Liberia Coronavirus Disease Outbreak (COVID-19) Situation 🛞 World Health

Situation Report: No. 25

Date of onset of outbreak: 16 March 2020

Reporting date: 9 April 2020

Data Source: County Incident Management & National Reference Laboratory

I. Highlights

- Six (6) new confirmed case reported on 9 April 2020 from Montserrado County
- Cumulatively, thirty-seven (37) confirmed cases including five deaths have been recorded with ten health workers
 - One of the confirmed cases is imported and 36 were locally transmitted
 - o Six of the indigenous cases have no epidemiological linkage to the index case
- Eight hundred thirty (830)¹ contacts including 127 health workers have been documented
 - A total of 439 (53%) contacts have completed 14 days since exposure
- National Public Health Institute is working with Montserrado, Nimba, and Grand Kru Health Teams to identify additional contacts

Table 2: Number of Contacts line listed andmonitored as of 9 April 2020		
Total contacts line listed	830 (107 new)	
Number of Health Workers as Contacts	127 (0 new)	
Symptomatic Contacts	13 (1 new)	
Contacts completed 14 days	439 (26 new)	
Contacts under follow up	391 (107 new)	
Under Observation (high risk contacts)	47 (0 new)	

Table 1: Number of COVID-19 Cases (Suspected or Confirmed) as of 9 April 2020

Number of confirmed cases	37 (6 new)
Number of samples collected	376 (50 new)
Number of samples tested	376 (50 new)
Confirmed cases from routine surveillance	35 (6 new)
Confirmed cases among Travelers	2 (1 new)
Number in isolation (Confirmed)	18 (8 new)
Number of deaths in confirmed	5 (0 new)

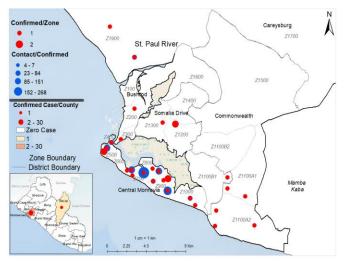
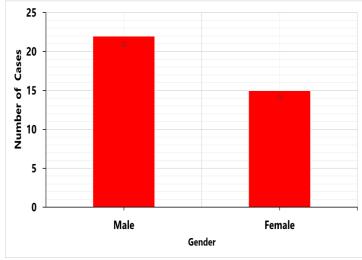


Figure 1: Geographical Distribution of Confirmed Cases by Health Districts, Montserrado County, 9 April 2020



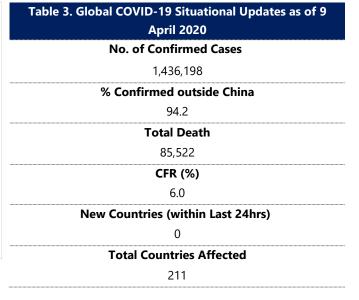


Figure 2: Distribution of Confirmed cases by Gender, Liberia, 9 April 2020

¹ Contacts Data are undergoing validation and classification

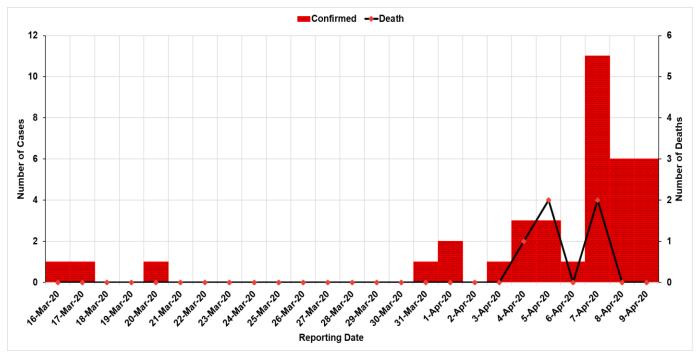


Figure 3: Confirmed COVID-19 cases by date of reporting, Liberia, March 12 – April 9, 2020

