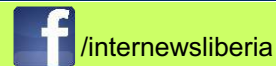


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**Media Newsletter
Issue #16 - June 27-July 3**



Welcome to the Internews Newsletter for media in Liberia. This newsletter is created with the intent to support the work of local media in reporting about Ebola and Ebola-related issues in Liberia. Internews welcomes feedback, comments and suggestions from all media receiving this newsletter and invites them to forward, share and re-post this newsletter as widely as possible.



Three confirmed Ebola cases and 237 contacts in Margibi County

This week one Ebola death and two additional live Ebola cases were confirmed in Liberia. Two individuals were transported from Nedowein community to the Ebola Treatment Unit at ELWA. This makes the total of three confirmed cases in Liberia. In total, 237 contacts of the victims have been listed by the Ebola Task Force of Montserrado District four. According to Deputy Minister Nyenswah, there is no reason for panic as 'the outbreak has been contained locally in the Nedowein community in Mama-Gaba district in Margibi County'. Five households are considered 'high risk' by the Ministry of Health and the community is under precautionary observation¹.

However, how the boy contracted the Ebola virus still remains unclear.

On the 28th of June a 17 year old boy from Margibi County died from the Ebola virus. On the 29th of June the Ministry of Health and CDC received a positive Ebola test from the laboratory. The victim died on the 28th in his father's house in Smell No Taste, a community that is walking distance from Roberts Field International Airport – Monrovia's primary international airport. After his death, the family called the burial team who took a mouth swab of the victim and sent it to the LIBR government testing laboratory. The boy was safely buried by the government burial team on the 28th of June.

The CDC and the Ministry of Health are investigating various possibilities regarding how the 17 year old boy got sick with the Ebola virus. The Ministry of Health is ascertaining whether the boy or family members recently travelled to Guinea or Sierra Leone. The Ebola Task Force, together with the CDC, is also looking into the possibility that the boy and his family got infected with the virus because they ate a buried dog that died of an unknown cause [according to the CDC it is not scientifically proven that a dog can carry the Ebola

virus]. The Ministry of Health also does not rule out the possibility that the boy had sex with an Ebola survivor that transmitted the virus.

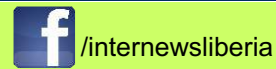
The Minister of Health, Bernice Dahn disclosed that when the boy began showing symptoms he visited a clinic and got tested for malaria. He was tested positive for malaria and was sent to his mother's house in Nedowein community. The boy appears to be moved from his mother's house to his father's house in Smell No Taste, where he died on the 28th. How the boy was transported between the two communities is still not clear. It is also unclear why the boy was able to exit the clinic without getting tested for Ebola. Deputy Minister Nyenswah also has not yet disclosed why the hospital staff did not inform the Ministry of Health that the boy was demonstrating signs and symptoms of the Ebola virus.

The Ministry of Health, together with the CDC, has dispatched a contact tracing team to the boy's community. The team has identified that the boy and the two cases that were identified, were in contact with 237 contacts whilst being ill. The family of the boy and the health workers that treated him have been placed under observation. The healthcare workers and the family that are being observed are doing well and are not yet demonstrating any signs and symptoms of the Ebola virus.

The family and health workers are being provided with food by the County Health Team and will be observed for 21 days. The two persons that were tested positive for the virus are currently undergoing treatment in the Ebola Treatment Unit of ELWA hospital in the capital, Monrovia.

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Deputy Minister of Health Tolbert Nyenswah has officially stated that the borders will not be closed. He has also stated that the new case gives Liberians no reason to panic. He believes that they should see the incident as a “success story since it has proven that our surveillance system works”. Border control has been intensified at the country borders and at the checkpoints at Margibi County. Nyenswah also disclosed that Monrovia’s Robertsfield International Airport has installed infrared camera’s that measure the temperature of travellers.

The Ebola Treatment Centre in Margibi has been reactivated to respond to the situation in the county. Nyenswah stated that the Ministry of Health is prepared for the further Ebola cases: in Monrovia,

ELWA hospital is able to treat patients, and in the counties, the Ebola Treatment Units in Bong, Nimba and Lofa were never decommissioned, so continue to function according to protocol.

Minister of Health Bernice Dahn has called upon community members to telephone the Ebola emergency number (4455) and to inform community leaders if Ebola is suspected in their community.

Deputy Minister Nyenswah states that all schools in Margibi County remain open. The school administrations have reinforced hand-washing regulations and check the temperature of the students before entering the school. He also indicates that all 16 health facilities in Margibi County are open to the public. He assured the public that the health facilities have the right infection prevention control measures in place.

