



**WEEK 02**

20  24



**GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE**  
**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
**NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY**

# ***NATIONAL WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BULLETIN***

**WEEK 02: 8th — 14th January, 2024**



# The Executive Director National Public Health Agency's New year message and words of inspiration to the management and staff of NPHA



## Embracing a Healthier Future in Sierra Leone

Fellow Sierra Leoneans,

As we embark on the promising journey of 2024, I extend my heartfelt greetings to each one of you. Let us bid farewell to the challenges of the past and welcome the myriad opportunities that lie ahead. Together, as a united country, we possess the collective power to envision a Sierra Leone that is not only healthier but also resilient—a nation where public health thrives, and society flourishes, even in the face of adversities.

Our shared aspiration is to position Sierra Leone as a pioneering hub for public health, ensuring the safety and well-being of all its citizens. In the upcoming year, I warmly invite everyone, including our dedicated ministries, various departments and agencies, invaluable partners, communities, and the media, to come together in the noble pursuit of a healthier Sierra Leone. Let us collaboratively construct a robust and inclusive healthcare system, leaving no one behind.

Your unwavering support, active engagement, and steadfast commitment to prioritizing health will serve as the driving force propelling us towards success.

Together, let us embrace unity, resilience, and compassion as we navigate this transformative journey. May the New Year usher in a wave of good health, joy, and prosperity for you and your loved ones.

Wishing you all a joyful New Year!


With warm regards,

Brig. Gen. Prof. Foday Sahr

Executive Director, National Public Health Agency, Sierra Leone

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# KEY SURVEILLANCE PRIORITY DISEASE AND 117 CALL CENTRE HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK

## Disease specific report Highlights

- **Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP):** Four (4) cases of AFP were reported this week. Of the cases, three were under five years and one above five years of age. Tonkolili (3) and WAR (1) districts. The cases were investigated and sent to the CPHRL for confirmatory shipment.
- **Cholera:** One (1) case of suspected Cholera was reported in an under five year old from Bombali district. The case was investigated and sample sent to the CPHRL for confirmation. District putting modalities for RCCE interventions
- **Measles:** Fifteen (15) cases of suspected measles were reported this week. Of the cases, eight were under five years and seven over five years of age from Port Loko (13) and WAU (2) districts. The cases were investigated and samples sent to CPHRL for confirmation.
- **Animal Bite (Dog):** Thirty (30) Dog bite cases were reported this week. Of the cases, seven were under five years and twenty-three were above five years. The highest number of cases were from Kono (9), Bombali (7) and Kailahun (4) districts.
- **Animal Bite (Snake):** Four (4) Snake bite cases with one death was reported this week. The death was from Port Loko district. Of the cases, one was under five and three above five years of age. The cases were from Port Loko, Bombali, Kailahun and Kambia (1) each per district.
- **Maternal death:** Thirteen (13) maternal deaths were reported from WAU (3), Port Loko and Kailahun (2) while Kailahun, Kenema, Falaba and Bonthe, Koinadugu and Bo (1) each per district.
- **Yellow Fever :** Three (3) suspected cases of Yellow Fever were reported this week. All of the cases were above five years of age and were from WAU (2) and Bonthe (1) districts. The cases were investigated and samples sent to CPHRL for confirmation
- **Acute Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (AVHF):** Seven (7) case of suspected AVHF and two deaths were reported this week. The deaths were from Kenerma district. The cases comprised of five under five years and two above five years. from Kenema (5) and Kailahun and WAR (1) each per district. The cases were investigated and samples sent to CPHRL for confirmation and all tested negative for AVHF.

