

PHENOMENAL

Public Health Inspectors

Vol 1



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Earnest Messages**

**MEET OUR
AWARDEES**

**Interns in
Action**

EXECUTIVES EARNEST MESSAGES

The year 2021 has gone down in history as one of the most: trying yet exciting; taxing but rewarding; tiring but fulfilling years in the recent history of the Public Health team. The Inspectorate, like all other key front-line workers, has been asked time and again to go beyond what appeared to be humanly possible to ensure that the revamped infection prevention and control measures were not only known but also adhered to while ensuring that the public was reminded of the requirements and importance of the Public Health Act. The tasks have been varied but were executed with the utmost professionalism and attention to detail including monitoring businesses, facilities, and institutions to ensure regulatory compliance; assessing the safety and integrity of the foods that the public consumes; ensuring that all vessels that call at our ports do not pose a risk to our citizens; working to make the communities free of mosquitoes and other nuisances; making sure that the water consumed or released into the environment is of optimal quality and; planning for and implementing measures to address threats to the health of the public.

The team has and continues, despite the constant addition of new tasks and responsibilities, to surpass set goals and has proven themselves to be winners. You bring to mind the statement made by Lou Holtz:

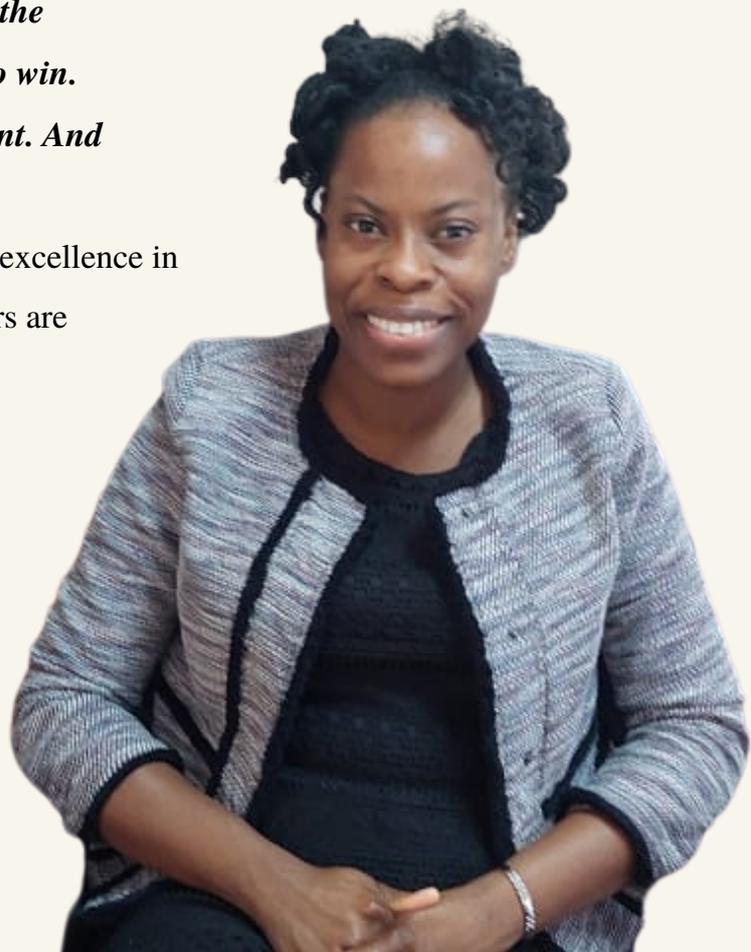
“Winners embrace hard work. They love the discipline of it, the trade-off they're making to win. Losers, on the other hand, see it as punishment. And that's the difference.”

