Water Quality Report Kingston & St. Andrew - January 2026

- Water quality in both KSA zones met MOHW and WHO standards.
- 662 samples tested: 330 (urban), 332 (rural); 368 from sources, 294 from distribution.
- Zone 1 (urban): 1.2% faecal coliform detected; 99.4% had required chlorine residual.
- Zone 2 (rural): 1.5% faecal coliform was detected, within required standards; 99.7% had chlorine residual.

During the month of January 2026, the National Water Commission (NWC) recorded water quality results for Kingston and St. Andrew that met the required standards for both faecal coliform and residual chlorine across all established zones. A total of 662 samples were analysed during the period; The overall sample collection rate increased compared to the previous month, reflecting improved operations across facilities following the passage of Hurricane Melissa.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) drinking water standard stipulates that for a Parish or Zone, no more than 5% of water samples tested should be positive for faecal coliform bacteria, and no more than 5% of samples should be without residual chlorine in a given month. That is, at least 95% of samples tested across a zone or group of systems should be without faecal coliform bacteria, and 95% should have residual chlorine. This standard is set based on recommended guidelines from the World Health Organization (WHO).

The NWC's water quality monitoring programme, based on these guidelines from the WHO and the Ministry of Health and Wellness, involved the collection of samples and testing for many parameters, including faecal coliform and chlorine residual from both water sources and throughout the distribution systems. This provides an indication of water quality over the entire distribution network and allows for comparison of water quality at selected points over time.

A source sample is one taken at the treatment plant or pumping station, or the first point of access to the water after the source. Distribution samples are those collected from the distribution network that a particular source supplies. Source and distribution samples are analysed together to provide an overall picture of the general water quality supplied to a particular area.

Data from our Quality Laboratory for the month indicate that 662 samples were tested - 330 in KSA Zone 1 (urban) and 332 in Zone 2 (rural St. Andrew); 368 were from sources and 294 from the distribution networks.

Potable water treatment facilities within the Kingston and St. Andrew (Zone 1) urban areas were all within the approved standards for faecal coliform positivity and for residual chlorine for the review period. In this Zone, 1.2% of source samples tested recorded faecal coliform positivity, within the no more than 5% standard. 1.9% of distribution samples tested positive for faecal coliform. 100% of samples tested from the sources and 99.0% from the distribution networks, had the required chlorine residual, meeting the 95% or more standard.

In the Rural St Andrew area (Zone 2), potable water systems were also within the approved standards for both faecal coliform positivity and for residual chlorine for the review period. Faecal coliform levels were at 0.8% at the sources and 3.3% at distribution. Within the requirements of the MOHW standard/ WHO water quality guidelines. 99.6% of samples tested from sources and 100% from distribution networks had the required chlorine residual, meeting the 95% or more standard.

NWC has in place standard operating procedures to ensure the continuous supervision of its water quality monitoring process and appropriate responses to the results which may include confirmatory or follow-up testing, precautionary system shut-down, remedial work or other action.