



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY
(NPHA)



Address: 42A Main Motor Road, Wilberforce, Freetown

Contact: (+232) 73-906300/33-906200

Email: info@npha.gov.sl | Website: www.npha.gov.sl

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

NPHA and MOH Reassure Public: Flu-like Viral Disease Reported in China and India Is Not in Sierra Leone

The National Public Health Agency (NPHA) and the Ministry of Health (MOH) wish to reassure the public that the flu-like viral disease reported in children in China and the human metapneumovirus (HMPV) cases in India have not been detected in Sierra Leone.

China has reported a surge in a flu-like illness affecting children, with symptoms ranging from mild to severe. Meanwhile, India has recorded cases of human metapneumovirus (HMPV), which causes fever, cough, and runny nose. Although these outbreaks have raised global concerns, there is no evidence of these illnesses in Sierra Leone.

To safeguard public health, the NPHA and MOH are proactively implementing the following precautionary measures:

- Monitoring unusual respiratory illness trends at health facilities and border entry points.
- Enhancing laboratory capacity to detect influenza-like illnesses and related viral infections.
- Educating communities on preventive practices such as hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and timely medical care.
- Collaborating with the World Health Organization (WHO) and international partners to stay informed on global developments and response strategies.

The NPHA and MOH strongly encourage the public to remain calm and to adopt the following preventive measures:

- Regularly wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizers.
- Avoid close contact with individuals showing symptoms of respiratory illnesses.
- Wear masks in crowded places, especially during the flu season.
- Seek medical attention promptly if experiencing persistent fever, difficulty breathing, or other concerning symptoms.

The NPHA and MOH are closely monitoring the global situation and are committed to implementing proactive measures to protect Sierra Leone. Although these illnesses are not present in the country, ongoing efforts aim to prevent their entry and safeguard communities.

For accurate information and updates, the public is urged to rely on official sources.

Signed:

Brig. Gen. Prof. Foday Sahr
Executive Director
National Public Health Agency



Media Contact: Harold Thomas, GoSL Risk Communication Lead / Health Education Manager, Ministry of Health Email: health.education@mohs.gov.sl Phone: +232 766 024 60