The awareness raising campaign ‘Ebola Must Go’ of the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with UNICEF has been reactivated. Please find the some of the key messages below:

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY, PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY

Please be careful and make sure that you promote the following messages to ensure the safety of your listeners and readers:

Bury all dead bodies safely

- Allow only trained people to handle a dead body
- Do not touch, bath or bury a dead person.
- Do not hide dead people
- Families can still pray and make decisions about the funeral – the only rule is never touch a dead body

Speak out! If you know of a sick person

- Always call 4455 and tell your community leader
- Do not hide sick people
- Do not let others hide sick people

Keep sick people away from others

- Do not touch sick people or thing they have used
- Keep them in their own area and stay 4 steps away
- Get the person treatment quick-quick
- Call 4455 and tell your community leader

Help find everyone who touches s sick person

- Anyone who touched a sick person is a “Contact” who could have Ebola
- Help heath workers find there “Contacts”
- If you touch a sick person, stay home and tell your community leader

“Contacts” must stay to one area with food and water

- Anyone who touches a sick person must stay to their area for 21 days
- Make sure these “Contacts” do not run away
- Give them food and water and encourage them – talk to your community leader



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Sources:

Tweet about 3 confirmed cases (Source:

MICAT):

[https://twitter.com/MicatLiberia/status/6161](https://twitter.com/MicatLiberia/status/616186681981542400)

86681981542400

Speech of Minister of Health Bernice Dahn

and Deputy Minister Tolbert Nyenswah

(source: MICAT):

[http://www.micatliberia.com/index.php/blog](http://www.micatliberia.com/index.php/blog/item/4026-new-ebola-situation-will-be-put-under-control-says-health-minister.html)

[/item/4026-new-ebola-situation-will-be-put-](http://www.micatliberia.com/index.php/blog/item/4026-new-ebola-situation-will-be-put-under-control-says-health-minister.html)

[under-control-says-health-minister.html](http://www.micatliberia.com/index.php/blog/item/4026-new-ebola-situation-will-be-put-under-control-says-health-minister.html)

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Citizens' Feedback



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CROSS BORDER SURVEILLANCE

Some citizens in Bomi County want to advise the government to close the borders. They also state that the EVD awareness campaign needs to be reactivated by the Government. Additionally they state that the government should re-inforce the EVD protocols in the county. Especially the ban on eating bush meat should be effective again.

Bomi

Some citizens of Margibi County are questioning the decision of the government not to close the borders.

Margibi

Some citizens in Montserrado County would like to understand why the government has opened the borders. They'd also like to know how the boy from Margibi County got infected with the Ebola virus.

Montserrado

Locals from Bong County report that they would like the government to close the borders to stop Ebola from coming back in the country.

Bong

Some locals from River Cess County report that the opening of the border puts Liberia at risk of being infected with the Ebola virus. They suggest that the borders need to be closed again.

River Cess

SCHOOL CLOSURE

Residents from Grand Gedeh report that after the Minister of Education pronounced that schools are to close on the 31st of July, children stopped going to school altogether.

Grand Gedeh

Some citizens report that teachers have been stopped teaching since it was declared that schools would close on the 31st of July.

Residents of Sinoe County question the reason for children still to go to school when government has declared that schools will be closed from July 31st and that no promotion will take place for the 9th and 12th graders.

Sinoe



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Citizens' Feedback



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EVD TASK FORCE

Some citizens in Bomi County also would like to know if the Ebola emergency number 4455 is still active. They are wondering whether or not they should report sick people in their communities.

Bomi

Some citizens in Grand Gedeh County would like to know why the EVD Task Force was declared inactive when the Government knew that Ebola could hit Liberia at any time. They ask the local authorities to re-start the taskforce.

Grand Gedeh

NEW CASES

Some citizens in Montserrado County state that NGOs are happy about the Ebola virus resurfacing in their county as it means that they will have more money to eat.

Montserrado

Some citizens in Montserrado County state that NGOs are happy about the Ebola virus resurfacing in their county as it means that they will have more money to eat.

Grand Kru

VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

According to some citizens in Bomi County there was a massive turn out for the Polio and vitamin A campaign in the county.

Bomi

Some citizens from Bong County report that the Polio and Vitamin A was a big success in Bong County.

