



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SANITATION
4TH FLOOR, YOUYI BUILDING
BROOKFIELDS, FREETOWN

PRESS RELEASE

SAFETY CONCERNS OF THE OXFORD/ASTRAZENECA VACCINE
FREETOWN, SATURDAY, 13TH MARCH, 2021
For Immediate Release

The Ministry of Health and Sanitation is cognisant of safety concerns that have been raised with regards to one particular batch of the Astra-Zeneca vaccine –*ABV5300*.

The vaccines we have received in Sierra Leone does NOT include any doses from the particular batch of vaccines in question.

While investigations are being done to ascertain if the batch in question is in any way associated to the observed side effects, clinical indications are that the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine is safe and effective.

Our assessment is consistent with the WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety and guidance from countries like Canada, Nigeria, United Kingdom, and Spain who have pointed out that they will continue to roll out vaccinations, as it remains a vital tool in the prevention of COVID-19.

As the Ministry of Health and Sanitation observes all precautionary measures to protect the health of citizens, the government continues to monitor the developments regarding the *ABV5300* batch and will update the public on any further development.

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