II. Public Health Actions initiated following confirmation

1. Coordination:

- EOC coordinated private sectors into working team to Mobilized resources to provide materials for the 14 Military Hospital
- Public Health Emergency Management System activated to level 1 at National and County level (Montserrado County) led by NPHIL
 - Incident Management System meetings are held daily at 10.00 a.m.
- Ministerial press briefing held twice weekly
- The Special Presidential Advisory Committee on COVID-19 (SPACO) was officially launched, chaired by the President of the Republic of Liberia

2. Epidemiology and Surveillance:

- Further investigations to determine the source of exposure is ongoing and finding will be shared when available
- All commercial flights have been suspended as of 23 March 2020, (All Travel Advisory can be found via²
- Daily sitrep production and dissemination to all partners for public health actions
- Plans to scale up pneumonia-like surveillance in all counties

3. Case Management

- All suspected and confirmed cases isolated and receiving clinical care at the 14-Military hospital
- Travellers from countries with active COVID-19 transmission isolated and monitored in POCs
- Monitoring high risk contacts at POCs
- High risk contacts are tested for COVID-19
- Those recovered from COVID-19 are monitored/follow-up in POC for 14days before going home
- Training of trainers ongoing in Case Management and IPC for counties, major health facilities, isolation and treatment unit staff

² www.nationalphil.org

- Supporting county level roll-out trainings in Case Management, IPC and Psychosocial
- Developed standard operating procedures (SOPs) as guidance for COVID-19 management at POCS, health facilities and COVID-19 treatment units

4. Laboratory

- There exists capacity to test for COVID-19 in country at the National Public Health Reference Laboratory (NPHRL) in Margibi
- Specimens (Nasopharyngeal and Oropharyngeal) from live patients and dead cases) have been promptly tested daily at the NPHRL by RT-PCR
- Sample transportation from designated points across the country to the NPHRL in place
- Samples are collected and tested daily as they arrived at the NPHRL

5. Community Engagement

• Orientation of 280 religious' leaders, and traditional leader and 100 Community Health Services Supervisors were orientated on COVID- 19 response with support from Samaritan Purse & Last Mile Health

6. Points of Entry (PoE)

- Maryland has established hand washing station in six points of entry and 6 inland checkpoints including the airports
- Nimba County, 16 travellers quarantined at Bethel Church
- River Gee quarantine 6 gold miners from Ivory Coast Immigration Services are on high alert to arrest people being smuggled into the country through illegal ground crossing points
- Screening has been heightened at all 54 prioritized ground crossings including air and sea points of entry

7. Risk Communication

- Social mobilization activities enhance in Grand Kru, Grand Gedeh and Since counties
- Orientation and training for district social mobilization officers in Margibi and Montserrado counties
- Message and materials development for lockdown and social distancing, quarantine continues
- Completion of joint social mobilization and community engagement robust community mobilization and engagement completed
- Rumor tracking and update of website and social media platforms continuation
- Monitoring mobile moving stage and rapid assessment of the utilization of IEC materials in ongoing with support from Action Aid, Crusader for Peace in Montserrado and Margibi Counties Partner Mapping for addressing Risk Communication gap continues

8. Logistics)

- Ongoing works at the Police Training Academy to be used as quarantined centers
- GSA has been able to provide about 10 vehicles for the Response

Precautionary Observation Center	Completed 14 days in POC	Under Observation	Total
POC 1	107	0	107
POC 2	66	0	66
POC 3	62	0	62
POC 4	31	0	31
POC 5	18	0	18
POC 6	10	0	10
POC 7	49	0	49
POC 8	28	0	28
POC 9	4	17	21
POC 11	27	5	38

Table 3: Distribution of travelers in POCs, April 9, 2020

III. Next Steps/Recommendations

Next Steps

- Continue daily follow up of contacts
- Early notification and social distancing
- Increase psychosocial support to persons being followed up
- Additional contact tracing teams to be trained and deployed
- More education for those in self-quarantine to adhere to the quarantine rules
- Update public health advisories (See latest Advisory 21-03-20)
- Mobilize additional resources to support on-going response activities

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22