



COVID-19 HEALTH *Profile*

Gaynell Hayward-Caesar

CHIEF NURSING OFFICER

After 20 years with the Ministry of Health, Chief Nursing Officer and Registered Nurse Gaynell Hayward-Caesar thought she had seen it all...and then the pandemic struck.

“I was most shocked by the mental health impact of COVID-19 on the community—the isolation, fear, anger and the anxiety,” she said.

Ms Hayward-Caesar was tasked with setting up the first COVID-19 drive through testing site at the Hamilton Health Centre as well as the procurement of PPE supplies for the island.

A typical day for her includes preparing for daily meetings, identifying potential resources to support contact tracing, and conversing with the Long Term Care team, stores clerk and Port Health Nurse to keep abreast of arising challenges and solutions.

“Everything is changing so rapidly but it’s rewarding when you can see our many improvements in processes and capacity building and watch each team member doing their part,” she said. “I enjoy being able to respond to scenarios that were not identified in the planning process and supporting our teams to ensure they are safe and supported with resources.”

Before COVID-19, Ms Hayward-Caesar’s time would be spent meeting with local and overseas nursing bodies, collaborating on nursing policies and clinical issues, attending Monthly meetings for various committees, managing her sections’ budget, and coordinating the island’s Sexual and Reproductive Health Services.

Ms Hayward-Caesar says that one of her toughest days on the job during the pandemic was waiting for the test result of a fellow frontline worker.

