



Week: 7th – 13th March 2021

Big Idea of the Week:

Marklates – stepping up our fight against coronavirus

Sierra Leone has received coronavirus marklates and they will soon be offered free of charge to frontline workers, older people and people with health conditions.

The marklates are safe and effective. They have undergone many tests and millions of people have taken them.

Marklates are one of the most effective tools we have to protect our health and prevent sickness. Coronavirus marklates work by preparing our bodies to fight the virus that causes coronavirus disease, and this protects us from getting sick with coronavirus.

Being protected from getting sick is important because even though many people with coronavirus have only mild symptoms, others can get seriously sick, have long-term health problems, or even die.

There is no way to know for sure how your body will react if you get coronavirus, even if you are young and healthy. Getting the marklate when you have the opportunity will help protect you from getting sick.

Corona fet na we all fet!

Suggestions for people to interview

- National or district-level coronavirus response spokesperson
- Representatives of the marklate deployment team
- Health workers who want to get the marklate and encourage others in the priority audiences to get the marklate now
- Community leaders who support the marklate and encourage those in the priority audiences to get the marklate
- Religious leaders who support the marklate and encourage those in the priority audiences to get the marklate
- Community champions who are eagerly waiting for their turn to get the marklate, such as market women and traders, bafa/ataya/bar/restaurant owners, and traditional healers

Suggestions for questions for interviews and panel discussions

- What are the benefits of taking the coronavirus marklate? How does vaccinating for a disease help stop the spread of that disease in a population?
- What has been done to make sure the coronavirus marklates given to Sierra Leoneans are safe and can be trusted?
- Why is it important to still get vaccinated for coronavirus even if the outbreak in Sierra Leone is not as bad as in other countries?
- What can we do to encourage and support our family, friends, and neighbors to get the coronavirus marklate when it is their turn?

- How can we make sure that we are not forwarding and sharing messages and posts with others that include misinformation?

Additional messages

The coronavirus marklates prepare our bodies to fight the virus if we come in contact with it. This helps protect us from getting sick with coronavirus.

Being protected from getting sick is important because even though many people with coronavirus have only mild symptoms, others may get seriously sick, have long-term health problems, or even die.

Sometimes, people do not know they have other health conditions until they get worse and they get sick. Those other health conditions, even when we do not yet know about them, can make our bodies weaker in fighting other sicknesses, like coronavirus.

We all have loved ones who are older and have other health conditions. So, let's all do our part to take the marklate and contribute to protecting our own and each other's loved ones.

There is no way to know how your own body will react if you get coronavirus, even if you are young and healthy.

The coronavirus marklates are safe and effective.

- The coronavirus marklates have undergone many tests to ensure they are safe and effective.
- Once a marklate is developed and believed to be safe, it is given to people in study trials so scientists can see if it is effective in protecting people from coronavirus.
- Scientists, doctors, and other experts review the results of those trials and decide if the marklate should be approved.
- The marklates have been given to millions of people around the world so far and have continued to show they are effective at protecting people from getting sick from coronavirus.
- Vaccinations like those for measles and tetanus have been used for decades to protect us from deadly diseases. Millions of people receive them safely every year. The coronavirus marklate is just like these other marklates.

Coronavirus can affect people of any ethnicity and in any country. The coronavirus marklates have successfully protected people from coronavirus in countries around the world.

Sierra Leone will soon offer coronavirus marklate to specific groups of people.

- Some people such as health care workers and other essential workers are at higher risk of coming in contact with coronavirus because of where they work or what they do.
- Other people such as those over 70, or those who have other health conditions such as heart disease and diabetes, may get seriously sick if they get coronavirus.
- Because of the limited supply of marklates at present, the Sierra Leone government is making the marklate available to these groups first.
- The government is providing the marklate free of charge to people.

You will still need to wear a face mask properly and keep physical distance from others after getting the marklate.

Scientists are still studying whether or not those who have had the marklate can still spread coronavirus, even if they do not get sick. There are early signs that the marklate makes you less likely to spread the virus to others.

However, until we know more, public health experts recommend that even if you and others around you have had the marklate, you should still practice good prevention measures including wearing a face mask, keeping physical distance from others, and washing your hands with soap and water.