



**Week: 29<sup>th</sup> August – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Big Idea of the Week:**

**Coronavirus maklates are safe and free –  
If you are 18 years or older, get yours today!**

The coronavirus maklates we have in Sierra Leone are safe for people 18 years and older.

Because of the limited supply of coronavirus maklates at first, the government started by offering the maklates to three groups vulnerable to getting coronavirus and/or getting seriously sick if they get the virus: health workers, people over 60 years, and people with health conditions.

As Sierra Leone has continued its roll out and received more doses of maklates, the government has been able to offer the maklate to more people – lowering the eligible age from 40 to 30 and now to all 18 years and older. So don't wait, get yours today! The maklates are **safe** and **free**!

Most studies that tested and proved the safety and effectiveness of the maklates included only people 18 years and older. The maklates may be offered to people under 18 in the future once further studies can be done and show the maklates are safe and effective for younger people.

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 <https://bit.ly/3y3H1JS>.

**Corona fet na we all fet!**

#### **Suggestions for people to interview**

- National or district-level coronavirus response spokesperson
- Representatives of a mobile maklate or mobilization team
- People 18 years and older who have taken the maklate and can share their experience and why they decided to get the maklate
- People with health conditions who have taken the maklate and can share their experience and why they decided to get the maklate
- Health workers, religious leaders, youth leaders and other community leaders who have taken the maklate and encourage others to get the maklate now

#### **Suggestions for questions for interviews and panel discussions**

- What are reasons people you know are going for the maklate? What has their experience been like after taking the maklate?
- Why is it important to take two doses of the maklate?
- Why is it important to take the coronavirus maklate even when coronavirus cases have come down in the country? What does it mean when we talk about waves of the outbreak?
- What can we do to encourage and support our family, friends, and neighbors—especially those over 60 years old and/or who have health conditions—to get the coronavirus maklate?
- What can we do if we have questions or are unsure about something related to the coronavirus maklate?

## Additional information and messages

### Coronavirus maklate center locations and hours

- Anyone over 18 years of age can get the coronavirus maklate.
- To get your coronavirus maklate, go to one of the coronavirus maklate centers Monday through Friday 8:30am-4:00pm and Saturdays 9:00am-2:00pm. The maklates are free.
- If you missed the date for your second dose, it's not too late! Go for it as soon as possible at any maklate center - it does not need to be the same place you took your first dose.

DISTRICT	COVID-19 VACCINATION CENTRE	DISTRICT	COVID-19 VACCINATION CENTRE
<b>Bombali</b>	Makeni Government Hospital	<b>Karene</b>	Kamakwie Hospital
	Kamabai CHC		Gbinty CHC
<b>Bonthe</b>	Bonthe Government Hospital	<b>Port Loko</b>	Port Loko Government Hospital
	UBC Hospital Mattru		Lungi Hospital
<b>Falaba</b>	Mongo CHC	<b>Pujehun</b>	Pujehun Government Hospital
	Falaba CHC		Zimmi CHC
<b>Bo</b>	Bo Government Hospital	<b>Moyamba</b>	Moyamba Government Hospital
	Koribondo CHC		Njala University
<b>Kailahun</b>	Kailahun Government Hospital	<b>Tonkolili</b>	Magburaka Government Hospital
	Nixon Segbwema		Mile 91 CHC
<b>Kenema</b>	Kenema Government Hospital	<b>Western Rural</b>	Waterloo CHC
	Panguma Hospital		Goderich CHC
<b>Kono</b>	Koidu Government Hospital	<b>Western Urban</b>	Lumley Hospital
	UMC Njiama Nimikoro		Rokupa Government Hospital
<b>Kambia</b>	Kambia Government Hospital		Kingharman Road Hospital
	Madina CHC		Macauley Street Hospital
<b>Koinadugu</b>	Kabala Government Hospital		PCMH Hospital
	Alkalia CHC		34 Military Hospital
			Connaught Hospital
			Youyi Building