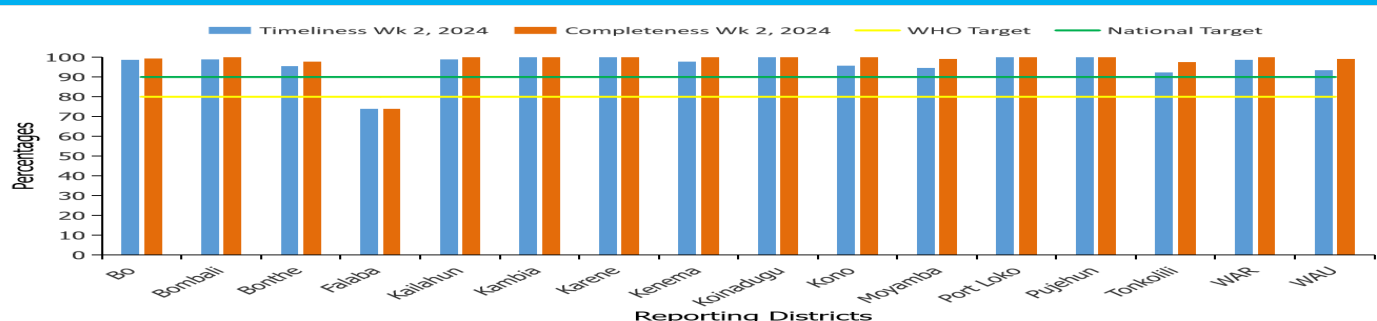
## 117 Call Centre Highlights

- **Pneumonia:** Ten (10) calls related to Pneumonia were made this week countrywide. All of the cases were aged above five years. WAU (5), WAR (2) while Bombali, Koinadugu and Bo (1) each per district
- **Perinatal Deaths:** Nine (9) calls related to Perinatal deaths were made this week of which, stillbirth (6) and neonatal death (3)
- **Bloody Diarrhoea:** One (1) call related to bloody diarrhoea was made from Bo
- **Measles:** Three (3) calls related to Measles were made from Port Loko district this week.

## 117 Call Summary for epi week 1, 2024

- A total of 10,083 calls were received and responded to, out of which 9,965 (98.8%) were prank calls and 118 (1.2%) were signals
- Out of the total signals received:
  - Death 105 (89.0%)
  - Health Emergencies 7 (5.9%): dog bite 2, snake bite 2 & requesting ambulatory Service 3
  - Sick 5 (4.2%)
  - Referral call 1 (0.8): Fire force

