



An important message from Richard Bourke, Managing Director Amstar DMC Jamaica

I am a hotelier with over 30 years of direct involvement managing a resort and though not presently managing a resort, I am still intimately involved with the industry and major players associated with it. AMSTAR is a Destination Management Company on the front line of the tourism industry.

We have a commendable record of working with established protocols for the prevention of COVID and these are reinforced on a daily basis. The challenge today is that everyone has been living with COVID protocols for a while and by human nature, people are not perfect. With the emergence of new, more virulent strains, slip ups do not go unpunished. We are exposed on a weekly basis to visitors in resorts, team members and family members who test positive. This invariably leads to losing 14 days of productivity and possibly infecting other team members and associates. Scarier is when you carry the virus home and infect your grandparents; parents and children who may not have left their home for months but still end up in hospital or even die.

With the advent of vaccines, everyone is encouraged to avail themselves of this first line of defense. It reduces the likelihood of you catching the disease but more importantly, IF you do, it greatly reduces the impact of the disease. Recently, the head of the Western Regional Health Authority stated that of the 90 persons in the critical care unit for COVID, none have had even the first shot of the vaccine.

It is to the point now where visitors to the island are asking hotels and companies about the rate of vaccination on the island and amongst the people with whom they will interact. This makes an impact on whether they decide to come here or not.

In the Dominican Republic, you must be vaccinated to work anywhere within the airports and in most hotels. In Jamaica, hotels require all new employees to be vaccinated before they will be considered for employment. Most hotels have 70% of their employees on short term contracts and these employees they can no longer get a new contract without being vaccinated. Guests to the island are requesting that their drivers, guides and hospitality

representatives be vaccinated. This means that companies cannot assign people to work with these guests unless they are vaccinated. The staff who are vaccinated have a big advantage for more frequent employment. Around the world, many countries are requiring vaccinations as part of the entry requirements even to just visit.

Most importantly, it is for your own health and the health of those around you that you GET VACCINATED NOW. Just remember that the hospitals are full of people who are not vaccinated and many are dying on a daily basis. They don't have any vaccinated patients lining up for admission.

PAVE hosts a VIP lunch



On October 5th, PAVE hospitality graduates hosted a lunch for local and international community leaders, including Denise Henry from Alligator Head Foundation, Marc

Goodman of Goblin Hill Villas, Terrence Parks with China Harbour, and Timothy Torres and Chris Cooke from Haiti Hope Alliance.



Our young professionals delivered the full spectrum of hospitality services, from menu planning and prep to dining service and entertainment — all while skillfully adapting to an unexpected change in weather. All in attendance agreed it was a successful and productive event, not only for the

expertly prepared local cuisine and community fellowship, but for also for new connections made and strengthening of local networks.

