

## NHI Clinics coping with COVID: BFLA



As a result of the onset of COVID 19, the BFLA/NHI clinic saw a decrease in the diabetic patients accessing services at the clinic which also saw a decrease in achieving the NCD KPI. The clinic embarked on an initiative/project aimed at supporting the diabetic community. This project embodied an array of different initiatives catering not only the diabetic community, but also their family, friends and the general population. We saw the need to create other avenues to involve our diabetic community. In April 2021, we saw the formation of a diabetic support project proposal which entails several initiatives, namely, the creation and launch of a FB page, WhatsApp support group chat, diabetic mentoring program and education, healthy talks with the nutritionist posted on FB, promotion of the diabetic support program on Channel 5 and Sunup on 7, and finally the implementation of the main aspect of the project which is the outreach program that was piloted July 1, 2021. This included testing citizens of Belize in different areas of the city and in businesses, making necessary referrals in the event that their levels exceed the normal glucose levels. The idea is to capture any abnormal levels early to reduce the chances of the potential condition progressing more seriously.

The proposal included an aspect for social sponsorship for supplies to carry out the project which includes strips, lancets, monitors, alcohol pads, gloves, BP cuffs, PPE's etc. We received generous donations from the business community as well as a substantial in-kind donation from PAHO/WHO Belize.

In the latter part of August, we saw an increase in the COVID numbers and we move strategically to do mobile testing outreach which we have seen as fruitful and very receptive. As a result of the new COVID regulations, and further increase in COVID numbers, testing was postponed the last two weeks of September. We are hoping that after October 4th, if COVID regulations changes, we can resume mobile testing.

Here is a link to the BFLA/NHI Clinic Diabetic Support Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/bflanhididiabeticsupport>

Should you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at 202-5881 or send us an email at [nhiadministrator@bflabz.org](mailto:nhiadministrator@bflabz.org)



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- NHI clinic coping with COVID
- Principal Recipient: GF
- Vacancies
- NHI donation
- Corozal private sector

## COPING WITH COVID: MATRON ROBERTS

At Matron Roberts Polyclinic, II we remain vigilant and focused to ensure all care is given to any category of patients who seek medical care at the facility. In order for us to foster proficient care and ensure the safety and well-being to our staff and patients we have enforced preventative measures at the facility. The staff are all well equipped with proper PPE's and ensure to follow all COVID-19 protocols/advisory by the proper health authorities. The current staff vaccination percentage is now at 88% which took tremendous effort of continued sensitization.



In March 2020, the management team at the facility decided on the separation of patient who experience flu-like symptoms to the respiratory clinic. The now named flu clinic has a medical physician and nurse who remain situated until the closing hours at the clinic. Another approach taken has been the active surveillance of proper wearing of mask, maintaining social distancing, and promotion of the vaccine roll out campaign is priority at our facility to help combat the fight against the virus.

Our doctors and nurses continue to work hand in hand to provide the best quality of healthcare services to the Southside population as mandated. Chronic patients are now issued two refill which is dependable on supplies this is in order to minimize exposure. As for the Maternal and Child Health department appointment dates continue to be given to parents to bring their child (ren) to the facility. This approach is to minimize contact with patient and avoid overcrowding at the facility. The pharmacy department has now taken the approach to dispense all patient as quick as possible.



Despite all these measures in place it's unfortunate to report that end of August to September 2021 we had a small outbreak detected amongst the staff, both vaccinated and unvaccinated. They have all been placed on quarantine and are on the road way to recovery stage. Actions taken to ensure staff safety is kept sanitation of the building was conducted.

Regardless of all the obstacles faced during this fight against the virus the management team has ensured that staff feel appreciated for their work by different tokens of gift bags for Nurse's day, September and Wellness day treats.

A major challenge that has been encountered is the heightened level of aggression and impatience of the general public towards members of staff. It is important to be mindful of the fact that the work is now more difficult on some respect and that more effort is required of the doctors and nurses to screen all patients properly to preventing the spread. In this manner we humbly plead to the general public that patience and adhere to the rules of the facility is required. This fight can be accomplished with all efforts on board the patients and medical professions. We can do this also by being vaccinated so come and visit the clinic between the hours 8a.m to 3 p.m. from Monday to Friday.



Magazine Road,

Belize City

Tel: 227 7170 Fax: 227 7176

E-mail: [matronrobertsclinic@chr.health.gov.bz](mailto:matronrobertsclinic@chr.health.gov.bz)





## COPING WITH COVID: INDEPENDENCE POLYCLINIC

In order to cope with the COVID pandemic, Independence clinic has taken the initiative of separating the flu clinic from the polyclinic. It is a wooden structure building with six observation rooms designed to treat flu like symptoms away from outpatient and emergency area.



