

Situations like the coronavirus pandemic can quickly become a catalyst for social conflict due to misinformation, rumours and fake news, as we've seen in the past. Every day we continue to see more false information shared throughout our communities, confusing citizens and leaving them unsure where to ask their questions.

The Liberia Coronavirus CivicActs Campaign (CCC) captures rumours and perceptions among communities to eliminate information gaps and debunk rumours before they can do more harm.

COVID-19 Stats for Liberia

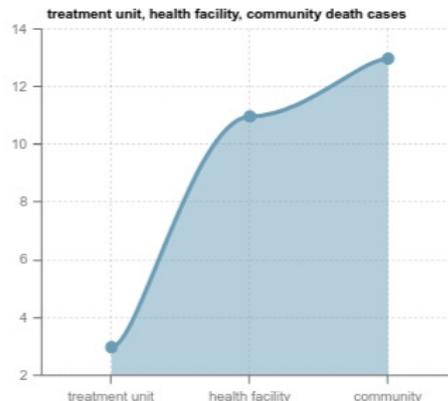
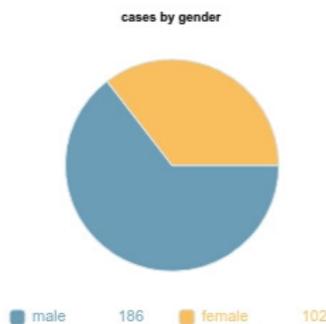
288 confirmed cases

- 36% of all confirmed cases are so far active
- 55% of all confirmed cases have so far recovered
- 9% of all confirmed cases have so far died

0.0058% of Liberia's total population (5 million) already affected by coronavirus



Age range of the affected case is 1 month to 74 years with median age of 41 years



Active hotline: 4455

Questions → Facts



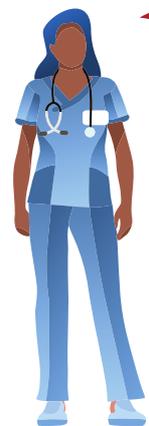
Is it true that only one health worker is responsible for collecting specimens from everyone who comes to the specimen collection center and that this person does not change his gloves for each client?

According to the National Public Health Institute, there is more than one trained laboratory technician, and the possibility of having one person collect specimens does not exist during the COVID-19 crisis. Individual gloves are also used for each client to promote social distancing. These measures are very important given that droplets from an infected person may remain in the air for almost eight minutes.



What is COVID-19 Voluntary Testing and is it a good practice in the COVID-19 outbreak?

Voluntary testing is when a person submits for testing on their own free will, even though they have not been suspected of carrying the virus, or placed on the National Public Health potential contact list. This practice is very necessary because it will help to slow down the spread of Coronavirus as a result of early diagnosis. The clients will also be able to make informed decisions to protect themselves, their families and their friends.



Where did the novel Coronavirus come from?

There is scientific consensus that COVID-19 has a natural origin – with the new coronavirus having spread to humans from animals, most likely bats. According to the World Health Organization, more research is needed to determine the exact origin of the new or “novel” Coronavirus, which causes the illness called COVID-19.

Questions → Facts



Many people in Maryland County believe that coronavirus is a manmade virus produced to reduce the population of the world.

The new Coronavirus is part of a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans. In humans, several coronaviruses are known to cause respiratory infections, ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

According to the World Health Organization, more research is needed to determine the exact origin of the new or “novel” Coronavirus, which causes the illness called COVID-19. However, scientists have traced the spread of the new virus back to a seafood market or wet market in Wuhan, China – the city where the outbreak is believed to have originated. Such markets pose a heightened risk of viruses jumping from animals to humans because hygiene standards are difficult to maintain if live animals are being kept and butchered on site.

Typically, they are also densely packed areas, allowing disease to spread from species to species. The scientific consensus is that COVID-19 has a natural origin – with the new coronavirus having spread to humans from animals, most likely bats. However, scientists are continuing to study the disease, to better understand its origin – so new information about this is likely to be released in future, as studies progress.

Diseases that are spread to humans from animals are known as “zoonotic diseases”. Other examples of zoonotic diseases include the Ebola Virus Disease, and rabies.



The new rumour in some quarters of my community suggests that because dogs are domestic animals, they are a carrier of COVID-19, because it is possible that those infected can easily interact with them or dogs may drink from the toilet of an infected person.

According to the WHO, several dogs and cats that came into contact with infected humans have tested positive for COVID-19. In experimental conditions, cats were able to transmit infection to other animals of the same species. However, there is no evidence that these domestic animals can transmit COVID-19 to humans. COVID-19 is mainly spread through droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks.

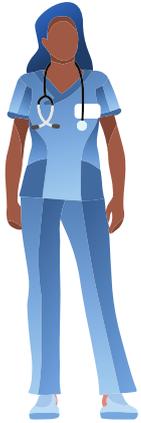
It is still recommended that people who are sick with COVID-19 and people who are at risk limit contact with both people and animals. When handling and caring for animals, basic hygiene measures should always be implemented. This includes hand-washing after handling animals, their food or supplies, as well as avoiding kissing, licking or sharing food.

