

**INDUSTRY NEWS**

**CARIBBEAN AIRLINES TO RESUME REGIONAL, INT'L SCHEDULES OUT OF JAMAICA**

Caribbean Airlines (CAL) says it will resume its regional and international operations from July 6, on a phased basis, out of its hub in Jamaica. The airline, like many others worldwide, was grounded as countries closed their borders to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus that has killed more than half a million and infected in excess of 10 million others worldwide, since it was first detected in China last December. In a letter sent to customers, CAL thanked them for "bearing with us during what has undoubtedly been an extremely challenging period. Initially, the airline will be providing daily flights between Kingston and New York, weekly flights between Kingston and Toronto on Wednesdays, starting July 8. He said that this is to be increased to twice weekly with an additional service on Sundays, from July 19. CAL will offer twice weekly flights between Kingston and Bridgetown, Barbados on Mondays and Fridays. The airline, which recorded a loss of more than US\$14 million during the period March 23 to April 30, said that the sale of tickets for its flights began on Monday and that "pending approvals, we plan to reintroduce our daily Kingston to Miami, Florida, route shortly after these initial services.

*(Jamaica Observer)*

**FALMOUTH'S NEW ARTISAN VILLAGE TO OPEN SOON**

The new \$700-million artisan village in Falmouth, Trelawny, which is poised to serve as a marquee tourist attraction in the resort town, is all but ready and Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett is hinting that it will be opened soon. According to Bartlett, the artisan village, which is located on lands leased from the Port Authority of Jamaica in proximity to the Falmouth pier, is poised to offer a new experience to visitors to the island. "A few final details surrounding electricity are to be completed; separate from that, the village is ready," said Bartlett. "One hundred and seventy-five persons have been trained to offer the unique experience the village intends to offer Jamaicans and visitors alike." Bartlett said he hopes the opening of the village will coincide with the return of cruise ships to the seaside town, which has not been able to host cruise ships since the country's borders were closed in March as a result of the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The artisan village is expected to expose visitors to the town of Falmouth through the various eras of transformation from the days of sugar, its Georgian heritage, and today as the nation's premier cruise shipping destination.

*(Jamaica Gleaner)*

**VISITORS FROM HIGH-RISK US STATES TO PRETEST BEFORE ARRIVAL**

Prime Minister Andrew Holness made the announcement at a virtual press conference from Jamaica House as the Government continues to reconfigure protocols for entry and re-entry to the island in its push to fully reopen the country in spite of the pandemic. The pre-requisite for entry applies to individuals coming from COVID-19 hot spots, including Florida, New York, Arizona, and Texas. Holness said the Government had not moved to impose the requirement for all US visitors due to issues with widespread availability of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, among other considerations. Visitors must upload their test results to the Visit Jamaica portal. "Persons registering to visit Jamaica coming from these area, as of July 1, will be required to upload a valid PCR test [result]" he stated. At the same time, Holness urged individuals to reconsider travelling at this time if they have been confirmed with COVID-19. All arriving passengers will still be subjected to health screening and risk-based assessment at ports of entry. He said the controlled re-entry programme that was implemented between June 1 and 15, and the controlled entry programmed from June 15 to 30, had been generally successful.

*(Jamaica Observer)*

**Events**

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, all events have been postponed.