

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 5 July 2024, the Meteorological Service of Jamaica advised that a Tropical Wave is over Jamaica which will produce rains islandwide through to Sunday, 7 July 2024. There is the potential to exacerbate the effects of Hurricane Beryl and delay response efforts.
- The Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture toured the worst affected areas in the south of the island to view the damage to various sectors. Support was announced for farmers and fisherfolk who had lost crops and equipment due to the impact of the hurricane.
- The Minister of Health and Wellness on 5 July 2024 spoke to the public on radio on the impact on the health sector and advised that full services had been restored at 14 hospitals and that the other 10 were offering emergency and in-patient services only, mainly due to lack of electricity and water. Generators and water tanks are in use.
- The disruption in utility services has hampered health service delivery and communications at health facilities.
- Approximately 60% of the customers of the light and power company are without electricity since the hurricane.
- Approximately 70% of the customers of the National Water Commission are without piped water due to factors including lack of electricity and limited access to sites mainly in the Sothern and North-East parishes.
- Mobile telephone services and internet have been disrupted to hundreds of thousands of persons, with one company advising that over 50% of their cell sites are off air.
- The Minister with responsibility for these services has requested an urgent provision of plans for restoration of services including timelines.

IN NUMBERS

2.8m

Potentially exposed¹

03 Deaths²

60 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 (5 July 2024)

SERVICE DELIVERY – 5 July 2024

- The majority of hospitals were offering normal services except for the 9 hospitals in the Southern Region, which continued to offer emergency and in-patient services only, utilizing generators and water from storage tanks. 7 of 24 hospitals are receiving electricity from the national grid.
- Bed occupancy island wide averages 63%. (3,115 beds occupied), as there was planned discharge of stable patients prior to the hurricane. Two facilities - Savanna La Mar General (Westmoreland) and May Pen Hospital Clarendon) had occupancy levels exceeding 100%, on 5 July 2024
- No Primary Care health centre was open in the Southern Region parishes – Clarendon, Manchester and Clarendon) due to no electricity or NWC water supply in the region, and impassable roadways (flooding, fallen trees and utility poles and debris).
- In the Western Region, 50 (63%) of 80 Health Centres were operational; services were offered in the majority of health centres in the other 2 Regions – North-East and South-East.
- Post hurricane Beryl staffing levels are improving and ranged from 30% to 80%.
- The plan is to resume full services at all hospitals and health centres on Monday, 8 July 2024. The final decision will be made following assessments on the morning of 8 July 2024.

SURVEILLANCE

Surveillance data provided by the MOHW HEOC and obtained from multiple sources indicate recent increases in respiratory illnesses up to 01 July 2024, including an increase in SARS-CoV-2 positivity and SARI cases exceeding the epidemic threshold. Dengue cases, however, were noted to be declining. (See Appendix 1 for details.)

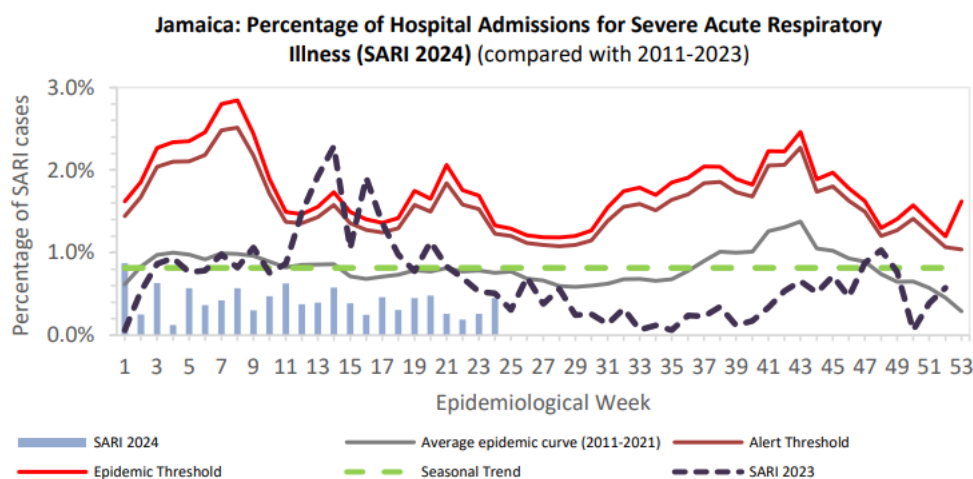


Figure 2. Percentage of hospital admissions for severe acute respiratory illness (SARI), Jamaica, July 2024

Vaccination Services

- The central vaccine storage facility at the National Health Fund (NHF) Pharmaceutical Division is supported by functional generators; A reefer (refrigerated storage container) is located outside and a backup storage facility.
- Vaccines were relocated prior to the hurricane from the over 220 vaccination sites to Health Departments or Types 3-5 Health Centres for secure storage.