WHO says it continues to monitor the latest research on this and other COVID-19 topics and will update the public as new findings become available. The WHO says initial investigations suggest that the virus may be present in faeces or human toilets in some cases but there have been no reports of faecal-oral transmission of COVID-19. Additionally, there is no evidence to date on the survival of the COVID-19 virus in water or sewage.

Also, the US CDC says the virus primarily spreads from person-to-person, though it appears that it can spread from people to animals in some situations.



Questions → Facts



The rainy season will spread the virus because the virus survives in cold weather.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC): “It is not yet known whether weather and temperature affect the spread of COVID-19. Some other viruses, like those that cause the common cold and flu, spread more during cold weather months but that does not mean it is impossible to become sick with these viruses during other months. There is much more to learn about the transmissibility, severity, and other features associated with COVID-19 and investigations are ongoing.”

However, scientists have stated that the virus is more stable in the cold and because people spend more time together indoors during rainy season, this might facilitate the spread of COVID-19. That is why practicing physical distancing is very important to prevent getting infected – especially during the rainy season.

Other experts have said that cooler temperatures can affect the behaviour and spread of a virus for the following reasons:

1. Temperatures can affect the virus directly because some viruses may have a temperature range where they can survive for longer and this is partly dependent on their “envelope” – the outer layer that’s made of lipids (which is why washing hands with soap is effective, because it disrupts the lipids).
2. When temperatures drop, this changes the behaviour of the human population. People tend to spend more time indoors and in closer contact, making it easier for the virus to spread.

While scientists have found that in some cases, rain can physically wash the virus off a surface (just like how dirt can be washed away by rain), experts are still careful to state that they don’t believe rain can ‘deactivate’ the virus or disinfect surfaces the same way that washing with soap and water does.

Therefore, washing your hands – and/or disinfecting surfaces – with soap and water, or alcohol-based sanitizers remains one of the best ways to protect yourself and others from becoming ill with COVID-19.

While there is currently no clear answer as to whether COVID-19 will spread faster during the rainy season in Liberia or not, remember that COVID-19 is a new virus and scientists are constantly discovering new things about it.

Therefore, in the meantime, it is important to continue observing the known safety precautions – including physical distancing outside your home, and regularly washing your hands with soap and water – regardless of the weather.



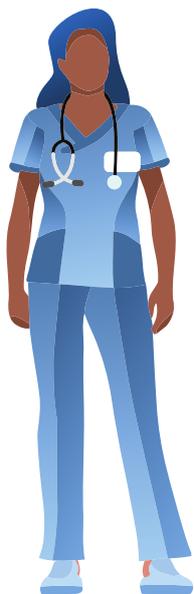
COVID-19 Security Response Liberia National Police Hotlines

Montserrado

- Zone 1 Bushrod Island: 0770800501, 0770800990, 0770800911
- Zone 2 Central Monrovia: 0770800502, 0770800990, 0770800911
- Zone 3 Congo Town: 0770800503, 0770800990, 0770800911
- Zone 4 Garnesville/Barnesville: 0770800504, 0770800911, 0770800990
- Zone 5 Paynesville: 0770800505, 0770800911, 0770800990
- Zone 6 Brewerville: 0770800506, 0770800911, 0770800990
- Zone 7 Corwell: 0770800507, 0770800990, 0770800911
- Zone 8 Paynesville ELWA/Rehab/RIA Highway: 0770800508, 0770800990, 0770800911
- Zone 9 Somalia Drive/Jacob Town: 0770800509, 07708009111
- Zone 10 Vai Town, up to Freeport.: 0770800510, 0770800990, 0770800911
- Zone 11 Mont Barclay - Kakata Highway up to 15 Gate: 0770800511, 0770800990, 0770800911
- Other Senior Police supervisors numbers:
 - 0770800117 - Chief of Patrol and head of Zone and depots
 - 0770800142 - Head of Monrovia Region
 - 0770800125 - ERU Chief
 - 0770800121 - PSU Chief
 - 0770800190 - Chief of Small Arms
 - 0770800109 - Senior Inspector

Follow these steps to help prevent the spread of coronavirus

- Stay at home unless you provide an essential service.
- Keep washing your hands frequently with soap for a minimum of 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) if soap and water are not available.
- Cover your nose and mouth (with your elbow or a tissue) when sneezing.
- Avoid crowded places and practice physical distancing. If you think you have been exposed to someone with coronavirus, quarantine yourself for a minimum of 14 days and monitor any symptoms.
- The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has confirmed six new possible coronavirus symptoms. They are chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headaches, a sore throat,
- new loss of taste and smell. The original reported symptoms remain fever, tiredness and a dry cough.



Do you have any **questions** about coronavirus? Have you heard any **rumors**? Send us your questions at ccc@accountabilitylab.org so we can address them!