## Health Facility Timeliness & Completeness of Weekly report by district, (Epi week 2, 2024)

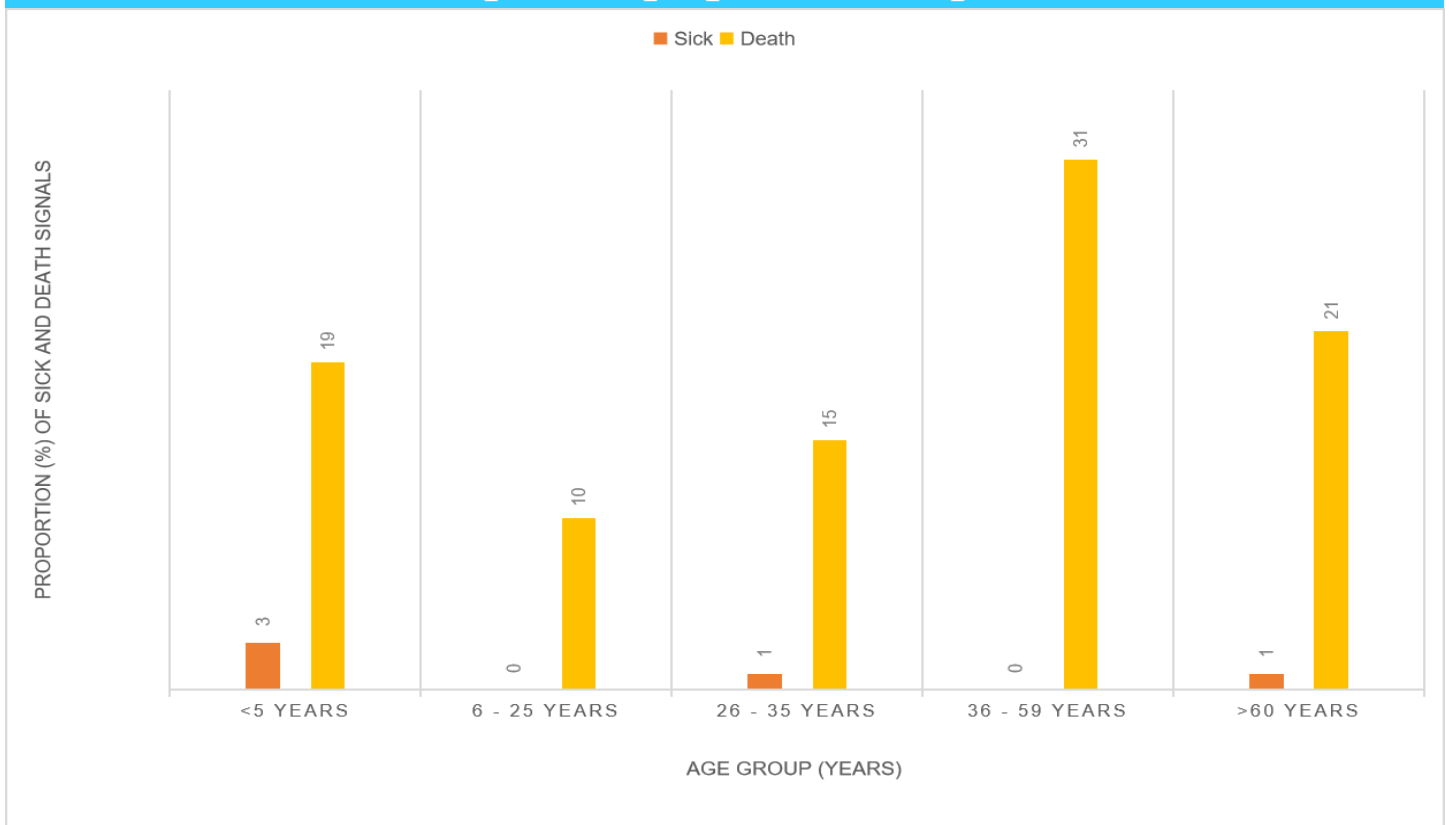


For week 2 of 2024, 15 out of 16 districts achieved both the WHO and national targets for timeliness and completeness while one failed to meet both targets

## Updates from the samples of suspected cases reported for this week

- **Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP):** Four cases of AFP detected. Samples were collected and sent to CPHRL for confirmatory shipment. The TAT for AFP samples is between 2-3 weeks.
- **Cholera:** A suspected case of cholera from Bombali. Sample tested negative from CPHRL
- **Measles:** Only seven samples were received by the Laboratory for week two. Samples have been tested and results will be released on the 19th /01/2024.
- **Yellow fever:** Three suspected cases of Yellow fever reported this. All samples collected and sent to CPHRL for confirmation and results are still pending. The turn around time (TAT) for yellow fever samples in country is seven days
- **Acute Viral Haemorrhagic Fever (AVHF):** Seven cases of suspected AVHF were reported this week. The sample were collected and sent to Kenema regional & Jui P3 Lab, samples however tested Negative for Lassa EVD

