

Situation Report #7 - 10-July-2024

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 9 July 2024, all hospitals remained functional with 19 offering full services and 5 emergency services only.
- There are 108 DrugServ pharmacies operated by the National Health Fund (NHF) islandwide. All hospital pharmacies are operating normally; pharmacies in primary care facilities are open, once the health centre is operational.
- While the detailed report of infrastructural damages to the health facilities is still being compiled for all Health Regions, the total estimated cost to repair the damages is approximately JMD 1.9 billion (USD 1.2 million).



Figure: Map of Jamaica with Parishes and Capitals

IN NUMBERS

2.8m

Potentially exposed¹

04 Deaths²

68 Injured³

00 Missing⁴

00 Evacuated⁵

82 Health facilities with major damage⁶

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 (10 July 2024)



HEALTH

SERVICE DELIVERY – 9 July 2024

- The majority of health centers across all Regions were reported to be fully functional on 9 July 2024, while the Southern Region reported that most health centers in St. Elizabeth are functioning at partial level.
- The main challenges to service delivery are electricity and water supply disruptions and irregularities.
- In-patient bed occupancy averaged 71%, with 3 of 24 hospitals over 100%. There is a high demand on the Neonatal Intensive Care Units.

Imaging Services

- 16 of 18 imaging facilities are operational; nine are offering normal services and the rest are offering emergency services. One X-Ray machine stopped working on 8 July 2024.

Laboratory Services

- All public laboratories have returned to normal pre-Beryl services, with the exception of one hospital laboratory.

SURVEILLANCE

- No changes were reported in the surveillance section of the MOHW HEOC report. Surveillance data provided by the MOHW HEOC and other sources indicate recent increases in respiratory illnesses up to 1 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 28 June 2024. Dengue cases, however, were noted to be declining. No additional outbreaks were reported up to 9 July 2024.



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 continue to hinder the timeliness of alerts and reports.



INFRASTRUCTURE

- 64 health facilities have roof damage.
- The MOHW continues assessments 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

- Environmental assessments and interventions continue.

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Heightened RCCE activities are underway, with field visits by health teams.



SHELTERS

- As at 9 July 2024, there were 7 shelters open with a total of 245 occupants.



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 UN agencies and partners to determine areas of support and improve coordination.
- 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.
- Participation 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; participation in other sector groups.
- 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.
- Participation in the UN meeting with International Development Partners on areas of support on 9 July 2024.
- Engagement with partners for resource mobilization.
- Representation at the Caribbean Development Partners Group – Disaster Management meetings.

COORDINATION

- Support of MOHW with coordination of international partners offering humanitarian assistance and EMTs.