



Liberia Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak Situation



Situation Report: No. 49

Date of onset of outbreak: 16 March 2020

Reporting date: 03 May 2020

Data Source: County Incident Management & National Reference Laboratory

I. Highlights

CUMULATIVE CASES: 1298

DEATHS: 18

- Eight (8) new confirmed cases were reported on 03 May 2020 from 160 samples tested
 - All eight (8) new confirmed cases were reported from Montserrado County
- Four (4) case patients were discharged from the 14 Military Hospital on 2 May 2020
 - Cumulatively, 59 case patients have been discharged and reintegrated into their communities
- Since March 16 -May 3, 2020, a total of 1,298 suspected and probable cases have been reported across 11 counties
 - Of these, one hundred sixty-six (166) have been confirmed including 33 health workers
 - Montserrado county remains the hotspot with 92.2% of the confirmed cases are reported
 - A total of 18 deaths (CFR-10.8%) in confirmed cases including two health workers have been recorded
 - 94.4% of the reported deaths were community deaths that were swabbed by the system
 - 98% of confirmed cases are locally transmitted and 2% remains imported
 - The age range among confirmed cases is 1 month to 74 years with median age 42 years
- Seven hundred eighty-nine (789) contacts under active daily follow-up of which 92% seen in the last 24 hours
- A total of 142 high risk contacts under observation in precautionary observation centers (POCs) in four counties
- The National Incident Management System (IMS) is coordinating the affected counties led COVID-19 response with support from partners

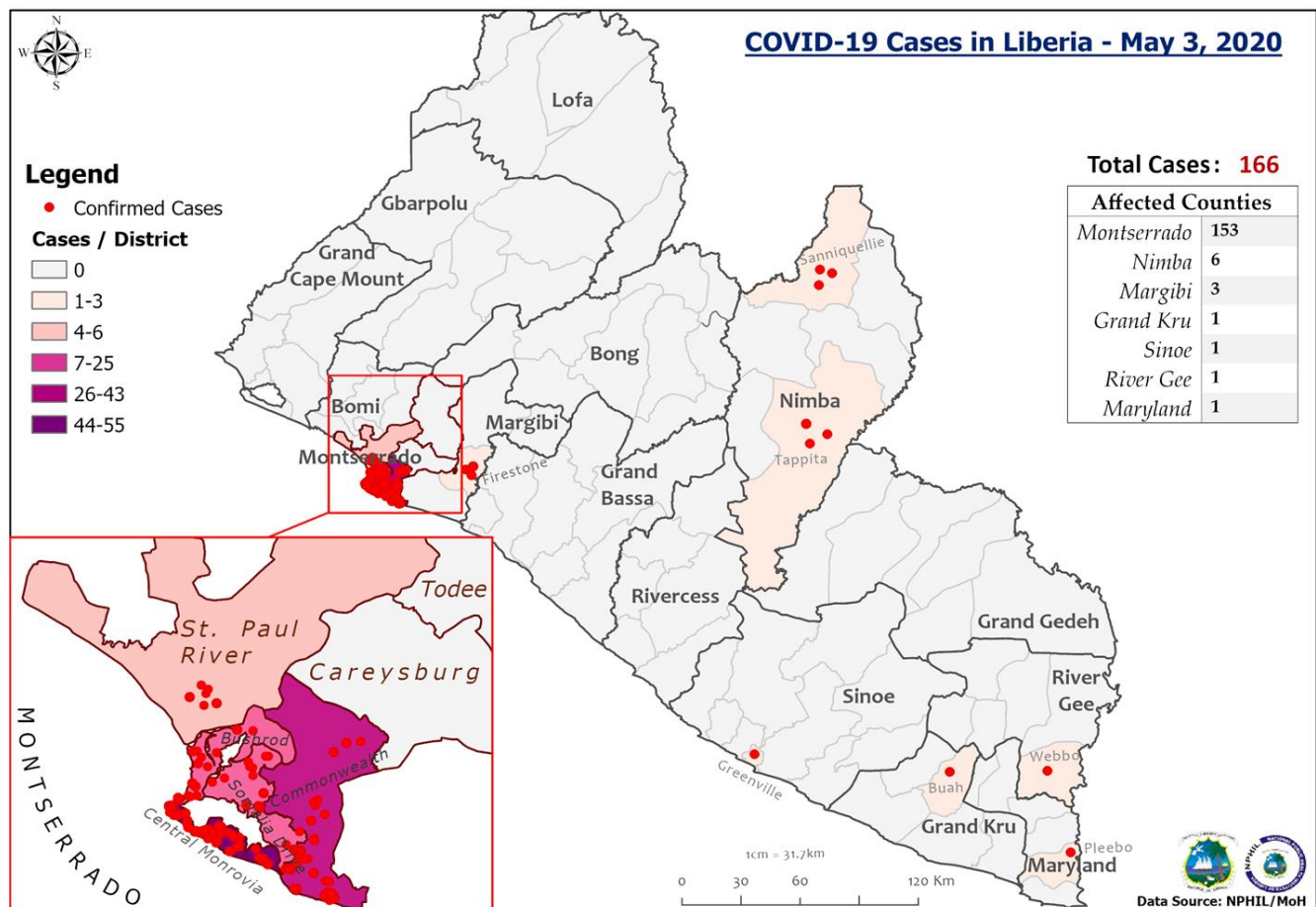


Figure 1: Geographical Distribution of Confirmed Cases by Health Districts, Liberia, 03 May 2020

