

BHTA seeks 100% testing for travellers

THE Barbados Hotel & Tourism Association (BHTA) has made the recommendation that all travellers coming to the island be tested before arriving in Barbados.

Speaking yesterday at a press briefing, Chairman of the BHTA, Geoffrey Roach, explained that the association was pleased with the way Barbados had handled the pandemic so far, especially with the

resurgence of cases in some Caribbean countries. Roach said that he believes once the island continues to follow the health and safety protocols which so far had kept community spread at bay, Barbados would be fine when tourist arrivals began to grow.

However, he stated that the BHTA believes that for the safety and peace of mind of those who wish to book travel to Barbados,

100% testing should be mandated for travel to Barbados, particularly for those from high risk countries.

"We have had some feedback that has been said to us, that there are some persons that would like to travel to Barbados, but the concerns that they have is boarding a flight having had a test and the potential risk of sitting next to someone who has not had a test," explained

Roach.

The Chairman also stated that the BHTA had been working with Barbados Tourism Recovery Taskforce. This was to ensure that its members had access to webinar training material to ensure that the staff were trained in the correct health and safety protocols and infrastructure upgrades were completed to the specified requirements.

"This training will not be one off, because all staff will not be back out to work but once occupancy increases, there will be a need to bring more staff back out to work. Those persons who come back out must be exposed to this training to ensure the safety of themselves and the guests," said Roach.

Of the seventy-eight members of the BHTA, only 15 are currently open for business due to the

COVID-19 situation. The Chairman highlighted that the cruise industry was currently at a standstill regarding arrivals with no cruise lines expected to be in operation until after the end of September. Therefore, the focus is the preparation of all members for the increased visitor arrivals through the Grantley Adams International Airport. (AS)

AFTER A DAMAGING STORM, LIGHT & POWER'S RESTORATION PROCESS PRIORITIZES SAFETY ABOVE ALL ELSE

As we move into the third month of the 2020 hurricane season, the Barbados Light and Power Company reminds customers of its restoration process following a significant weather event.

"Once the emergency personnel technical all-clear is given by the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), we follow a detailed, tried and true process for restoring service to customers," said Victor Callender, Senior Engineering Manager. "First, we ensure that our generation stations, substations and transmission lines from our plants to substations are operational. We then restore power to emergency services such as police, fire, hospitals and to utilities such as water and communications. Next, essential community services such as food stores are reenergized. Then, once all safety assessments have been completed, skilled crews are dispatched to residential areas to restore power. Generally, we restore to areas that are densely populated first, ensuring we bring the most customers back online as quickly and safely as possible."

Electricity customers also have a role to play in the safe and efficient restoration of power following a hurricane or other damaging storm event. While Light & Power is responsible for all power generation, transmission and distribution to homes and businesses across the island, residents are responsible to ensure equipment at their home is undamaged and safe for reconnection.

"Before power can be restored safely, structures such as homes and businesses must be inspected by a qualified electrician and any needed repairs made," added Mr. Callender. "Sometimes there doesn't appear to be any damage at a customer's site, yet when their neighbour's power is restored, they are still without power. In the case of those isolated outages, we ask customers to contact our Customer Service team at 626-4300 to report their outage, so that we can plan for crews to be dispatched to restore them."

Light & Power reminds customers that safety is paramount following a significant storm event. Customers should watch for weakened roads, bridges, tree limbs or porches which could collapse unexpectedly. Always assume Light & Power's wires are energized and maintain a 10-foot minimum distance. In addition, keep children out of puddles, especially if there are downed wires or tree limbs in the area, and report all downed poles and lines to Light & Power's 24-hour emergency hotline at 626-9000.



Victor Callender
Senior Engineering Managers

Be safe, everyone.



Xavier Caddle

Barbadian heads to United States under Fulbright LASPAU Programme

THE US Embassy in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean has announced that Xavier Caddle is the Fulbright LASPAU recipient for this academic year. Xavier has been accepted to pursue a PhD in Computer Science at the University of Central Florida beginning in the Fall of 2020. The Fulbright LASPAU programme is affiliated with Harvard University, administered by the Latin American Scholarship Programme of American Universities (LASPAU), and is geared towards instructors at institutions of higher education.

Xavier is a part-time lecturer in the Department of Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics at the University of the West Indies. He has worked for approximately ten years in the financial industry, as well as executed various roles and responsibilities for other clients. He completed both his undergraduate and graduate studies at the

University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus, completing a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science with First Class Honours in 2008 and in 2014, completing a Master of Philosophy in Computer Science. While not lecturing, Xavier lends his technical expertise to FinTech businesses to assist them in developing secure financial solutions.

The Fulbright programme is the flagship international educational exchange programme sponsored by the US government, and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The Fulbright Foreign Student programme enables graduate students, young professionals, and artists from abroad to research and study in the United States for one year or longer at US universities or other appropriate institutions.