



MINISTER OF HEALTH, ENCOURAGES REGULAR HIV TESTING AT THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF REGIONAL TESTING DAY



He Got Tested:

Scotiabank's Hope McMillan-Canaan (centre), Manager Public and Corporate Affairs, and Dr. Denise Chevannes (right), Executive Director, National Family Planning Board-Sexual and Reproductive Health Agency, jokingly point as Minister of Health, Dr. Christopher Tufton (left), holds up a finger to show he had been tested at 10th anniversary of HIV Regional Testing Day at Mandela Park on Friday. Scotiabank facilitated free testing at 4 locations across the island in Kingston, Montego Bay, Manchester and Ocho Rios.

[July, 2017] Minister of Health, Dr. Christopher Tufton, was one of hundreds to get tested on Friday as part of the Scotiabank sponsored Regional Testing Day Activities at Mandela Park in Half Way Tree. Tufton used the opportunity to encourage Jamaicans to 'know their status' by getting HIV tests regularly and reminded them that with the advances in technology and medicine a positive result no longer means a death sentence.

HIV Regional Testing Day, now in its tenth year, is a partnership between the Ministry of Health through the National Family Planning Board and Live Up: The Caribbean Media Alliance. The event offers free HIV testing simultaneously in 21 countries and to date, has tested some 90,807 people across the Caribbean. In 2016, over twenty thousand people were tested in 20 countries at over 300 testing sites. This year the target is to reach a total of 100,000 people tested over the 10 years of this initiative. Scotiabank assists with the provision of locations to offer free HIV testing across the region, as well as to increase awareness and help reduce the number of HIV/AIDS cases in the Caribbean.

HIV Testing Sites were also located at Sam Sharpe Square in Montego Bay, the Willowgate Plaza in Mandeville and the Ocean Village Shopping Centre in Ocho Rios.

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