



**GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE**  
**MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SANITATION**

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Advisory for Residents of  
Sierra Leone**

**Freetown, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

The Ministry of Health and Sanitation is concerned about the increasing spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in countries around the world, including West Africa.

At the moment, about 117 countries/territories have been affected with over 124,000 cases and more than 4,600 deaths. In compliance with the International Health Regulations (IHR), the Ministry of Health and Sanitation has activated the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) to level 2, to coordinate the emergency preparedness and response activities with the goal of preventing importation of cases and mounting a robust response whenever necessary.

Individuals are strongly advised to postpone intended travel to any country which has reported confirmed case(s) of the Coronavirus until the outbreak is halted. For those who cannot postpone intended travel or have returned from travel, we urge you to observe all necessary precautionary measures instituted by the means of travel and the host country.

In the interest of safety for your families and communities, the following measures are strongly advised:

*[Handwritten signature]*

Those who have Signs and Symptoms should stay at home and call 117 immediately if they have: -

- fever
- cough
- sneezing
- shortness of breath

**Practice good hygiene**

- Stop handshaking – use other noncontact methods of greeting
- Wash hands at regular intervals with soap and water or hand sanitizer
- Create habits and reminders to avoid touching your faces and cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
- Disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, desks, and handrails regularly
- Increase ventilation by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning

**Consider rescheduling large activities and gatherings**

- Consider adjusting or postponing community gatherings
- Adjust community arrangements to avoid mixing large crowds
- When possible, hold meetings/gatherings outdoors or in open, well-ventilated spaces

**Food hygiene**

- Avoid eating together in the same bowl with others
- Strengthen health screening for food handlers and their close contacts

- Ensure food handler/dealers and their close contacts practice strict hygiene

With the current trend of the outbreak, we should remain extra vigilant.

### **Precautions**

#### **Stay home if...**

- You are feeling sick
- Call 117 if you have symptoms of Coronavirus(COVID-19)

We are working round the clock to strengthen our capacity to manage any case that may occur. At the moment we have the full capacity to test and confirm Coronavirus at three separate facilities in the country.

We are also working very closely with the World Health Organization, Center for Disease Control and other partners to prepare and respond to the virus.

At the moment, we have setup the 34 Military Hospital, the Sierra Leone China Hospital, the Lungi Government Hospital and the Kambia Government Hospital as designated sites for treatment of COVID-19, if the need arises.

Please listen to advice from health authorities.