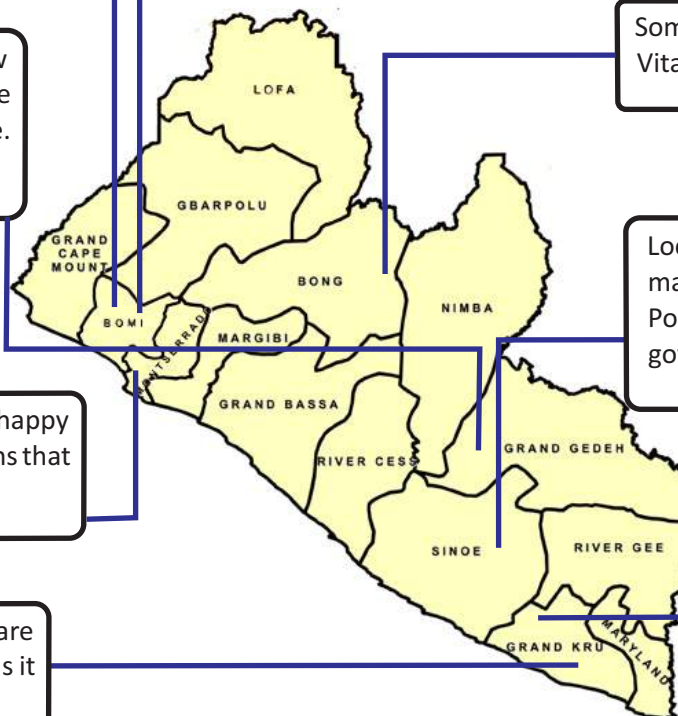
Bong

Locals in Seede and Zejila Town in Momo District state that many parents refuse to get their children vaccinated with the Polio and Vitamin A vaccine as they believe that the government is infecting their children with the Ebola virus.

Sinoe

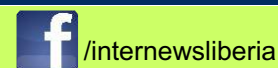
Residents from Grand Kru County report that many children have been vaccinated in their county; they are declaring the polio and vitamin A campaign a big success.

Grand Kru



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Rumors Reporting

EBOLA VACCINES

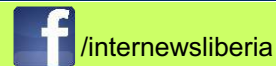
Rumors from local people	Well-sourced and accurate responses
Sinoe County There are people who are refusing to take their children to the hospital for the Polio and vitamin A immunization campaign because they believe that the government is using the campaign as a way to infect people with Ebola.	From the 26 th of 29 th of June the Ministry of Health and UNICEF organized a nationwide Polio and vitamin A immunization campaign. Children below the age of 5 were given free drops in the mouth to protect them from the polio virus. The polio immunization campaign was not organized by the government to infect people with the Ebola virus. With the vaccination, young children are protected against the virus, to ensure that Liberia will continue to be polio free. A parent has the right to refuse the immunization of his or her child. No one should be arrested for refusing to take part in the immunization campaign.
Nimba County A woman in Nimba County was arrested by the LNP after she refused health workers to give her child the Polio and vitamin A vaccine. She was the vaccine would infect the child with the Ebola virus.	Polio (Source: CDC): http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/polio.pdf Poster about the Polio Campaign in Liberia (Source MoH, UNICEF): https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B4TbACi4OQL4UzN1QzhmWHFDQUE&authuser=0 Flyer about the Polio Campaign in Liberia (Source MoH, UNICEF): https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B4TbACi4OQL4NUNQOWtzSE13aIE&authuser=0 Media contacts: UNICEF Liberia Adolphus Scott adscott@unicef.org

NEW CASE

Rumors from local people	Well-sourced and accurate responses
Grand Gedeh County Some locals are saying that there is a new case in Margibi County. They are very concerned by the news because they believe that the Ebola Task Force no longer exists. They believe that the task force was disbanded after Liberia was declared Ebola free.	It is not clear how the 17 year old Ebola victim has contracted the Ebola virus. The Montserrado district four Ebola Task Force has dispatched contact tracers to Margibi who are investigating the source of transmission. It is unclear if the boy has travelled from Guinea or Sierra Leone to Liberia. It is true that Liberia currently has 3 confirmed Ebola cases (1 death and 2 live cases) in the country. The cases all come from the Nedowein community and Smell No Taste community in Margibi County. Official statements from the Ministry of Health indicate that 237 contacts have been listed thus far. People are being monitored and are being given food and water. As soon as a person becomes sick the County Health Team will take them to the Ebola Treatment Unit to do an Ebola test.

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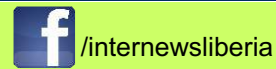
Rumors Reporting

