update roles and responsibilities of each agency for response and recovery
- Co-Lead the health aspect of UNETT to ensure priorities for health are identified and provision of humanitarian assistance is streamlined for the health sector.
- Submission of PAHO areas of support for the emergency response to Hurricane Beryl to UN RCO.
- Re-assignment of one epidemiologist from IHM, PHE to support the PAHO JAM CO.
- Engagement with partners for resource mobilization.

COORDINATION

- PAHO is supporting the MOHW with coordination of international partners offering humanitarian assistance and EMTs.
- PAHO is represented at UN meetings, including UNETT, with the next meeting scheduled for 9 July 2024.
- PAHO will participate in the UN meeting with International Development Partners on areas of support, on 9 July 2024. PAHO is the lead for Health.
- PAHO is in attendance at the Caribbean Development Partner Group – Disaster Management meetings, with the last one held on 7 July 2024.