## NHI PRINCIPAL RECIPIENT OF GLOBAL FUND GRANT



The National AIDS Commission (NAC) the Country's Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), nominated NHI to be the next Principal Recipient (PR) of the Global Fund HIV 2022-2024 Grant. The Global Fund is a **partnership designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics**. As an international organization, the Global Fund mobilizes and invests more than US\$4 billion a year to support programs run by local experts in more than 100 countries! Belize has been successful in the past in accessing such funds in support of National HIV/AIDS response and now COVID-19. As the new local PR, NHI seeks to further expand its capacity in the areas of Programmatic and Financial Management, Procurement and Monitoring and Evaluation that will in the future, prepare the NHI Unit for the full rollout of services applying these additional skills. NHI will collaborate with UNDP the current PR during this critical Grant Making process and transition phase. To support this new role the following vacancies have been announced:

**VACANCY NOTICE**

The Social Security Board invites applications from suitably qualified persons to fill the role of **MONITORING AND EVALUATION OFFICER** at its National Health Insurance (NHI) Unit, Belmopan.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**  
Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Healthcare Management or other closely related Healthcare Management/Administration discipline, with three (3) years supervisory experience which includes exposure in program monitoring and evaluation.

Visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.org.bz/vacancy-announcement/](http://www.socialsecurity.org.bz/vacancy-announcement/) to view further details.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE:**  
Application packages containing application letter, resume, two (2) recent letters of recommendation, copies of degree, certifications and other relevant academic credentials and current police record or receipt for record may be submitted to:

**Via EMAIL:**  
Ag. General Manager, Human Resources, HQ  
[odakers@socialsecurity.org.bz](mailto:odakers@socialsecurity.org.bz)

**OR**

**Via Postal Mail/Hand Delivery:**  
Ag. General Manager, Human Resources  
SSB Headquarters, Belmopan

Indicate in subject line: "Application, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, NHI"  
Copy emails to [jphillips@socialsecurity.org.bz](mailto:jphillips@socialsecurity.org.bz) and [dindo@socialsecurity.org.bz](mailto:dindo@socialsecurity.org.bz)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 12, 2021**

**VACANCY NOTICE**

The Social Security Board invites applications from suitably qualified persons to fill the role of **PROJECT OFFICER** at its National Health Insurance (NHI) Unit, Belmopan.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**  
Bachelor's Degree in Business, Management, Project Management and/or other healthcare management related discipline, with three (3) years supervisory experience which includes exposure in project management.

Visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.org.bz/vacancy-announcement/](http://www.socialsecurity.org.bz/vacancy-announcement/) to view further details.

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Application packages containing application letter, resume, two (2) recent letters of recommendation, copies of degree, certifications and other relevant academic credentials and current police record or receipt for record may be submitted to:

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Ag. General Manager, Human Resources  
SSB Headquarters, Belmopan

Indicate in subject line: "Application, Project Officer, NHI"  
Copy emails to [jphillips@socialsecurity.org.bz](mailto:jphillips@socialsecurity.org.bz) and [dindo@socialsecurity.org.bz](mailto:dindo@socialsecurity.org.bz)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 12, 2021**

## NHI INITIATIVE FOR THE INCLUSION OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE COROZAL AND SOUTHERN DISTRICTS

Presently the NHI Scheme covers about 40% of the entire Belizean population which includes the Southern Region (SR), Belize City South Side, and as of 2013, the Corozal District. In 2020 with the advent of the COVID pandemic and its impact on the country's economy and social structure, an adjustment to the package of services being purchased in the Southern Belize and the Corozal District had to be made, removing some of the support services purchased from the Public Sector PCP's.

It is important to note that the South Side Belize City Model is a mixture of Public, Private and NGO providers, while in both the SR and Corozal, it is basically Public Sector facilities which are contracted. While the SR has made significant improvements over time in terms of productivity and quality of services, the Corozal PCPs have been non-productive and not cost effective in the provision of services. In addition, coverage of population as measured by registered members at PCPs has been very low.

Given that the NHI budget for 2021/2022 has been increased to its pre-COVID levels, the NHI Technical Team has developed a proposal to re-introduce support services to both the SR and Corozal utilizing a different strategy which involves purchasing these from the private sector. It also seeks to redefine the zoning in the Corozal District and offer the least non-productive Chunox PCP presently contracted from MOH&W to the private sector.

