



ANY REPLY OR SUBSEQUENT REFERENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE **FINANCIAL SECRETARY** AND THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE NUMBER QUOTED:-
Telephone No. 92-28600-16
Website: <http://www.mof.gov.jm>
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MINISTRY OF FINANCE & PLANNING
30 NATIONAL HEROES CIRCLE
P.O. BOX 512
KINGSTON
JAMAICA

CIRCULAR NO. 17

OCTOBER 2, 2014

REF. NO. C11500

**PERMANENT SECRETARIES
HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

RE: CHIKUNGUNYA VIRUS

As a consequence of the rapid spread of the Chikungunya Virus across the island, several Public Sector employees have reported absences as a result of contracting the Virus.

Permanent Secretaries, Heads of Departments/Agencies and Chief Executive Officers are being encouraged to exercise discretionary consideration in the treatment of Sick Leave arising from such absences, in keeping with Staff Order 7.13.1, which states that "*Sick Leave is any period of absence from duty on the ground of ill health.*"

Some of the conditions known to be associated with the Chikungunya Virus are:

1. All individuals not previously infected with the Virus are at risk of being infected;
2. The Virus affects individuals in different ways, and manifests itself at different stages in the cycle;
3. A person can be inflicted with the Virus without apparent display of symptoms;
4. Symptoms of the disease are characterized by severe joint pain, an abrupt onset of high fever which may last for several days, headache, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, muscle pain, redness of eyes and rash.

Please encourage employees to take all necessary precautions to protect themselves from contracting the Virus, which is spread by the Aedes Aegypti Mosquito.

Kindly ensure that the contents of this circular are brought to the attention of all the entities falling within the portfolio of your respective Ministry, Department or Agency.

Devon Rowe, CD
Financial Secretary