## 117 Sick and death signals by age groups, (n=5) (n=105)



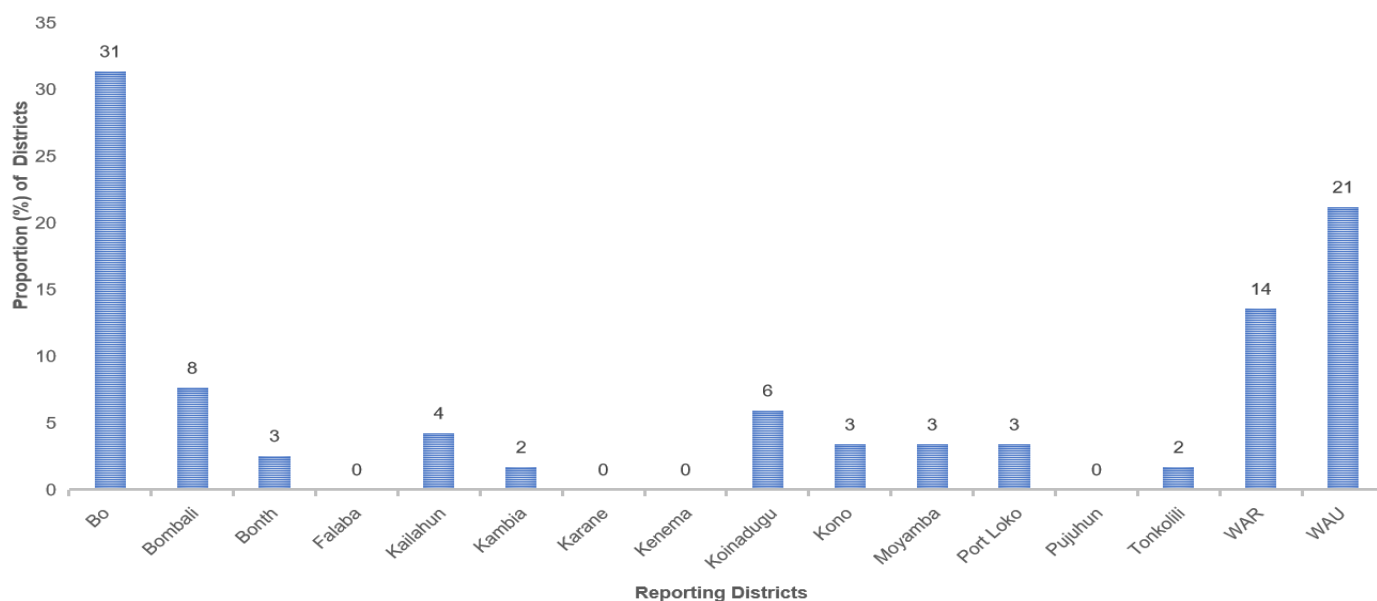
For week two of 2024, a total of 110 call signals for sick and death were made of which 105 were related to deaths and five were for sick. The age groups of 36 –59 and above 60 had a higher proportion of death reported and the least was 6-25years. No sick was reported for the age group of 36-59years

## Submission of report by health facility via phone call, SMS, paper form or Mobile internet (Epi week 2, 2024)

District	# Reported HFs	Call	Paper forms	SMS	Mobile SMS	Mobile internet	Mobile Total	Total Submission	% Mobile Submission
Bo	150	6	0	109	16	18	34	149	23
Bombali	96	0	0	2	20	74	94	96	98
Bonthe	89	51	0	0	15	21	36	87	41
Falaba	50	14	0	0	8	16	24	38	63
Kailahun	91	0	0	0	7	84	91	91	100
Kambia	74	0	0	0	15	59	74	74	100
Karene	62	0	0	12	8	42	50	62	81
Kenema	141	2	0	68	42	28	70	140	50
Koinadugu	67	0	0	46	4	17	21	67	31
Kono	114	15	0	67	17	14	31	113	27
Moyamba	110	79	0	0	19	11	30	109	28
Port Loko	118	0	0	0	52	66	118	118	100
Pujehun	104	0	0	2	11	91	102	104	98
Tonkolili	117	23	0	0	38	53	91	114	80
WAR	77	8	16	0	32	21	53	77	69
WAU	108	1	0	1	41	64	105	107	98
<b>Cumulative</b>	<b>1568</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>1024</b>	<b>1546</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>KEY:</b>		<b>90 - 100</b>		<b>75 - 89</b>		<b>0 - 74</b>			

For week two of 2024, a total of 1,546 facilities reported countrywide using various means of reporting. Mobile SMS and mobile internet were used exclusively by three districts (Kailahun, Kambia and Port Loko ). Only one district (WAR) used paper based reporting of which, 16/77 (20%) of the facilities reported using paper. The country has moved from paper based reporting to electronic since 2018