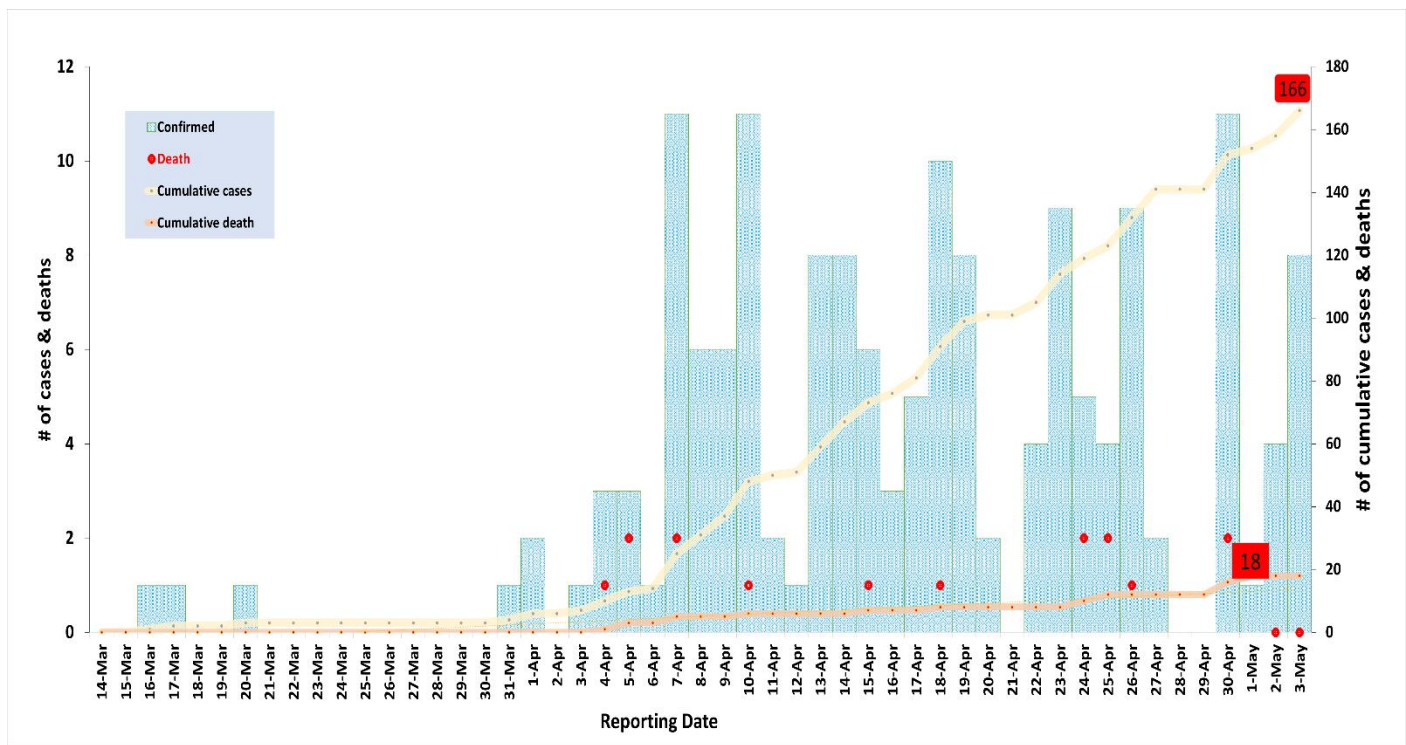


Figure 2. Epi-curve for COVID 19 Cases in Liberia, 14 March 2020 to 03 May 2020

Table 1: Precautionary Observation Centers: Admission and Discharges, Liberia, 16 Mar -03 May 2020

County	Precautionary Observation Centers				Moved to Treatment
	New admissions	Currently in POC	Daily Discharges	Cumulative Discharges (not including transferred)	
Grand Kru	0	15	0	7	0
Maryland	0	23	0	0	0
Montserrado	0	38	0	23	0
Nimba*	0	12	0	5	0
River Gee	0	0	0	0	0
Sinoe	0	0	0	0	0
NATIONAL	0	88	0	35	0

*45 high risk contacts are being monitored outside of Precautionary Observation Center and currently only 12 within POC

Table 2: Number of Contacts line listed and monitored, Liberia, 16 March - 03 May 2020

Indicators	Cumulative	Montserrado*	Margibi	Maryland	Grand Kru	River Gee	Nimba	Sinoe
Total contacts line listed	2245 (87 new)	1634	84	37	97	20	270	103
Number of health workers as contacts	372 (0 new)	256	67	15	0	1	24	15
Contacts became a case	53 (0 new)	50	1	0	1	0	0	0
Contacts completed 14 days	1135 (51 new)	996	0	0	8	0	138	0
Contacts under follow up	789 (36 new)	332	84	37	91	20	132	103

