



Week: 21st – 28th March 2021

Big Idea of the Week:

Coronavirus maklates save lives –

Get your maklate and make a difference

Coronavirus maklates are rolling out nationwide from **Monday 22nd March - Wednesday 31st March 2021**.

The coronavirus maklates offered by the government have undergone many tests and have proven to be safe and effective.

The maklates help build protection against the virus, so that if we come in contact with it in the future, we won't get seriously sick or die.

They are provided free of charge.

Because of limited supply at present, the government is making the maklates available first to people over 60 years old, frontline workers like health workers, teachers, and the police, and people over 40 years old with health problems like high blood pressure, heart disease, blood sugar problems, asthma, dry cough, fits, die foot or hand, HIV, cancer, kidney disease, and others.

If you are in one of these groups of people, go to a coronavirus maklate center during working hours 22 – 31 March to get your maklate.

For more information or to find a nearby coronavirus maklate center, call 117, visit "Corona Fet Na We All Fet" on Facebook or go to <http://coronafet.link/maklate>.

Corona fet na we all fet!

Suggestions for people to interview

- National or district-level coronavirus response spokesperson
- Representatives of the maklate deployment team
- Health workers who want to get the maklate and encourage others in the priority audiences to get the maklate now
- Community leaders who support the maklate and encourage those in the priority audiences to get the maklate
- Religious leaders who support the maklate and encourage those in the priority audiences to get the maklate
- Community champions who are eagerly waiting for their turn to get the maklate, 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 maklate? How does getting a maklate for a disease help protect that person?
- What has been done to make sure the coronavirus maklates given to Sierra Leoneans are safe and can be trusted?

- Why is it important to still get coronavirus maklate 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 maklate 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 about coronavirus maklates?

Additional messages

What is coronavirus maklate?

- Maklates are one of the most effective tools we have to protect our health and prevent sickness.
- Coronavirus maklates work by helping our bodies to build protection against coronavirus, so that if we come in contact with coronavirus in the future, our bodies can quickly fight it off so that we don't get seriously sick or die from it.
- 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 maklate when you have the opportunity will help protect you from getting sick.
- It is especially important for older people and people with other conditions to be protected against coronavirus, because it is these people who are most likely to get seriously sick and even die from the disease.
- The maklates 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.
- To get the protection from the coronavirus maklate, two doses are required.
- Both doses are needed for your body to build the protection against coronavirus, and it can take up to two weeks after the second dose for the maklate to fully work.
- It is possible you can still get seriously sick from coronavirus if you come in contact with the virus before the maklate has time to fully work.
 - This is why it is important to make sure you get both doses of the maklate and keep taking preventive actions to protect yourself and others from coronavirus.
- When you get the first dose, the healthcare worker will give you a maklate card with the date that you should return for the second dose.
- The maklate is given by injection to the upper arm.
- Coronavirus can affect anyone anywhere. The coronavirus maklates have successfully protected people from coronavirus in countries around the world.

Who can get the coronavirus maklate?

- Because of the limited supply of maklates at present, the Sierra Leone government is making the maklate available first to people over 60 years old, people over 40 years old with health conditions, frontline workers over 40 years old, and healthcare workers over 18 years old.

- Frontline workers include those who work in social work, teaching, military, police, customs and immigration, point of entry, fire force, and prisons.
- People with health problems include those with high blood pressure, heart disease, kidney disease, cancer, lung diseases like asthma and dry cough, blood sugar problems like diabetes, immune system problems like HIV, and brain and nervous system problems like fits and paralysis.
- Some people such as healthcare workers and other frontline 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 60 or those who have health problems have a higher chance of getting seriously sick if they get coronavirus.
- The government is providing the maklate free of charge to people.
- Individuals who have tested positive for coronavirus in the past should still get the maklate.
 - While it is believed that people who have had coronavirus have some level of protection against getting the virus again, experts do not yet know how long this protection may last.
 - Because of this and the limited supply of maklates at present, only individuals who have tested positive *more than* 6 months ago will be offered the maklate.
- Based on what we know about the coronavirus maklates, it is believed that the benefits of getting the maklate and building the body's protection against the virus are greater than any risks.
 - While pregnancy puts women at higher risk of serious sickness from coronavirus, very little data are available about maklate safety in pregnancy. For this reason, pregnant women will not be offered the maklate at this time.

How to get the coronavirus maklate

- The currently available coronavirus maklates will be given to those who are eligible between Monday 22nd March 2021, and Friday 2nd April 2021.
- If you are eligible for the maklate, you should go to one of the coronavirus maklate centers during working hours from Monday to Friday.
- To find a coronavirus maklate center near you, call 117 or go to <http://coronafet.link/maklate> to see the list of hospitals offering the maklate.

Maklate as part of coronavirus prevention

- If you get the coronavirus maklate, you will be protected from getting seriously sick or dying from coronavirus, but it is not yet known if you can still get the virus and spread it to others, without knowing it.
- This means that until we learn more, people who have received the maklate should continue to wear a face mask properly and follow other preventive measures to protect others.

Responsible information sharing

- Knowledge is power, but when information shared is not based on facts and evidence, it can spread rumors and cause fear, panic and even harm.
- It is important to always make sure information is from a trusted source before sharing.

- Key trusted sources include the Government of Sierra Leone, World Health Organization (WHO), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- It is good to cross-check with the website of the source to make sure what is being shared is actually true.
- You can help others stay healthy and prevent coronavirus by sharing messages on coronavirus put out by the Government of Sierra Leone.
- If you are not sure if something is true or you want to know more information about coronavirus or coronavirus maklates, call 117 free on any network.

Coronavirus basics

- Coronavirus is real. It is still spreading in countries around the world and in Sierra Leone.
- Coronavirus mainly spreads from person to person when someone with the virus breathes it out and someone near them breathes it in.
- Because not everyone who has the virus feels sick, we can spread the virus without knowing it.
- This is why washing our hands with soap and water, keeping physical distance from others, and making sure our masks always properly cover our mouth, nose, and chin when we are in public places, even when we feel healthy, helps protect us and others from coronavirus.
- Most people with coronavirus have only mild symptoms or do not show any signs and symptoms at all while some people who get the virus can get very sick and even die, especially people who are older or have other health conditions.
- Sometimes, people do not know they have other health conditions. Having another health condition, or being older, means that your body is not as strong and as able to fight sicknesses, like coronavirus. This is why you are more at risk from getting seriously sick and even dying from coronavirus if you are older or have another health condition.
- Call 117 if you have fever, tiredness, or cough – getting tested for coronavirus right away is important for protecting our loved ones, friends, and coworkers, and stopping the spread to others,
- If you have questions or want to know more about coronavirus or coronavirus maklates, call 117 free on any network.