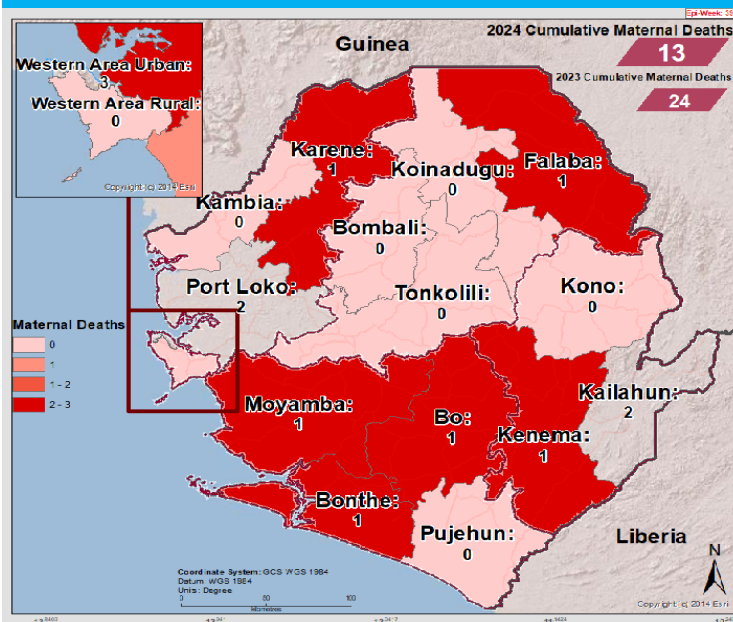
## 117 Call signals by reporting Districts (N=118)



For week two of 2024, greater proportion of call signals were from Bo, closely followed by WAU and then WAR districts, 4/16 (25%) districts made zero call.

## Cumulative Maternal Deaths reported by district (Epi Week 2, 2024)

## Compared Maternal Deaths reported by district (Epi Week 1- 2, 2023 & 2024)



District	2023 Week 1 - 2	2024 Week 1 - 2	
Bo	3	1	↓
Bombali	1	0	↓
Bonthé	2	1	↓
Falaba	2	1	↓
Kailahun	2	2	↔
Kambia	1	0	↓
Karene	0	1	↑
Kenema	1	1	↔
Koinadugu	0	0	↔
Kono	3	0	↓
Moyamba	3	1	↓
Port Loko	2	2	↔
Pujehun	0	0	↔
Tonkolili	1	0	↓
Western Rural	1	0	↓
Western Urban	2	3	↑
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>13</b>	↓

In comparison with week two of 2023, 2024 has reported less maternal deaths for the same period. Thirteen deaths were reported this week from nine districts. Total maternal deaths reported since the start of the year is seventeen.

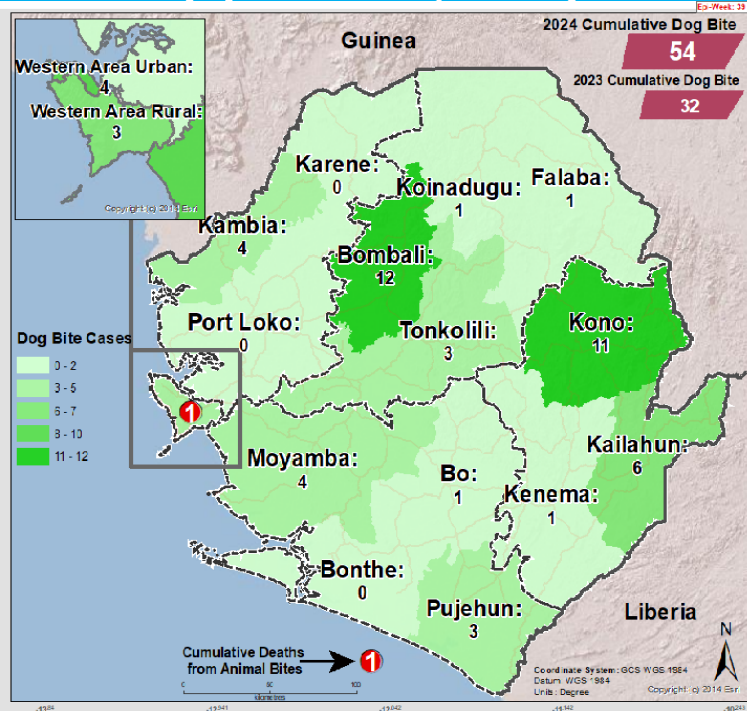
## Maternal Deaths reported by district and Place of Occurrence (Epi Week 1, 2024)

District	Health Facility	No. of Death
Bo	Bo Govt. hospital	1
Kailahun	Kailahun Govt. hospital	2
Port Loko	Port Loko Government Hospital	2
Moyamba	Moyamba Government Hospital	1
Falaba	Buedu CHC	1
Bonthé	Bonthé Government Hospital	1
Kenema	Kenema Government Hospital	1
Koinadugu	Koinadugu Government Hospital	1
WAU	Kingharman Govn. Hospital	1
	PCM Hospital	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>13</b>