### Coronavirus basics

- Coronavirus is real and spreading in Sierra Leone. The Delta variant of coronavirus is in Sierra Leone and spreads more easily and makes more people sick.
- Coronavirus mainly spreads from person to person when someone with the virus coughs, sneezes or 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.
- There is no way to know for sure how your body will react if you get coronavirus, even if you are young and healthy.
- 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.
- Having a health condition or being over 60 years of age can mean that your body is not as strong and as able to fight sicknesses, like coronavirus. As a result, people with health conditions and people over 60 are at higher risk of getting seriously sick or dying if they get coronavirus.
- Call 117 if you have fever, tiredness, cough, or loss of smell or taste – getting tested for coronavirus right away is important for stopping the spread to our loved ones, friends, and coworkers.
- 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.
- 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 providing maklates to prevent sickness.
- Maklates save lives. The coronavirus maklates are no different. They are safe, effective, and free.
- The coronavirus maklates have been given to millions of people around the world and thousands in Sierra Leone and have continued to show they are effective at protecting people from getting seriously sick from the virus.
- Coronavirus maklates are not medicine to treat coronavirus. The maklates prevent people from getting seriously sick with coronavirus.
- The coronavirus maklates we have in Sierra Leone have been tested, reviewed, and proven to be safe and effective at preventing serious sickness and death from coronavirus. They have been approved for use by the World Health Organization.

### **Who can get the coronavirus maklate?**

- Anyone over 18 years of age can get the coronavirus maklate.
- The coronavirus maklates are safe and effective, including for people with asthma, blood sugar problems, high blood pressure, heart disease, HIV, cancer, and most health conditions. In fact, it is even more important for individuals with any of these conditions to take the maklate.
- This is because having a health condition can mean that your body is not as strong and as able to fight sicknesses, like coronavirus. As a result, people with health conditions are at higher risk of getting seriously sick or dying if they get coronavirus.

### **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 the virus in the future, our bodies can quickly fight it off and help keep us from getting seriously sick.
- The maklate is given by injection to the upper arm.
- To build the strongest protection and have the best chance at preventing serious sickness from the virus, two doses of maklate are needed.
- While we can still get and spread the virus after taking the coronavirus maklate, people who have taken two doses are far less likely to get seriously sick and die from the virus.
- Many people in Sierra Leone have taken their first dose but have not returned for their second, meaning most are still not well protected from getting seriously sick if they get the virus.
- It takes two weeks after the final dose of coronavirus maklate to get its full protection. For coronavirus maklates that require two doses, the time from the first dose to when you have that full protection takes between 5 and 10 weeks.
- You can still get seriously sick from coronavirus if you come in contact with the virus before the maklate has time to fully work.
- Because you can still get coronavirus and spread it to others even after taking the maklate, it is important to continue taking actions to stop the spread of the virus, like wearing your mask properly, keeping physical distance from others, and washing your hands with soap and water.

- When you get the first dose, the healthcare worker will give you a maklate card that states the kind of maklate you received and the date that you should return for the second dose.
- You will receive the same kind of maklate for both doses. When you go for your second dose, a healthcare worker at the maklate center will check your card to know which kind of maklate you took for your first dose.

### **What about potential side effects from the coronavirus maklate?**

- Thousands of people have taken the coronavirus maklates in Sierra Leone. Deaths from other causes will continue to happen, but this does not mean the maklate *caused* the death.
- There is no evidence to date in Sierra Leone that any death or serious health condition was caused by the maklate.
- Based on available information to date from around the world, serious side effects from the coronavirus maklates are not common.
- The government takes any potential serious side effect of the maklate seriously and is investigating all reported events to know whether they are actually caused by the coronavirus maklate.
- Everyone's body is different. Some people will not have any side effects at all after taking the maklate, while some may experience minor side effects such as soreness, fever, tiredness, or headache. These are a normal sign that your body is building protection and should go away in a few days.
- If you feel sick more than the minor side effects after taking the coronavirus maklate, or if your symptoms have not gone away after three days, call 117 or 079876484 or contact a healthcare worker.

### **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.