For the year ahead of us, remember to strive for excellence in all your endeavors, be the standard that all others are measured by, and:

“whatever your hands find to do, do it with thy might.” Ecclesiastes 9:10

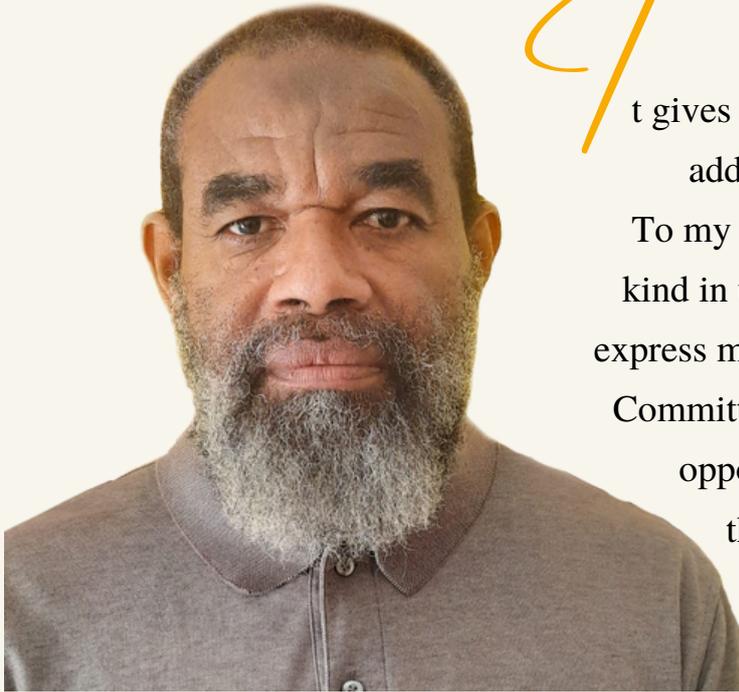
Dr. Famara Henry

Medical Officer (Health)
St. Mary Health Services



EXECUTIVES EARNEST MESSAGES

Former Chief Public Health Inspector (Acting)



It gives me great pleasure to write this address for the *SMHD-PHI Newsletter*. To my knowledge, this is the first of its kind in the parish. Let me at the outset express my gratitude to the Editorial Committee for affording me this opportunity. I would like to commend the efforts of the editorial team for making this newsletter endeavor a reality.

In the thirty (30) years that I have been a Public Health Inspector at the St. Mary Health Department, we have made tremendous strides in the field of Public Health as well as the profession through the quality of service provided to the public and the more scientific approach taken in solving public health problems thereby fulfilling the mandate given to us by the community. Our improved status gained over the years was not only the result of the commitment of the hard-working Public Health Officers who carry out their duties tirelessly but also because of the strong dedicated leadership we have had over the years, who have consistently given us their full support. We are constantly faced with the challenges of both new and resurgence of public health issues. Over the last five years, we have had to deal with numerous outbreaks including several arboviruses and most recently the catastrophic and deadly COVID 19. I want to encourage the PHIs to continue their relentless efforts in mitigating against the spread of infectious agents and I pray a sense of normalcy will return soon. In closing, I would like to say that it had been a pleasurable and fruitful experience working with the department. I would like also to say thank you for the support the officers had given me over the years especially when I was in leadership positions.

Michael W. McPherson

2019

EXECUTIVES EARNEST MESSAGES

As the head of the Public Health Inspectorate in the parish of St. Mary, I want to extend congratulations to the members of the editorial committee for conceptualizing and publishing the *SMHD-PHI Newsletter*. St. Mary Health Services is most fortunate to be headed by a competent team that transcends sound leadership and management skills thereby creating a cohesive and hardworking force of health workers that are constantly motivated to give their best at their respective job functions. The pace is therefore set for the environmental health officers to follow, and they have been doing a good job in attempting to achieve the various targets. Our job functions cover several sub-programmes including: Food Safety, Veterinary Public Health, Environmental Sanitation, Vector Control, Water and Wastewater Management, Development Planning and Sub-Division Assessments, Institutional Health, Occupational Health, Health Education and Promotion and Port Health and Quarantine.

The environmental health space presents a constant challenge as we seek to address issues relating to unplanned settlements, water and sanitation, street food vending, pockets of poor excreta, and sewage disposal among others.

Your work can be measured through the reduction in the rates of key indicators in public health and lower frequencies in outbreaks related to environmental public health.