In week two of 2024, a total of thirteen maternal deaths were reported from nine districts. Of these deaths, twelve took place in hospitals and one at PHU. Maternal death at PHU level requires investigations especially with the delays and at what stage the delay took place

## Cumulative Dog Bite cases reported by district (Epi Week 2, 2024)

## Compared Dog Bite cases reported by district (Epi Week 1- 2, 2023 & 2024)

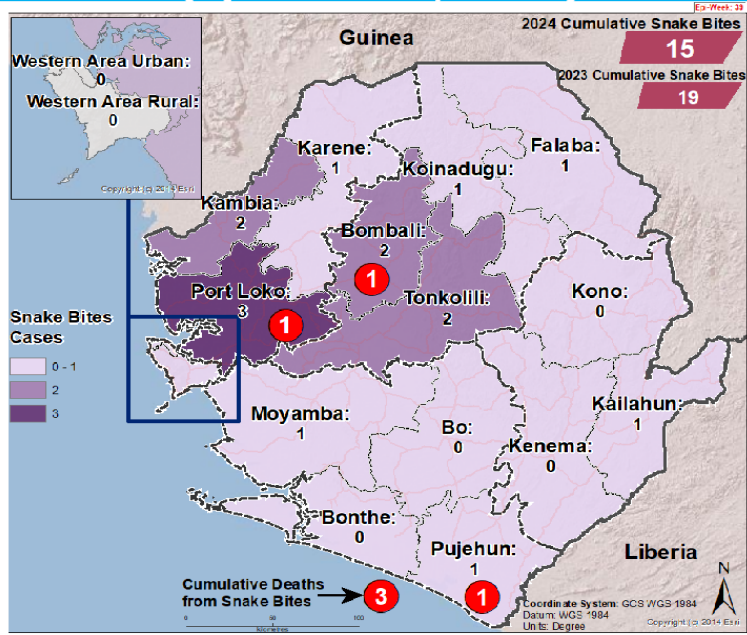


District	2023 Week 1 - 2	2024 Week 1 - 2	
Bo	0	1	↑
Bombali	5	12	↑
Bonthe	0	0	—
Falaba	1	1	—
Kailahun	4	6	↑
Kambia	0	4	↑
Karene	0	0	—
Kenema	1	1	—
Koinadugu	1	1	—
Kono	10	11	↑
Moyamba	0	4	↑
Port Loko	7	0	↓
Pujehun	0	3	↑
Tonkolili	0	3	↑
Western Rural	1	3	↑
Western Urban	2	4	↑
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>54</b>	↑

Week two of 2024 has reported more dog bite cases including one death related to dog bite compared to 2023 same period. The highest number of cases were reported from Bombali Kono and Moyamba district and the death was from WAU district. Total reported cases since the start of the year is fifty-four

## Cumulative Snake Bite cases reported by district (Epi Week 2, 2024)

## Compared Snake Bite cases reported by district (Epi Week 1-2, 2023 & 2024)



District	2023 Week 1 - 2	2024 Week 1 - 2	
Bo	0	0	—
Bombali	3	2	↓
Bonthe	0	0	—
Falaba	0	1	↑
Kailahun	2	1	↓
Kambia	0	2	↑
Karene	2	1	↓
Kenema	1	0	↓
Koinadugu	0	1	↑
Kono	6	0	↓
Moyamba	0	1	↑
Port Loko	2	3	↑
Pujehun	3	1	↓
Tonkolili	0	2	↑
Western Rural	0	0	—
Western Urban	0	0	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>	↓

Week two of 2024 has reported more snake bite cases including three deaths related to snake bite compared to 2023 same period. The deaths are from Pujehun, Port Loko and Bombali districts. The highest number of cases were reported from Port Loko and Tonkolili districts and the deaths were from Bombali and Pujehun district. Total reported cases since the start of the year is fifteen.

**NATIONAL WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BULLETIN PRODUCTION TEAM**



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