



**GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Sierra Leone Implements Preventive Measures Against Monkeypox (Mpox): Public Urged to Take Precautions

The National Public Health Agency (NPHA) and the Ministry of Health (MOH) wish to inform the public that many countries in the region are currently experiencing Monkeypox (Mpox) outbreaks. Although no Mpox cases have been confirmed in Sierra Leone to date, we urge everyone to remain vigilant and actively participate in preventing the potential spread of this disease to our country.

About Monkeypox: Monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease transmitted from animals to humans. Common symptoms include fever, rash, and swollen lymph nodes. The virus can spread through close contact with an infected person or animal, or through contaminated materials.

Government Actions: In response to global concerns about Mpox, we have implemented the following preventive measures:

- **Enhanced Surveillance:** Strengthened disease surveillance systems to promptly detect and respond to suspected cases.
- **Community Engagement:** Collaboration with community leaders and organizations to raise awareness about Mpox and its prevention.
- **Healthcare Preparedness:** Health facilities have been equipped with guidelines and tools to manage potential cases effectively.
- **Regional Coordination:** Ongoing coordination with neighboring countries to monitor and manage cross-border transmission risks.

Preventive Measures for the Public: The NPHA and MOH strongly advise the public to take the following precautions:

- **Avoid Contact with Wild Animals:** Refrain from handling wild animals, especially rodents and primates.
- **Practice Good Hygiene:** Wash hands regularly with soap and water, particularly after animal contact or when caring for sick individuals.
- **Ensure Food Safety:** Thoroughly cook all animal products before consumption.
- **Report Symptoms Promptly:** Seek immediate medical attention if you or someone you know develops symptoms such as fever, rash, or swollen lymph nodes.

Public Health Advisory: While there are no confirmed cases of Mpox in Sierra Leone, we urge everyone to remain cautious and proactive in preventing the virus from spreading. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and provide updates as necessary.

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