We are never satisfied with the tremendous gain we have made, and we commit to working even harder to improve the public health profile of our parish that we dearly love. Finally, we must build the capacity of our Public Health Inspectorate to meet the demands of the complex environment in which we work.

We need to therefore constantly train and re-train our members. We need to increase our cadre of officers as well as our support groups in vector control. Without these support staff in vector control as well as our data entry clerk and secretary our gains would not have been possible.

Rupert A. Stephens

MPH, BHSc (Hons), Dip. PH
Chief Public Health Inspector
St. Mary Health Department



EXECUTIVES EARNEST MESSAGES

The important thing in life is to have a great aim and to possess the aptitude and the perseverance to attain it." Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe.

The publication of the *SMHD-PHI Newsletter* is indicative of this thought. Hence, I offer my heartiest congratulations to all those who have worked relentlessly to ensure this success.

As health workers task with the physical, social, mental, and spiritual well-being of our clients/customers and the society at large, we are committed to executing equity and justice for the welfare of every individual.

With the year ending, we have encountered many challenges throughout. This has prompted us to embark on critical reviews in the execution of public health/environmental health approaches, more so with COVID-19. We can surely testify, without a doubt, that we have had numerous experiences in the enforcement and mobilization of our public health regulations during this period which has brought us steps forward as health practitioners.

All public health programmes have improved under the epitome of staff rotation and new management. The parish also enjoyed the blessing of four (4) dynamic intern Public Health Inspectors who have completed their internship experience and effectively implemented their community project with full community participation.

I must encourage the team to continue to carry out the mandate of the profession and to fulfill the mission and vision of the organization.

Patricia Smith Warren

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector (Acting)
St. Mary Health Department



Interns in Action

Although our interns were not required by UTECH to conduct a community project, they still put out an arduous effort to improve the sanitary status of their communities

Intern Public Health Inspector **Neisha Gordon** based in the Gayle Sanitary District implemented a Vector Control project in the community of Jeffrey Town. A "**Clean up Yuh Yard Competition**" was hosted and over 50 meshed drum covers were distributed



Johniel Mclean, Intern Public Health Inspector from the Highgate Sanitary district completed a **Vector Control** project in the community of Tremolesworth. PHI Mclean's project included a community clean up and the distribution of meshed drum covers



Intern Public Health Inspector, **Emelio Hayles**, based in the Sanitary District of Enfield, tackled the issue of Improper Excreta disposal systems. Mr. Hayles' project saw to the rehabilitation of several Excreta Disposal Systems in the Dover community

Interns in Action

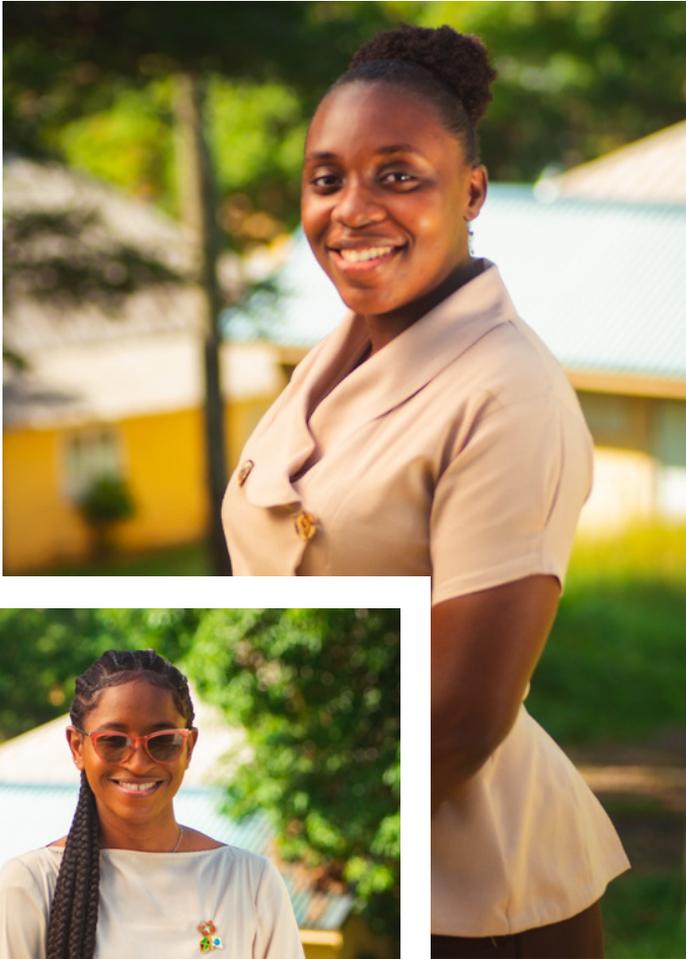
Nicque Graham, Intern Public Health Inspector based in the Oracabessa Sanitary District, completed a White Waste collection drive, community Walkthrough & Health Education session in Jacks River. Thirty-nine (39) items were collected and disposed of.



