



**Report No. 3\_2020**

<b>Situation Report: Confirmed COVID 19</b>		<b>Location: Liberia</b>
<b>Date of Report: 18 March 2020 as of 22 hrs</b>		<b>Investigation Start Date: 16 March 2020</b>
<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>National Public Health Institute of Liberia</b>	

**Date of onset of outbreak:** 16 March 2020

**Data Source:** County Incident Management Team & National Reference Laboratory

**I. HIGHLIGHTS**

- No new confirmed case reported March 18, 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 contact to index case
- Since March 16, 2020, a total of two confirmed cases have been recorded
- One hundred and forty-four (144) contacts have been listed as of March 18, 2020
  - 28 high risk and 116 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 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020 via SN Brussels airlines flight 241 at about 6p.m. Onset of symptoms (fever and unproductive cough) was 14<sup>th</sup> March and sought over-the-counter medication on 15<sup>th</sup> March from Lucky Pharmacy, 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Sinkor, Monrovia.

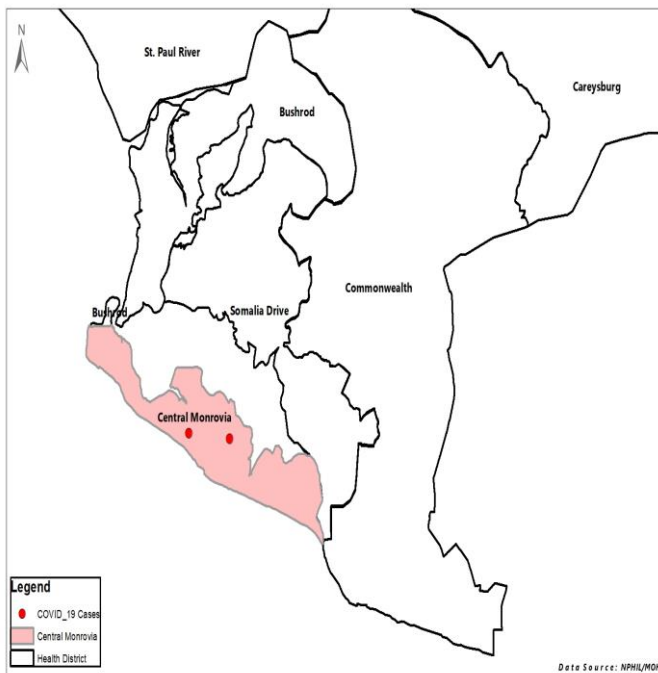
The case-patient self-reported to the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) on the 15<sup>th</sup> March at about 10:43a.m. Sample was collected and tested at the National Public Health Reference Laboratory. The positive test result was received at 3am on 16<sup>th</sup> March

2020. Within 12 hours, 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. A total of eight (8) contacts were generated and line listed.

**Figure 1: Geographical distribution of confirmed cases by health districts, Montserrado County Liberia**



- **Identified and documented 144 Contacts**
  - o 28 high risk
  - o 116 low risk

Number of new confirmed case on the <b>18 March, 2020</b>	<b>0</b>
Total Number of confirmed cases	<b>2</b>
Total Number of Counties with Confirmed case/s	<b>1</b>
Total number of Health Districts with Confirmed Case/s	<b>1</b>
Total in Admission/Isolation	<b>2</b>
Total suspected cases	<b>0</b>
Number of new contacts on <b>18 March, 2020</b>	<b>17</b>
Total Contacts under follow up	<b>144</b>
Number of high-risk contacts in quarantine	<b>21</b>
Total Number of High risk contacts	<b>28</b>
Number of Lab. Samples collected on the <b>18 March, 2020</b>	<b>17*</b>
Cumulative number of samples collected	<b>24</b>
Number of samples tested	<b>8*</b>
Number of sample/s result pending	<b>17</b>
Number of deaths in confirmed	<b>0</b>

**\*One sample previously tested had inconclusive result. Sample recollected on the 18<sup>th</sup> March for testing but result pending.**

**Table 1: COVID-19 Summary, From March 6-18, 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 and disseminated revised outbreak case definition
- Trained District Surveillance Officers
- Deployed surveillance surge team to commence active case search and contact tracing
- Updated Standard Operating Procedure

#### 3. Case Management & IPC:

- Two cases are in admission/Isolation and clinically stable
- Monitoring travelers in Precautionary Observation Centers (POCs)
- quarantine 21 high-risk contacts
- Mass distribution of hand washing buckets in public places

#### 4. Risk communication:

- Updated IEC materials (jingles, etc.)
- Airing of COVID-19 IEC materials

#### 5. Logistics:

- Deployed PPE related materials at designated facilities

#### 6. Laboratory:

- 17 new samples collected
- Trained 22 national staff in biosafety, biosecurity and sample collection

### 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

## COVID-19 Outbreak case definition in Liberia

### 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

### 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

### 4. 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

#### For comments or questions, please contact

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