



**Government of Sierra Leone  
National COVID-19 Emergency Response Center (NaCOVERC)**

**Coronavirus Maklates: Key Messages**

**7<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**Coronavirus basics**

- Coronavirus is real. The number of coronavirus cases in Sierra Leone may be lower than other countries, but it is still here and spreading.
- 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.
- People over 60 years of age and people who have health problems have a higher chance of getting seriously sick or dying if they get coronavirus. This is because being older or having other health problems can mean that your body is not as strong and as able to fight sicknesses, like coronavirus.
- Call 117 if you have fever, tiredness, cough, or loss of smell or taste – 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.

**What is coronavirus maklate?**

- Maklates are one of the most effective tools we have to protect our health and prevent sickness.
- 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.
- Getting the maklate when you have the opportunity will help protect you from getting sick.
- 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.
- Maklates 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. This is not the first time Sierra Leone is rolling out maklates to prevent sickness.
- Coronavirus maklates are not medicine to treat coronavirus. The maklates prevent people from getting sick with coronavirus.



**Government of Sierra Leone  
National COVID-19 Emergency Response Center (NaCOVERC)**

- The coronavirus maklates offered by the Government of Sierra Leone have undergone many tests and have proven to be safe and effective.
- The government is providing the maklate free of charge to people.

**How does the coronavirus maklate work?**

- Coronavirus maklates work by helping our bodies 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.
- The maklate is given by injection to the upper hand.
- To get the best protection from the coronavirus maklate, two doses are required.
- Both doses are needed for your body to build the best 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 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.
- Like other maklates and many common medicines we use, some people can experience minor side effects like soreness or swelling where the maklate was given. These minor side effects usually go away in a day or two.
- If you feel any serious side effects after taking the maklate, call 117 right away.

**Who can get the coronavirus maklate?**

- Now, even more of us can take the maklate to protect ourselves. The government is making the maklate available to all people over 30 years old and health care workers of any age.
- Health care workers are at higher risk of coming in contact with coronavirus because of the work that they do.
- 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.



**Government of Sierra Leone  
National COVID-19 Emergency Response Center (NaCOVERC)**

- 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**

- If you are eligible for the coronavirus maklate, go to one of the coronavirus maklate centers during working hours Monday through 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. However, 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, Corona Fet Na We All Fet Facebook page, 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.