



**GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SANITATION
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER**

**TRAVELLING GUIDELINES FOR SIERRA LEONE
(COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE)**

Freetown 13th March 2020

It is worrisome to note that based on current epidemiological evidence, COVID-19 is continuously spreading to and within an increasing number of countries. Currently, more than 117 countries/territories have been affected with over 125,000 cases and 4,600 deaths. In adherence to the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR), the Ministry of Health and Sanitation has activated the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) at 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.

Consequent upon resolutions adopted at the Inter-ministerial Committee Meeting (IMC) which was conducted on the 13th March 2020, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation is pleased to inform the general public, diplomatic missions and all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) about the following additional precautionary measures:

1. All Citizens and residents in Sierra Leone are strongly advised to postpone intended travel to any country, which has reported confirmed case(s) of COVID-19, with or without community transmission until the outbreak is halted, unless it is absolutely necessary. For those who cannot postpone intended travel, we urge you to observe all necessary precautionary measures instituted by the means of travel and the host country.
2. Travelers arriving at any Point of Entry (POE) in Sierra Leone with any of the following signs and symptoms will be immediately taken into isolation facility for investigation and management:
 - a. Fever above 37.5 °C
 - b. Persistent cough
 - c. Difficult breathing

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3. Travelers from countries with less than 50 confirmed cases will be documented and followed-up by designated surveillance officers/contact tracers at home for a period of 14 days to ensure compliance with surveillance procedures.
4. Travelers arriving at any Point of Entry in Sierra Leone from countries with 50 or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 at any point in time will have to undergo either of the two quarantine methods:
 - a. Travelers whose embassies/missions/organizations have identified an isolation facility verified by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation will be taken to the facility to be quarantined for a period of 14 days. Embassies/missions/organizations who opt for this method will be responsible for safe transportation from the Point of Entry to the identified facility. The Embassy/mission/organizations should provide the names and expected date of arrival of these travelers at least three days before arrival and will be responsible for all expenses incurred during the quarantine processes (***Please contact +232 76 657703 for more details***)
 - b. All other persons will be taken to the MANDATORY QUARANTINE FACILITY managed by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and observed for a period of 14 days.
5. We strongly recommend that individuals intending to visit Sierra Leone from countries with 200 or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 should consider deferring their visits during this critical period. However, if they have very crucial or essential functions to perform in the country, they may visit but will still be quarantined as required.
6. All passengers who arrive with a Laissez-passer/emergency travel certificate/ID card will be immediately taken to the quarantine facility for secondary screening. If there is any suspicion of an illegal attempt to undermine the process, such a visitor will be kept in the designated quarantine facility for 14 days.
7. This advisory will come to effect on Monday 16th March 2020 till further notice

Signed:.....

Chief Medical Officer- Ministry of Health and Sanitation

Signed:.....

Hon. Minister of Health and Sanitation