NEW CASE

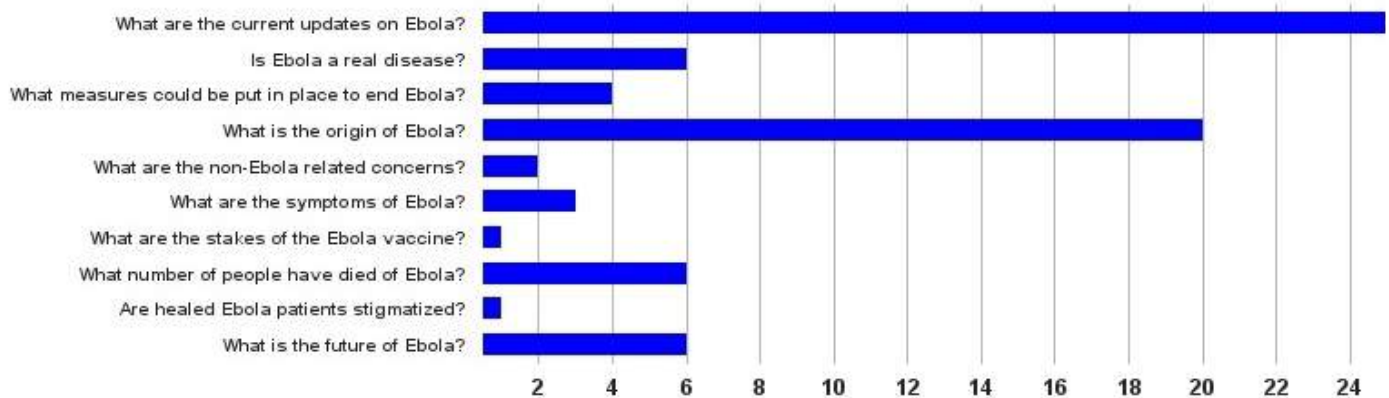
Rumors from local people	Well-sourced and accurate responses
<p>Grand Kru County Some citizens are saying that Liberia has a new confirmed Ebola case.</p> <p>Montserrado County Why has Liberia been declared Ebola free if Ebola is still in the country?</p> <p>Grand Cape Mount Some citizens in Grand Cape Mount County are shocked and worried about the new Ebola case. They are concerned that more people will get sick now Ebola is back in Liberia.</p> <p>Margibi County Some citizens in Margibi County are very worried about the new case that has been reported in their county. They say that the boy became sick in Guinea and travelled to Liberia.</p> <p>Bong County Locals rumour that the Bong Mines Hospital had a suspected case of Ebola. Yesterday a girl visited the hospital with her parents. She vomited blood but was never treated. She returned home with her parents and died this morning. No burial team has visited her.</p> <p>Montserrado Some citizens in Montserrado County say that the boy who died of the Ebola virus in Margibi County caught the virus in Sierra Leone.</p>	<p>If the test is positive the patients will be treated for the Ebola virus.</p> <p>Call for help soon: the earlier you get treatment the more change you have to survive.</p> <p>Because of the 3 new confirmed cases, Liberia is no longer declared Ebola free. As Tolbert Nyenswah stated during the MICAT press conference on the 30th of June 2015: 'when there is a confirmed Ebola case, a country is no longer declared Ebola free'.</p> <p>Sources:</p> <p>Tweet about 3 confirmed cases (Source: MICAT): https://twitter.com/MicatLiberia/status/616186681981542400</p> <p>Speech of Minister of Health Bernice Dahn and Deputy Minister Tolbert Nyenswah (source: MICAT): http://www.micatliberia.com/index.php/blog/item/4026-new-ebola-situation-will-be-put-under-control-says-health-minister.html</p> <p>Ministry of Health Shadrach Bestman, Press Officer shadrachbestman@gmail.com</p> <p>CDC Yolonda Freeman, Communications Specialist Phone: 0775090926 yfreeman@cdc.gov</p>

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THE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS IN THE GEOPOLL SURVEY Information Needs Analysis



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM COUNTIES

BOMI COUNTY

What number of people have died of Ebola?

BONG COUNTY

What number of people have died of Ebola?

What is the future of Ebola?

What are the current updates on Ebola?

Is Ebola a real disease?

GRAND BASSA COUNTY

What are the non-Ebola related concerns?

What are the symptoms of Ebola?

What are the current updates on Ebola?

GRAND GEDEH COUNTY

What are the current updates on Ebola?

Is Ebola a real disease?

LOFA COUNTY

What are the non-Ebola related concerns?

What is the origin of Ebola?

What are the current updates on Ebola?

MARGIBI COUNTY

What are the symptoms of Ebola?

What is the origin of Ebola?

What are the current updates on Ebola?

What number of people have died of Ebola?

MONTERRADO COUNTY

What number of people have died of Ebola?

Are healed Ebola patients stigmatized?

What are the current updates on Ebola?

What is the future of Ebola?

NIMBA COUNTY

What is the origin of Ebola?

What are the current updates on Ebola?

Is Ebola a real disease?

What are the current updates on Ebola?

RIVER GEE

What is the origin of Ebola?

SINOE

What is the origin of Ebola?

What are the stakes of the Ebola vaccine?



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adscott@unicef.org



Resources for the media

Polio (Source: CDC):

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/polio.pdf>

Poster about the Polio Campaign in Liberia (Source MoH, UNICEF):

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B4TbACi4OQL4UzN1QzhmWHFDQUE&authuser=0>

Flyer about the Polio Campaign in Liberia (Source MoH, UNICEF):

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B4TbACi4OQL4NUNQOWtzSE13alE&authuser=0>

Tweet about 3 confirmed cases (Source: MICAT):

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