Imaging Services

- Sixteen (16) of the eighteen imaging facilities are providing services.

Laboratory Services

- The National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) commenced emergency operations at 4:00 p.m., 3 July 2024. Blood products were issued to facilities in the Regional Health Authorities.
- SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) PCR Services - There are sufficient supplies of reagents and consumables to continue operation for the next two-three months or to process 10,500 tests.
- Arbovirus (Dengue, Chikungunya, Zika) - There are sufficient supplies of reagents and consumables to process 1000 quantification tests and over 3,000 serotyping tests.



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, based on the effects of the hurricane, such as close contact in shelters and homes and increase in breeding sites. (The average 7-day positivity rate for COVID-19 in May 2024 was 4% and June 2024 17%. COVID-19 virus is the predominant respiratory virus circulating in July 2024,)
- 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.
- In-coming reports indicate that houses of some staff members, particularly in the Southern Region have been damaged and need urgent repairs. Staff welfare, including mental health and psychosocial support, will be required to prevent the impact on the health team, such as burn-out and ultimately service delivery.
- Limited telephone services and internet connectivity hinders the timeliness of alerts and reports.



INFRASTRUCTURE

- There are 24 hospitals and 327 Health Centres islandwide.
- 82 health facilities have suffered major damage.
- At least 10 hospitals are included in the 34 facilities with major roof damage.

Region	Total Facilities with Major Damage	Facilities with Major Roof Damage
South-East	35	10
Southern	26	09
Western	21	15
North-East	Reports are awaited	Reports are awaited
Total	82	34

- 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).



WASH

- Over 70% of National Water Commission customers are without water.
- The MOHW team is monitoring water quality and other aspects of environmental health. Reports will follow.



SHELTERS

- Eight hundred and seventy (870) shelters were prepared for activation. This includes a shelter for the Homeless with capacity for 200 persons. On 03 July 2024, the NEOC recorded 1,099 persons in 110 shelters across the island. Two infirmaries (Trelawny and St. Ann) were relocated. As at 05 July 2024, 42 shelters remain open, with 27 or 65% in the Southern Region (parishes of Clarendon, Manchester and St. Elizabeth), with total occupancy of 448.
- The health team, including doctors, nurses and environmental health officers monitor daily.



HEALTH NEEDS

Immediate needs

- Urgent repairs to damaged hospitals - mainly for roofing, windows and doors
- Repairs/replacement of equipment and supplies - to be finalized and quantified
- Radios for all hospitals, 13 Health Departments, 4 Regional Health Authorities and the MOHW EOC and critical personnel in the MOHW. Specifications are to be finalized to ensure compatibility with the Government of Jamaica system.
- Immediate replacement/rental of generators to maintain service delivery
- Review of generator capacity at hospitals islandwide to ensure that standards are met.

A Needs List is to be provided by the MOHW by tomorrow.



RESPONSE

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE:

- The National Emergency Operation Center was de-activated on the evening of 4 July 2024 following the passage of Hurricane Beryl.
- The MOHW HEOC at all levels remains activated until the earliest 12 July 2024. Twice daily briefing meetings are held to facilitate decision-making for the health response, with the Permanent Secretary, Chief Medical Officer and Health Disaster Coordinator (HDC) in attendance.

PAHO RESPONSE:

- PAHO JAM EOC and Incident Management Team remains activated since 1 July 2024
- The PAHO JAM CO reopened on Friday, 5 July 2024.
- PAHO continues to provide technical guidance to the MOHW HEOC and the PHE Focal Point is in attendance at all MOHW HEOC meetings and maintains dialogue with the HDC.
- PAHO is in attendance at the Caribbean Development Partner Group – Disaster Management meetings.
- PAHO is facilitating the implementation of activities within projects that can support the MOHW response, such as the Health Promotion and Communication Plan for Dengue.

COORDINATION

- The PAHO team has been designated to prepare the proposal for the CERF, as US\$2.5M has been allocated to JAM. PAHO will be represented at the UN meetings to determine allocation of funds.
- PAHO continues to be represented at UN meetings, including UNETT, with the last meeting on 4 July 2024.
- Contact remains with partners, as required.