



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



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Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Sierra Leone Confirms First Mpox Case since Global Health Alert

The National Public Health Agency (NPHA) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) have confirmed Sierra Leone's first case of Mpox since the World Health Organization (WHO) declared it a Public Health Emergency of International Concern in August 2024. The case was confirmed on January 10, 2025, following thorough testing at the 34 Infectious Disease Laboratory.

The patient is a 27-year-old man from the Western Area Rural District. Health teams are actively conducting contact tracing and investigations to identify possible exposures and prevent further spread.

In response, the NPHA and MoH have swiftly activated the incident command system to contain the outbreak. Key actions underway include:

- Isolating the patient and providing medical care in a secure environment.
- Conducting extensive contact tracing and monitoring identified contacts for 21 days.
- Strengthening disease surveillance, especially in areas the patient recently visited, including Lungi.
- Raising public awareness about Mpox symptoms, transmission, and prevention.
- Supplying healthcare facilities with personal protective equipment (PPE) and training health workers on infection prevention.
- Partnering with international health bodies like the WHO for technical and logistical support.

Mpox is a viral illness transmitted from animals to humans and between people through close contact. Common symptoms include fever, skin rashes, and swollen lymph nodes. Anyone experiencing these symptoms should immediately call 117 or visit the nearest health facility. Health teams are fully prepared to isolate suspected cases and trace contacts to limit the spread.

To help stop the spread of Mpox, we urge everyone to:

- Rely on accurate information from official health sources.
- Wash hands regularly and practice good hygiene.
- Call 117 if you or someone you know shows Mpox-like symptoms.
- Avoid close contact with sick individuals and handling wild animals.
- Show kindness and avoid stigmatizing those affected.

The health and safety of every Sierra Leonean remain our highest priority. We encourage the public to stay calm, remain vigilant, and follow health guidelines. By working together, we can control this outbreak and protect our nation.

Regular updates will be shared as the situation develops.

Signed:

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