OUR PARISH AWARDEES



Jodian Pinder, PHI II
JAPHI Food Safety Officer of the Year
St. Mary



Samantha-Gaye Anderson -
Ashley, PHI II
Outstanding Performance in
Environmental Health (NERHA)
St. Mary Award of Excellence



Khaleen Edwards, PHI I
JAPHI Public Health Inspector of the Year
St. Mary

*There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation,
hard work, and learning from failure. ~ Colin Powell*

MEET OUR AWARDEES

*Samantha-Gaye
Anderson-Ashley*

Q *Tell us a little about yourself.*

I have been a Public Health Inspector for almost ten (10) years where I have served in various capacities. I am presently acting as the specialist in the area of water and wastewater for the parish of St. Mary. I am a perfectionist with an internal drive to succeed, shine or make my mark wherever I am placed.

Q *If you could leave an indelible mark as a Public Health Inspector, what would that be?*

I want to be seen as an asset to any and every community/ sanitary district where I am placed. I want my presence and absence in an area to be felt. I also want to assist in changing the way Public Health Inspectors are viewed by the general public. At the end of my interactions, I want us to be valued and respected as much as any other member of the health team.

Q *List three of your strengths.*

I am an excellent planner, very flexible as an officer and I welcome new assignments as I am always eager to learn.

Q *How do you overcome a difficult situation at work?*

Whenever I am in a difficult situation I resort to prayer. I lean completely on the Lord for the wisdom, knowledge, and guidance to not only make the right decisions but to maintain my composure.

Q *Tell us about two (2) Public Health Inspectors who made an impact on you and set you on your present path.*

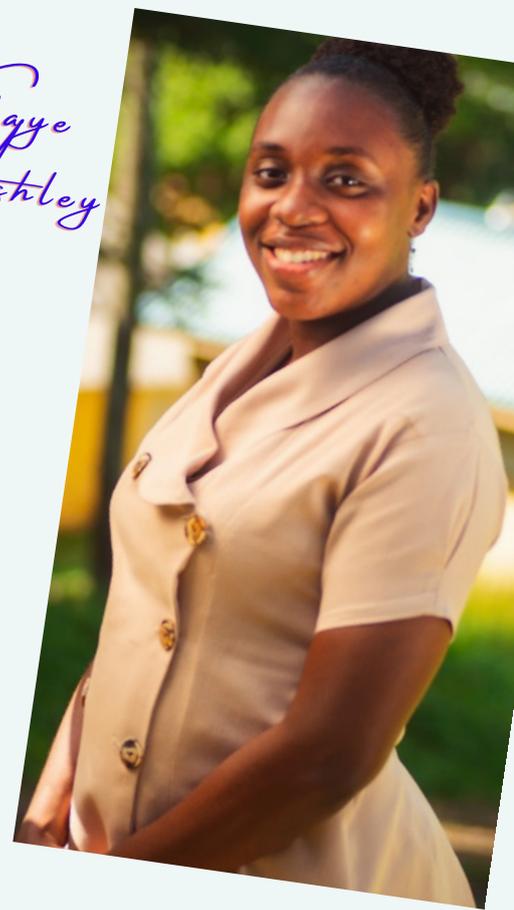
Two Public Health Inspectors who have had an impact on my career and helped to chart my way, are **Dr. Thelwell Reid** and **Mr. Naphtali Williamson** (both from the School of Public Health).

