



Report No. 2_2020

Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19	Location: Liberia
Date of Report: 17 March 2020	Investigation Start Date: 16 March 2020 as of 6:00 p.m.
Prepared by:	National Public Health Institute of Liberia

Date of onset of outbreak: 16 March 2019

Data Source: County Incident Management Team & National Reference Laboratory

I. HIGHLIGHTS

- One new confirmed case reported March 17, 2020
- Both index and secondary cases are alive, clinically stable and in isolation
 - The index case was an imported case from Switzerland
 - Secondary case was a close contact to index case
- Since March 16, 2020, a total of two confirmed cases have been recorded
- One hundred and twenty-seven (127) contacts have been listed as of March 17, 2020
 - 23 high risk and 104 low risk
- Incident Management System has been activated March 16, 2020
- Declaration of National Public Health Emergency by the President
- Incident Action Plan developed and costed

II. Epidemiological Situation

Index case

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 13th March 2020 via SN Brussels airlines flight 241 at about 6p.m. Onset of symptoms (fever and unproductive cough) was 14th March and sought over-the-counter medication on 15th March from Lucky Pharmacy, 23rd Street, Sinkor, Monrovia.

The case-patient self- reported to the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) on the 15th 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 16th March 2020. Within 12hours, the case-patient had been isolated, contact identification, listing and monitoring commenced, and National Public Health Emergency declared and WHO notified.

Secondary case

The second confirmed case, a 57 year-old male, who resides in the Congo Town community. He was high risk contact, a domestic staff (cook) to the index case. He was tested positive on March 17, 2020.

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)
- The president His Excellency Dr. George Manneh Weah, declares the outbreak as National Public Health Emergency
- Joint press conference held by the Ministry of Health, NPHIL and partners
- Coordination meeting held daily

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
- Developed 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

2. Probable case:

A suspected 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

3. Case Management & IPC:

- Both cases are in isolation and clinically stable
- Disinfected index case-patient home
- Commenced quarantine of high-risk contacts
- Ongoing hand washing promotion in public places

4. Risk communication:

- Updated IEC materials (jingles, etc)

5. Logistics:

- Deployed PPE related materials

6. Laboratory:

- Six samples collected
 - Two confirmed positive
 - One indeterminate and 3 negative

IV. Next Steps/Recommendations:

- Continue contact tracing and active case finding
- Monitoring low and high risk contacts
- Exploring possibility of additional sample kits, PPEs other operational logistics

For comments or questions, please contact

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