



<b>Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19</b>		<b>Location: Liberia</b>
<b>Date of Report: 16 March 2020</b>		<b>Investigation Start Date: 16 March 2020 as of 22 hrs.</b>
<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>National Public Health Institute of Liberia</b>	

**I. HIGHLIGHTS**

- **A Confirmed case of COVID-19**
- **Case-patient is alive, clinically stable and in isolation**
- **An imported case from Switzerland**
- **One hundred and twenty-six (126) contacts have been listed so far (21 high risk)**
- **Five (5) additional samples collected from high risk contacts**
- **Activated Incident Management System/Public Health Emergency Operation Center(PHEOC)**
- **Declaration of National Public Health Emergency by the President**
- **Communicated with WHO and key stakeholders**
- **Incident Action Plan developed and costed**

**II. Case history**

The case-patient is a 46-year-old male Liberian national who is a resident of Cabral Estate, Central Monrovia District, Montserrado County. On March 9, 2020, case travelled to Switzerland on official duty. He returned to Liberia on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020 via SN Brussels 241 airlines at about 6p.m. Onset of symptoms (fever and unproductive cough) was 14<sup>th</sup> March and sought over-the-counter medication on the 15<sup>th</sup> March from Lucky Pharmacy, 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Sinkor.

The case-patient self- reported to the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) on the 15<sup>th</sup> March at about 10:43a.m. Sample was collected and tested at the National Public Health Reference Laboratory. The positive test result was received at 3am on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020. This is the first confirmed to be reported in Liberia since the beginning of the pandemic in China in December 2019.

Within 12hours, the case-patient had been isolated, contact identification, listing and monitoring commenced, and National Public Health Emergency declared and WHO notified.

### III. Public Health Actions initiated following confirmation

#### 1. Coordination:

- Public Health Emergency Management System/ Public Health Emergency Operation Center activated to level 1 at National and County level (Montserrado County)
- National Public Health Emergency Declared by **His Excellency Dr. George Manneh Weah, President**, Republic of Liberia
- Joint press conference held by the Ministry of Health, NPHIL and partners
- Coordination meeting held
- Schools are temporarily closed for one week. Situation will be reassessed and the public will be notified

#### 2. Epidemiology and Surveillance:

- Developed outbreak case definition
- Deployed surveillance surge team to commence active case search and contact tracing
- Updated standard operating procedure
- Identified and documented 127 Contacts
  - 23 high risk
  - 104 low risk
- Outbreak case definition (**see below**)

#### 1. Suspected case:

Any person with

- History of travel to any affected country within 14 days OR
- Close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 infection within 14 days OR
- Exposure to healthcare facility in a country where hospital associated CoVid-19 infections have been reported **with or without** fever, cough, difficulty breathing

#### Community Case Definition:

Any person with hot skin, cough, not breathing well, and who has travelled outside Liberia recently OR who has taken care of sick person in Liberia

#### 3. Probable case:

A suspect case for whom testing for COVID-19 is inconclusive or for whom testing was positive on a pan-coronavirus assay

#### 3. Confirmed case:

Any person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection with or without signs and symptoms

#### 4. Case Management & IPC:

- Case-patient is in isolation and clinically stable
- Disinfected case-patient home
- Commenced quarantine of high risk contacts
- Heighten hand washing in public places

#### 5. Risk communication:

- Updated IEC materials (jingles, etc)

#### 6. Logistics:

- Deployed PPE related materials

#### 7. Laboratory:

- Six samples collected
  - One confirmed positive
  - Five results pending

### IV. Next Steps/Recommendations:

- Continue contact monitoring and active case finding
- Exploring possibility of additional sample kits, PPEs other operational logistics

**For comments or questions, please contact**

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