Mr. Williamson taught me to be confident in the execution of my duties. He taught me that even if I have internal reservations or uncertainties, I should never allow anyone to intimidate me because I am a scientist in the field of Environmental Health.

Dr. Reid taught me that I sit in a position of great influence as a regulator. She opened my eyes to the presence of various issues and made me feel empowered to go out and tackle anything that the job had to throw at me.

Q *Name one of your greatest career accomplishments.*

I was placed in a deep rural area in a sanitary district with a sanitary status of 65%. At the end of my first year within the area, I was able to move the community from 65% to 95% by abating most of the existing nuisances. I choose that accomplishment because many times as a junior officer I would sit in meetings where it seemed that the major emphasis was on food safety and at times I felt like I wasn't making any meaningful contribution conducting my core duty of premises inspection at the time. It made me feel proud that I had made a major difference in the sanitary status of my area. I chose to share this accomplishment because I wanted to encourage a junior officer somewhere that wherever you are and whatever your core duties are you can make a change/ a difference, so shine wherever you are placed. Always give a 100% even if no one is looking



MEET OUR AWARDEES *Jodian Pinder-Tracey*

Q *Tell us about yourself in one sentence.*

I am reserved, self-motivated and a hardworking mother of two beautiful girls.

Q *What motivates you?*

Several things inspire me to aim for greatness. However self-motivation and my family are two major motivators for me.

Q *Are there any obstacle you overcame to reach your current position?*

No, I did not experience or overcome any obstacles to reach my current position.

Q *What is your most memorable moment about being a Public Health Inspector?*

I am extremely elated and appreciative that I was selected as the JAPHI Top Food Safety Officer for the parish of St. Mary this year. However in 2019, I was the recipient of the **“Dr. Sylvanus Thompson Food Safety Award.”** This award was presented to the top Food Safety Officer in Jamaica. In that period I had achieved a 98% compliance rate among food handling establishments. Thus, that would be my most memorable moment in Public Health to date.

Q *How does it feel to be recognized from the body of Inspectorate for this award?*

I feel very honoured to have been selected from amongst an outstanding group of Public Health Officers.

Q *What are some of the qualities that set you apart from your colleagues in winning this award?*

All of my colleagues worked extremely hard throughout the year and would have had numerous successes. Due to my aptitude to adapt to almost any situation and ability to work towards gaining a positive

outcome, I am an exemplary food safety officer who has attained consistent compliance among operators of food handling establishments amidst the impact and challenges associated with the global pandemic.



MEET OUR AWARDEES

Khaleen Edwards

Q *How would you describe yourself as a Public Health Inspector?*

I am an assertive yet pragmatic individual who takes pride in her work and sees environmental health as the foundation of the healthcare system.

Q *Apart from in the field of public health, what contributions have you made to your community?*

I am an active participant in the Annotto Bay community as a member of the non-profit organization, Icons of Annotto Bay. This organization aims at inspiring and assisting members of the Annotto Bay community and its surroundings by executing several community outreach programmes; the most recent being donating COVID-19 care packages to institutions and which includes tablets and books to students. I am also a mentor in a mentorship programme championed by the Annotto Bay Baptist church.

Q *What encouragement would you have for the other inspectors hat wish to emulate your achievement?*

I would encourage them to maintain their integrity and continue to prescribe public health with confidence and self-assurance. By this, you will achieve whatever you set your mind to.

Q *What characteristics do you believe you possess that contributed to you achieving this award?*

My tenacity in achieving whatever I set my mind to allows me to be successful in that regard.

Q *With respect to your career, where do you see yourself in the next 5 years?*

Ideally, my aim in five years would have me progressing to another level or more as a Public Health professional. However, based on the current saturation within the field and youth of the current staff, I intend to elevate myself educationally yearly in the event that an opening is made available, I will be qualified. Also, it is my desire to broaden the spectrum of how public health is practiced to accommodate more modern approaches.

