



**GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY
(NPHA)**

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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Sierra Leone Ministry of Health and National Public Health Agency Confirms Polio Virus (PV3) Case

The Ministry of Health (MOH), in collaboration with the National Public Health Agency (NPHA), investigated a suspected case of poliovirus type 3 (PV3) in a child from Kambia district.

Swift Action and Reassurance:

- Prompt testing was conducted at the Institute Pasteur in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire and confirmed at the National Institute of Communicable Disease (NICD) in South Africa.
- Fortunately, testing confirmed it was not a wild poliovirus case.
- The child was severely malnourished and shedding vaccine-derived poliovirus, a rare occurrence.

Ongoing Efforts:

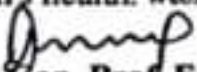
- The NPHA and MOH are actively collaborating with neighboring countries on cross-border surveillance.
- The NPHA, MOH, and WHO along with technical partners, are actively:
 - Educating the public about polio and vaccination.
 - Strengthening national surveillance systems.
 - Implementing a robust response plan.

Vaccination is Key:

- Health officials urge everyone to ensure all children under five receive the recommended vaccinations, including Polio.
- Vaccination remains the most effective way to protect children from debilitating diseases.

About the National Public Health Agency (NPHA):

The National Public Health Agency (NPHA) is Sierra Leone's lead agency for public health surveillance, prevention, and control. The NPHA collaborates closely with the MOH and other stakeholders to safeguard the nation's health. Website: <https://www.npha.gov.sl/>


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