



National Public Health Institute Of Liberia

Preventing and Controlling Public Health Threats

Office of the Acting Director General

Ref. No: NPHIL/RL/MPF-ADG/0107/2020

COVID-19 Advisory #4: Precautionary Observation of all persons arriving from countries with widespread and active human to human transmission of covid-19: March 10, 2020

With the transmission of the COVID-19 affecting over 100 countries with over 100,000 confirmed cases globally, the Ministry of Health (MOH) in collaboration with the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) has instituted precautionary observation (PO) since February 12, 2020 to reduce the likelihood of an imported case into the country. PO is a negotiated quarantine at designated sites referred to as Precautionary Observation Centers (POC).

In consultation with its development partners: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO); NPHIL and MOH have instituted the following preventive measures to govern the PO and overall safety of the entire country:


1. Citizens and residents in Liberia are strongly advised not to visit countries with 200 or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 except it is absolutely necessary. If you must travel to these countries, you will undergo PO upon your return to Liberia if you arrive within 14 days of your departure from the affected country.
2. Citizens and residents of countries that are currently having 200 or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 are strongly discouraged from visiting Liberia except it is absolutely necessary. If you must come to Liberia, be advised that you will undergo PO upon your arrival in Liberia.
3. All Travelers will be required to fill out a form about their travel history in the last 14 days, prior to de-boarding the plane. This form would be handed to the POE officers to evaluate.
4. Travelers coming to Liberia who within 14 days visited countries with 200 or more cases of COVID-19 who are accredited diplomats, should kindly inform their embassies before boarding their flight. The embassies will then coordinate with NPHIL/MOH for their screening at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) and or other Points of Entry and will be escorted to their POCs in their embassies or designated sites that have been vetted by NPHIL/MOH for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and medical monitoring standards.
5. Travelers coming to Liberia who within 14 days visited countries with 200 or more cases of COVID-19 and are guests or employees of INGOs, well-established companies etc. should, prior to boarding their flight, inquire from their institutions if they have POCs that have been vetted by NPHIL/MOH for IPC and medical monitoring standards. Travelers associated with institutions with vetted POCs will be escorted to those POCs for health monitoring. These institutions will communicate with the health team prior to the arrival of their people to facilitate smooth screening and processing at the Roberts International Airport (RIA).
6. Travelers who do not fall in categories 3 and 4 above will be taken to the designated POCs established by the Government of Liberia (GOL).
7. All travelers at the vetted POCs or POCs of GOL will be monitored by medical teams that have been orientated by the Case Management Pillar of the Incident Management System (IMS). These teams will monitor their resident twice a day for sign of fever, coughing, or respiratory distress. These will be collected by NPHIL for record and preparedness purpose. In the event of any of these conditions they will immediately call 4455 or Dr. Jerry F. Brown, the Head of Case Management and will be evaluated for possible transfer to the vetted Covid-19 treatment center.

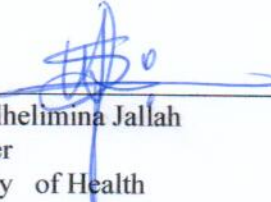
P.O. Box 1871, Emergency Operations Center, Congo Town Back Road, 1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia

11. Travelers at POCs who are citizens of a foreign country will have their passports turned over to representatives of their embassies either at the RIA or at their vetted POCs and will retain a copy for themselves.
12. The source of information on the number of confirmed cases will be the World Health Organization (WHO) website.

Geographically large countries like Brazil, India, USA with 200 or more cases, the decision to take a person for PO will be based on 50 or more cases in any of their states, regions or provinces. The airlines will announce to all passengers before boarding that NPHIL will require proof of their full flight itinerary including flight origin. Without this information they will automatically be taken to a POC. Pre-approved official website for the source of cases for the state, region or province will be circulated.

13. Visitors who have been in countries with 50 to 199 confirmed cases (with infections that are widespread) in the last 14 days, will be evaluated based on the specific geographical areas they visited. PO will be instituted if they are from a region or state of the country with 100 or more confirmed cases.
14. Visitors from countries with 15 to 50 cases will be documented and asked to do self-monitoring and report immediately to NPHIL's emergency phone number (4455), if they experience any one of these symptoms: fever, cough and respiratory distress.
15. All persons who arrive with a laissez-passer (the exemption is the UN and EU laissez-passer) will be immediately taken to the POC for secondary screening. If there is suspicion of illegal attempts to circumvent the process, such a visitor will be kept in the POC for 14 days.
16. Travelers who transited within airports of countries with 200 or more cases will not undergo PO unless they went outside of the airport during their transit.
17. A health alert will be provided to all travelers at the RIA to explain the process of PO to reduce any anxiety among the travelling public.
18. A port health form will be provided either through the airline or at RIA upon arrival to be filled by all travelers from the countries of interest.
19. Key contact persons for assistance under the different conditions are as follows:
 - a. Vetting of POC..... Dr. Jerry Brown (0881466111)
 - b. Vetting of POC..... Mr. Philip Bemah (0886535185)
 - b. IPC standards.....Dr. Ngombu Ballah (0886521869)
 - c. Port Health Screening at RIA.....Mr. Benjamin Soko (0886520911)

Signed 
 Dr. Mosoka P. Fallah- Acting Director General
 National Public Health Institute of Liberia

Approved  3/11/20
 Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah
 Minister
 Ministry of Health