



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, September 16, 2021

Government Employees Move to become Vaccinated

More than 135 members of staff at the Ministry of National Security have opted to take the jab at a vaccination drive scheduled for next Tuesday (September 21).

Permanent Secretary Courtney Williams, said while staff are not mandated or coerced into taking the vaccine, every effort is being made to protect employees and combat vaccine hesitancy as well as the spread of misinformation.

He added that in addition to the 135 staff members who will receive their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine next week, more than 30 were previously inoculated through other vaccination drives.

“Staff members have been taking advantage of the Ministry of Health’s vaccination blitz, so more than half the staff population will become fully vaccinated within a few weeks”, the Permanent Secretary said.

“The health and safety of our workers, their families and communities is dependent on the uptake of Covid-19 vaccines. This is why the Government of Jamaica continues to employ an unprecedented level of effort in encouraging public officials to become vaccinated. This is supported through the promotion of information from the Ministry of Health regarding Covid-19 and related vaccines”, he explained.

The Permanent Secretary pointed out that as the pandemic drags on, more government employees are expected to become inoculated in the coming weeks.

“With more employees moving to become vaccinated, we will be one step closer to returning to some semblance of normalcy, which better positions us to revert to our regular office settings. I must also point out that the Ministers, Permanent Secretary and their immediate staff as well as most Heads of Departments, have all been fully inoculated with the AstraZeneca vaccine and this provides a sense of safety in the workplace”, Williams emphasised.

As at yesterday (September 15), confirmed coronavirus infections island-wide stood at approximately 78,000 according to the Ministry of Health and Wellness.