Table 3: Number of cases currently in Treatment Units, Liberia, 16 March - 02 May 2020

Facility of Admission	COVID-19 Treatment Units			
	New admissions	Discharges	Cumulative Discharges	Currently in treatment
14 Military Hospital	1	4	59	56
Rally Time Hospital Grand Kru	0	0	0	1
Jackson F. Doe Hospital, Nimba	0	0	0	2
Pleebo Health Center, Maryland	0	0	0	1
River Gee	0	0	0	1
F. J. Grant Hospital, Sinoe	0	0	0	1
Total	0	4	59	62

II. Situation Context

Liberia reported its first confirmed case of the COVID 19 on 16 March 2020 in Monrovia, the country's capital. As of 03 May 2020, the country had recorded One hundred sixty-six (166) confirmed cases of COVID-19 including eighteen (18) death (CFR=10.8%) with 2,245 contacts registered. Montserrado County remains the Epi center 153 (92.2%) of the confirmed cases including 14 (77.8%) deaths while the rest of the confirmed cases reported from Nimba County (6) including 3 deaths; Margibi (3) including one (1) death; Grand Kru (1), Sinoe (1), River Gee (1) and Mary Land (1). Liberia has begun the testing of community dead bodies of which 17 of the community deaths have tested positive for COVID-19. Due to prompt treatment at the treatment centers, Liberia recovery rate continues to improve at 36% as of 3 May 2020.

The risk of transmission remains very high largely due to high population movements in Montserrado as the county is home to approximately 1,500,000 (1/3) of the country total population while local transmission mainly from contacts of confirmed cases has accounted for about 98% of the cases.

In response to the ongoing epidemic, the Government led by the President, H.E. George Manneh Weah, activated and empowered an Incidence Management System (IMS) to collaborate with partners to lead the COVID-19 response towards the eventual and speedy eradication of the virus from the country. The IMS Pillars include EPI Surveillance, Contact Tracing, Case Management, Laboratory, Infection Prevention and Control, Logistics & Supplies, Dead body Management, Case Investigation, Psychosocial, Risk Communication and WASH with similar structure at the County level.

III. Public Health Actions initiated following confirmation

1. Coordination

- The National IMS through the President Office has mandated all citizens to wear masks when leaving their homes in an effort to reduce or mitigate the spread of the disease
- Liberia has begun testing of community dead bodies to ensure community transmission

2. Epidemiology and Surveillance

- WHO along with Partner (AFENET) have trained over 375 active case finders at health facility level
- Active case findings at community and health facility levels is ongoing in affected districts across the country
- Reclassification of cases are ongoing at national and sub national levels

3. Case Management

- A total of 62 case patients are being managed at seven treatment centers with 90% being managed in Montserrado county; including six critical case patients being oxygenated (severe cases);
- Monitoring and testing high risk contacts for COVID-19 at POCs and isolation centers

4. Laboratory

- Sample collection materials including swabs/VTM are pre-positioned in counties to support COVID-19 sample collection
- The National Public Health Reference Laboratory (NPHRL) currently testing over 100 COVID-19 samples per day

5. Safe and Dignified Burial and Wash

- Liberia continues to do community deaths testing of which 17 deaths have been tested positive for COVID-19
- Safe and dignified burials have been conducted for the 18 reported deaths among confirmed cases

6. Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

- Health worker risk assessment for contact health workers is ongoing in Montserrado county
- Reinforcing hand washing in all public areas in the county (markets, health facilities, public offices, check points etc.)

7. Psychosocial

- Psychosocial support is being provided to cases, contacts and relatives at POCs, Isolation centers and Treatment centers

8. Risk Communication

- Trained 25 media executives of the Press Union on risk communication and reporting on COVID-19
- Appropriate messages have been developed and pretested for three (3) emerging concerns, namely: stigmatization, social distancing and quarantine. The data is currently being analyzed to be followed by finalization of the messages and production of leaflets for mass distribution

IV. Challenges

- Admitting confirmed cases in the treatment center without case investigation
- Unavailability of POCs to relocate high risk contacts (110) which increases community transmission in the affected counties
- Limited funding to meet response needs across the country

V. Next Steps/Recommendations

- Provide and preposition IPC and medical supplies to prioritized health facilities across the country
- Ensure to transfer or move the nine (9) confirmed cases still in the community to treatment center
- Plan to move the one hundred and ten (110) High risk contacts currently in the community (Commonwealth -51, Somalia Drive -30, Central Monrovia -15, Bushrod-14 to the POCs
- Continue epidemiological investigations to link all the reported confirmed cases
- Counties to submit immediate response critical gaps to national IMS chair for redress by government and partners
- Involvement of ministry of internal affairs, county and district representatives, paramount chiefs and traditional chiefs to address the resistance reported in Sinoe and Montserrado counties
- Mobilize additional resources to support on-going response activities

**For comments or questions, please
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