

Jamaica's Ebola plan of action so far

In October, Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller activated the multi-agency Ebola Contingency Action Plan, under the National Health Emergency Plan, with a budget of \$500 million.

Dr Kevin Harvey, acting permanent secretary in the Ministry of Health, is Jamaica's lead technical official for the Ebola prevention and response action plan. Ongoing training of workers in essential services and first responders for any possible Ebola health emergency. Travel ban on persons travelling directly or indirectly from or through the three West African countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, within 28 days of having departed those countries. 28-day quarantine of Jamaican residents coming from Guinea, Liberia or Sierra Leone. Refurbishing of Quarantine and Medical Post at the two national airports - Norman Manley and Sangster International - fully equipped with medical supplies, protective gear, etc. Creation of isolation centres at airports and other locations, with main isolation treatment facility in St Andrew. Dedicated ambulance service and crew. Commitment from Pan American Health Organisation for any Personal Protection Gear Equipment (PPE) needed from warehouse in Panama within 24 hours of request. Six handheld laser temperature machines from Errald Miller, husband of the prime minister, to be used at Norman Manley and Sangster International airports. \$4.3 million from Sagcor Group Jamaica Limited to purchase a temperature walk-through scanner with infra-red technology to detect individuals with elevated body temperatures, to be installed at the Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay. \$7 million from Supreme Ventures Limited to purchase one thermal-sensing unit for the Falmouth Cruise Ship Complex, inclusive of installation and training; 10 Ebola kits containing operating theatre gowns, shoes, bags for biohazardous materials, and disposable needles; two type B complementary kits containing heavy duty surgical aprons, body bags, safety goggles, anti-fog liquid for the lenses, one litre chemically resistant insecticide sprayer tanks, and 12 litre polypropylene backpack model sprayer insecticide. Twenty-five handheld laser temperature machines from Supreme Ventures to be shared among all ports of entry. Ten handheld laser temperature machines from private donors in eastern St. Thomas to be shared among all ports of entry. Jamaica Defence Force step up of border patrol to monitor and prevent illegal entry. Partnerships on public education campaigns and public forums on Ebola preparedness and awareness. Signing of memorandum of understanding with Cuba to aid with country's Ebola preparedness and response.