



January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PRESS RELEASE**

**JAC STATEMENT ON CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK IN CHINA**

**Shanghai, China**

The Jamaican Association in China (JAC) continues to work with the Jamaican Embassy to contact Jamaicans residing across China as fear and anxiety increase in light of the deadly coronavirus outbreak. To date, there has been no reports to the Association that any Jamaican in China has contracted the virus.

In tandem with the Jamaican Embassy in China and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, we believe the Association is in contact with most Jamaicans living in the greatest affected region and generally with Jamaicans residing in China. Even in this hour of crisis, we continue to build our contact database so our government will be able to better understand the size of the Jamaican community in China to assist in a greater way.

The new coronavirus has created a massive crisis for the world including the Jamaican community in China. The distance from our home country and the size of our government/country create a logistics nightmare when dealing with a fast-moving international health crisis. The strength and resilience of our community will undoubtedly be tested during periods of crisis, but we also believe that we will end up being stronger as a community.

Not only do we face an unknown disease, but we must also now grapple with government bureaucracy, a language barrier and erroneous news reports from the local and international media. We are imploring Jamaicans residing in China to stay calm as much as possible in these uncertain times and to only pay attention to information from reliable and trustworthy news outlets.

We ask our fellow Jamaicans to be more understanding as our community feels dismayed by some of the comments on social media particularly regarding any possibility of our return to Jamaica. We trust the government will take all the necessary precautions to ensure our safe return home and what we need now is support and understanding from our fellow countrymen.

The Association is prepared to work with the Jamaican Embassy in China to develop a mechanism where we can ascertain the needs of the Jamaicans in the epicenter of the outbreak in (Wuhan) Hubei, China which will be necessary if the situation worsens.



Jamaicans residing in the affected region who are not yet part of our community are being encouraged to make contact with us at the WeChat ID below to be added to our WeChat groups. We have also arranged local support hotline numbers for our members in China. Jamaicans who wish to get information about their loved ones in China can contact 876-564-4221/876-472-3584. If Jamaicans in China need urgent attention, please contact the Jamaican Embassy at 86 10 6532-0670-1/6532-0668. We trust with the support of our Government and our people; we'll be able to make it through this trying time.

**JAC Executive Team**

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