Q *How do you unwind from the struggles of working through the pandemic?*

The reality of this pandemic has taken a toll on individuals physically, financially, and emotionally. Public Health Inspectors are not exempted. To unwind from the mental and physical exhaustions I attempt to fulfil items on my bucket list which include traveling within and outside the country, hanging out with friends or simple indulgences such as watching a movie, online shopping, drinking a glass of my favorite-*sauvignon blanc*.



SLAYING 2021, DESPITE COVID-19!

Vector Control



Dengue Invasion

Vector Control Workers & Health Promotion team imparting knowledge with a difference



PARTAAEE!!!

As 2021 came to a close, we took the opportunity to thank the **Vector Control Workers** for the tremendous work they accomplished amidst the challenges



St Mary Vector Control team mascot "Maskita" is pictured here with our Health Promotion Officer (M. Richards-Scott) roaming the community to draw attention to the importance of effective mosquito control



Vector Control workers assisting with the decluttering of a building which was later revamped as the vector chemical storeroom

Port Health

With the advent of the novel, Corona Virus in 2020 our ports were adversely affected. The airport, however, used this opportunity to put in all the necessary amenities that would aid in the safe processing of vessels.

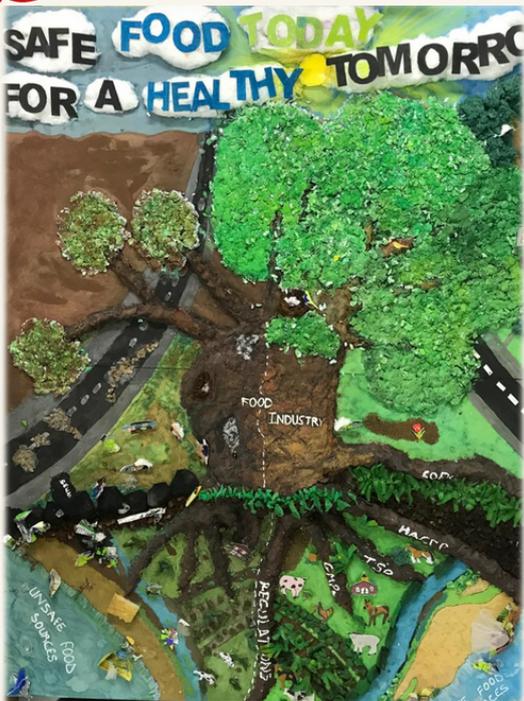
We have returned to normal operations following the construction of an Isolation Area. Currently, we are expecting the arrival of our first commercial airline to commence on January 13, 2022.

SLAYING 2021, DESPITE COVID-19!



During the Festive Christmas season the Inspectorate organized monitoring of Street Food Vendors in the townships of Gayle, Highgate, Port Maria & Annotto Bay. PHIs engaged the vendors in food inspection & health education on food safety as well as Covid-19 awareness and vaccination.

Food Safety



St Mary emerged as the second place winner in the North East Regional Health Authority first "Food Safety- Safe foods toodday for a healthy tomorrow" competition



The **St Mary Health Department** was integral in the development of a proposal for capacity building for the minor water supplies throughout the parish.

We also collaborated with the **National Water Commission** and requested for:

- Data on all wells to assist in conducting environmental assessments of burials.
- A monitoring system to provide us with daily updates on the status of their drinking water in an attempt to strengthen water quality monitoring across the parish.



Veterinary Public Health

St. Mary Health Department prides itself on the regularization of the poultry industry to meet minimum Public Health Standards. Currently, thirty-four (34) poultry rearers which give rise to 76% of the total operators are licensed. These operators have to provide us with a sanitary slaughtering facility in addition to an appropriate poultry house which must be approved by the Public Health Inspector. Out of this venture a total of four (4) new slaughter houses were built during the year.

