

Situation Report #5 - 8-July-2024

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 7 July 2024, all hospitals were functioning with 13 offering full services and 11 emergency services only.
- The Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) and Regional Health Authorities plan to resume full services at all health facilities on Monday, 8 July 2024. There may be partial services at 6 of 24 hospitals and 19 health centers.
- Environmental health services (focusing on water quality, food safety, vector control) have been ramped up to prevent disease outbreaks.
- Risk Communication and Community Engagement activities have been tailored to the situation post-Hurricane Beryl and staff have been briefed on their role and provided with materials.
- Mental health and psychosocial support services are being implemented led by the MOHW with technical guidance by PAHO.
- The Government of Jamaica has designated the Minister of Information to coordinate relief efforts.

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 (6 July 2024)



HEALTH

SERVICE DELIVERY – 7 July 2024

- Elective surgery lists remain postponed islandwide since the hurricane, with only emergency surgeries being offered.
- The total patient count across the island was 3,173 or approximately 64% of capacity for 7 July 2024. Savanna La Mar General and May Pen Hospitals remained above capacity at 120% and 113%, respectively.
- The MOHW and Regional Health Authorities have planned to resume full service at all health facilities on Monday, 8 July 2024 and there may be partial services at 6 of 24 hospitals and 19 health centres.

Pharmacy Services

- All hospital pharmacies are functioning at normal levels.

Imaging Services

- There has been no change in these services, with sixteen (16) of the eighteen imaging facilities providing services.

Laboratory Services

- All laboratory services are operational, except for testing for tuberculosis. Urgent samples will be tested in Florida, USA.
- The National Blood Transfusion Service has a sufficient supply of blood and blood products distributed at hospitals across the island. Collections will take place daily.

SURVEILLANCE

- Surveillance data provided by the MOHW-NEOC and from multiple sources indicate recent increases in respiratory illnesses up to 01 July 2024, including an increase in SARS-CoV-2 positivity to levels indicating very high transmission and displacing Influenza A as the predominant circulating respiratory virus. SARI cases exceeded the epidemic threshold in the week ending 22 June 2024. Dengue cases, however, were noted to be declining. No additional outbreaks were reported up to 7 July 2024. (See Appendix 1 for details.)



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

- 82 health facilities have suffered major damage.
- At least 10 hospitals are included in the 34 facilities with major roof damage.
- Damage assessment continues islandwide to determine the total number of health facilities with damage (major, medium and minor).
- The preliminary estimate for repairs of all health facility damage is JMD 1.9B (USD 1.2M).



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Food Safety: Approximately 700 food establishments were reported to have been inspected. Approximately 150 (21%) were found to be unsatisfactory and ordered closed. The primary challenge was



lack of potable water.

- Water Quality: Inspections are ongoing across the island. No water quality issues have been identified.
- Vector Control: Interventions have commenced. The MOHW is distributing insecticide to households across the island, and has approved the packaging and distribution of larvicides. At the parish level (health and related stakeholders), assessments are being done to ascertain where flooding has taken place and stock levels of chemicals and equipment are being determined.

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 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.
- Social Media Cards were posted and circulated on Tips about going outside after hurricane, dengue prevention, Preventing Injuries, Appointments at health care facilities and medication, Mental Health, Safety tips for the Use of Generators (Carbon Monoxide poisoning), Food Safety Tips and Water Safety Tips



SHELTERS

- As at 7 July 2024, there are 30 open shelters with a total of 245 occupants across the island.



HEALTH NEEDS

Immediate needs

- The MOHW submitted an additional Needs List with items to support sub-national HEOCs (laptops, printers, telephones), emergency response teams and replacement equipment for operating theatres.
- Urgent repairs to damaged health facilities - mainly for roofing, windows and doors.
- Provision of generators for service delivery and maintaining cold chain.



RESPONSE

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE:

- The Minister of Information is responsible to coordinate 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.

PAHO RESPONSE:

- PAHO JAM EOC and Incident Management Team remain activated since 1 July 2024
- PAHO provides technical guidance to the MOHW HEOC.
- One epidemiologist has been re-assigned from IHM to support the PAHO JAM CO, since .
- PAHO is facilitating the implementation of activities within projects that can support the MOHW response.
- The areas of support provided by PAHO for the emergency response to Hurricane Beryl were shared with the UN RCO.

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.

