



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



Address: 42A Main Motor Road, Wilberforce, Freetown

Contact: (+232) 78 11111/77 11111

Email: [info@npha.gov.sl](mailto:info@npha.gov.sl) | Website: [www.npha.gov.sl](http://www.npha.gov.sl)

Freetown – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**Suspected Food Poisoning Outbreak in Mabella Community, Freetown**

The National Public Health Agency (NPHA) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) are investigating a suspected food poisoning outbreak in the Mabella community of Freetown, Western Area Urban.

**Outbreak Details**

On 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024, at approximately 10:00 AM, the Mabella Community Health Center (CHC) reported a cluster of patients experiencing vomiting and other symptoms. The investigation linked the illnesses to a food vendor who became ill shortly after consuming and selling food.

**Symptoms and Cases**

As of 2:20 PM on May 18, 2024, a total of 104 cases have been reported, including 63 females and 41 males. Among the 104 cases, six are children under five years old. Symptoms include dizziness, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, and blurred vision. Thankfully, no deaths have been reported. Two critically ill females are receiving treatment in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Connaught Hospital.

**Response Actions**

- NPHA and MoH have deployed investigative teams to the field.
- Medical records at community and surrounding health facilities are being reviewed.
- Eleven samples (food, leftovers, blood, and vomitus) have been collected for laboratory testing.
- All affected individuals are receiving treatment at Connaught Hospital.
- Active case searching and clinical evaluation of victims are ongoing.
- Continuous risk communication and community engagement efforts are underway in the affected area.

**The NPHA and MoH are committed to protecting public health and will provide updates as more information becomes available.**

**About the National Public Health Agency (NPHA):**

The NPHA is Sierra Leone's lead agency for preventing and controlling disease outbreaks. For more information about the NPHA, visit their website: <https://www.npha.gov.sl/>

**Brig. Gen. Prof. Foday Sahr**

Executive Director National Public Health Agency

**Media Contact:** Harold Thomas -Risk Communication Lead/Health Education Manager Ministry of Health  
[health.education@mohs.gov.sl](mailto:health.education@mohs.gov.sl) Phone: +232 766 024 60