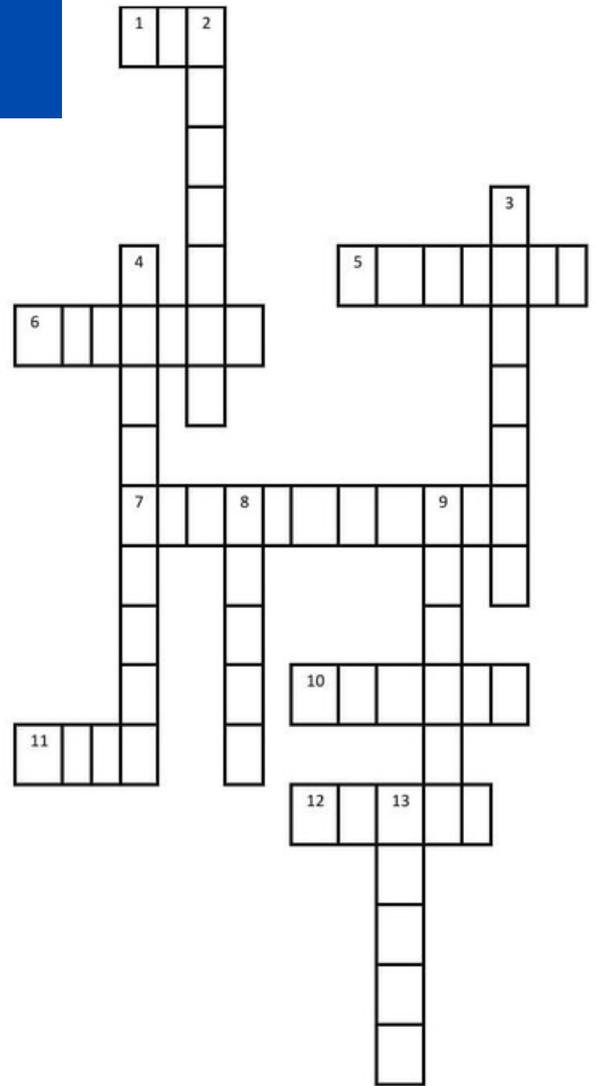
FUN & GAMES



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S	O	P	R	O	S	E	C	U	T	Y	Q	P	S	M
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Chief
Covid
Environment
Food
Health
Inspection
Institution
Intern

Pathogen
Prosecute
Public
Pupae
Veterinary
Virus
Waste
Zygote



ACROSS

- 1 Abbreviation for comprehensive approach to vector control
- 5 Mosquitoes that bites in the day are collectively referred to as this
- 6 Biological control for aquatic mosquito stages
- 7 Twilight biting mosquitoes are collectively referred to as this
- 10 State of pregnancy
- 11 Name for characteristic striated markings on thorax of *A. aegypti*

DOWN

- 2 Family name for rodents
- 3 Mosquito larvae has four stages of this
- 4 Family name for mosquitoes
- 8 Sensory appendages annex antennae on most insects
- 9 Correct name for grub
- 13 *A. Aegypti* bites only when this is present

Hats Off to the Graduates

Congratulations

We would like to congratulate our four Intern Public Health Inspectors who successfully completed their intern projects and graduated from the University of Technology, Jamaica. We are grateful for their contribution to the field of Environmental Health and wishes them the best in their careers.

From top left: Emelio Hayle, Niesha Gordon, Nicque Graham, & Johniel McLean



PHI Kingsley Ellis- Diploma in Meat and Other Foods

PHIs Anna-Lysa Edwards & Kemeisha Cameron - Certificate in Water and Waste Water Operators Training

From left: Anna-Lysa Edwards, Kemeisha Cameron & Kingsley Ellis



J. Walters-Secretary



K. Dawkins-Data Entry Clerk

St. Mary Inspectorate & Clerical Staff THANK YOU !

PHIs-S. Brown-Clarke, G. Ferrell-Smith, P. Smith- Warren, K. Edwards, S. Watson Moodie, J. McLean, K. Arscott, K. Cameron, E. Hayles, A, Edwards, R. Stephens, J. Rampalton, A. Dundee, N. Gordon, T. Blake, C. Edwards,SAnderson-Ashley, N. Graham & J. Pinder- Tracey

Shyan Watson Moodie -Team Leader & Designer

Asma Dundee- Editor & Contributor

Nicque Graham- Designer & Contributor

Rupert Stephens-Editor

Anna-Lysa Edwards-Contributor

Dr. Andre Ranger -Photographer