



April Issue

Ministry of Health

Monthly Publication



World Health Day 2011

The Ministry of Health commemorated World Health Day on April 7th, 2011. This day is celebrated every year to mark the founding of the World Health Organization. This year the focus was on the issue of antimicrobial resistance under the theme, “No action today – No cure tomorrow!”



Minister of Health, Hon. Pablo Marin gave a television address to mark the day. He mentioned that antimicrobial resistance can

be prevented if we take simple precautions such as taking the right medicines, in the right amounts, at the right time; checking with the doctor or pharmacist to make sure that the medicine is right for you and also to make sure that the medication prescribed is taken in its entire course. He also warned that persons should not take medicines from people outside the Ministry of Health because they may give wrong medication. His speech ended by reminding Belizeans to maintain a healthy diet with plenty of exercise.

Ministry of Health to develop Food Based Dietary Guidelines

The Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI) and the Institute for Nutrition for Central America and Panama (INCAP) coordinated a working session to complete the work for the development of the Food Based Dietary Guidelines for Belize.

Food Based Dietary Guidelines are principles that provide practical advice for specific local customs, dietary patterns, economic conditions and lifestyles. The objectives include preventing and promoting healthy diets and lifestyles. The guidelines

will reflect the nutritional situation of the country and provide recommendations to get messages to a target audience.

The Minister of Health, Hon. Pablo Marin sees the guidelines as a major contributing strategy for promoting healthy behaviour and practices, promoting nutrition education, helping the public make healthy choices and ultimately consolidating a culture of health and wellness lifestyle in all Belizeans.

The two day working session took place on April 12th and 13th at the Belize City IT VET Building.

Ms. Robyn Daly is the Nutritinist at the Ministry of Health.

Benque Viejo Polyclinic inaugurated

The Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Development officially inaugurated the Benque Viejo Polyclinic on Wednesday April 13th, 2011 at its project site.



Benque Viejo Polyclinic and new Ambulance donation

The new clinic will provide improved quality health care services to the residents of Benque Viejo and the surrounding villages of Calla Creek, Arenal and Succotz in the Cayo district.

Hon. Pablo Marin gave the keynote address in which he celebrated the accomplishment of the new building site and he reiterated Government’s commitment to continue to improve on the quality of care for Benque Viejo residents and for all Belizeans.

The project was implemented by the Social Investment Fund at an estimated cost of one million dollars. The Benque Viejo Town Council contributed over \$3,000 towards the preparation of the area for construction.

Vaccination Week in Belize



The Ministry of Health observed the ninth annual Vaccination Week in the Americas from April 23-30, 2011.

During the week, the Ministry supported by PAHO emphasized the importance of immunization by reaching populations with limited access to services that are at an increased risk of contracting vaccine preventable diseases.

Also during the week, public clinics opened daily to provide information on vaccines, the diseases that

vaccines prevent and also to offer children who have not completed their immunization schedule with the necessary vaccines against measles, whooping cough, tetanus and Polio.

The Minister of Health, Hon. Pablo Marin supports and urges all parents and guardians to review their child’s immunization cards and take them to the nearest public clinic or health center for advice on vaccination.

**Ministry of Health
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