The proposal seeks to implement for a period of 6 months in the first instance. Based on evaluation of productivity, quality and increased access and coverage for targeted population, the NHIC will be requested to approve the extension of contracts with this new modality.

This proposal has been endorsed by the NHIC and approved by the SSB Board. Primary Care Provider Services for Chunox; Lab and Imaging Services for the Corozal District and Southern Districts will be conducted through a tender and contract process.



## VISIT TO COSTA RICA

In pursuance of Governments commitment to roll out the National Health Insurance, a team comprised of CEO OPM, CEO Ministry of Health and Wellness, Executive Chairman NHI, General Manager NHI, Health Services Manager NHI, and member of the Chamber of Commerce, will travel to Costa Rica to discuss and see “best practices” of the Costa Rican Health Service model. Costa Rica has traditionally boasted among the best health indicators in the region, and have also made significant strides in moving towards Universal Health Access and Coverage. They have been able to separate the function of Regulator and Provider, become more effective and efficient in providing their population with quality services, at all levels. The team will explore as well their financing model and long term sustainability. The experience and knowledge garnered will be instrumental in the policy options to be presented to Government for the NHI Roll Out.

The team will leave on the 17th of October and return on the 22nd of October. Initial virtual meetings have already taken place to define objectives and areas of interest for discussion.

Together with the Pan American Health Organization a virtual conference with Uruguay Ministry of Health is also being planned. This is also part of the effort to look at other best practices in the Region. Uruguay has also been identified as a regional leader in implementing a National Health Insurance scheme. These meetings are tentatively scheduled for the first week of December, 2021.

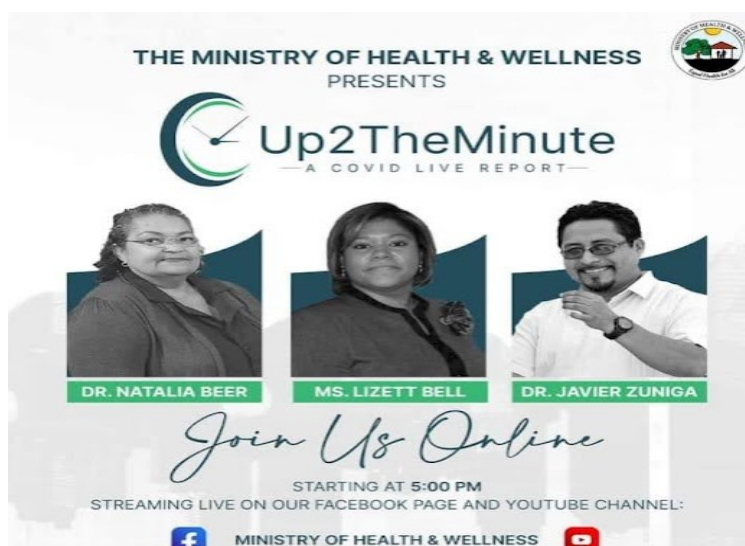
## NHI DONATION



With the continued rise in COVID cases in our society, NHI has seen it necessary to donate face masks to its five NHI clinics in the South Side area of Belize. These masks will assist the clinic greatly by protecting the staff and from preventing the spread of the virus. NHI is committed to provide assistance and support to the public and clinics respectively.

## MOHW STREAMING LIVE

Every Tuesday and Thursday MOHW will be presenting the most updated COVID-19 data information and share an analysis of the information and other COVID news. Tune in at 5:00 pm





**National Health Insurance  
Contact information**

#1 Lily Street  
Belmopan  
Cayo District

Phone:  
822-1810  
822-2163 ext. 1307  
Email:  
NHIinfor@socialsecurity.org.bz  
aflowers@socialsecurity.org.bz



## MOHW UPDATES

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS

OCTOBER 11, 2021



**COVID-19** **#GETVACCINATEDBZE**  
0-800-664-2273

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AS OF OCTOBER 1ST, 2021

**THE USE OF  
THESE TYPES  
OF MASKS IS  
STRICTLY  
PROHIBITED!**



**GET VACCINATED BELIZE**

#BECOVID19SAFE  
#LOVETHEMPROTECTTHEM

# SAFETY FIRST

**BE CAREFUL  
BE AWARE  
BE SAFE**



*Love them. Protect them  
Vaccinate them.  
An act of LOVE!*



**COVID-19**

# FIGHT COVID-19

**GET VACCINATED.**

**GET THE  
VAX ←  
→ FACTS**