



CORONA FET



Week: 1st – 7th November 2020

**Big Idea of the Week:
Corona fet na we all fet
is a One Health approach**

One Health is the idea that the health of people, animals, and the environment are all connected.

For example, humans may cut down trees to make room for building. Trees clean our air and are home to many animals. When so many trees are cut down around the world, this can make the air less healthy for us to breathe and make it harder for animals to survive in a new environment.

Taking a One Health approach means people from the human health, animal health, and environmental health sectors working together to protect and promote the health, livelihood, and development of people, animals, and the environment in Sierra Leone.

The ongoing coronavirus outbreak around the world, which has impacted so many aspects of our lives, highlights the importance of this approach of working together for better coordination, communication, and collaboration at all levels and all parts of society.

Corona fet na we all fet!

Suggestions for people to interview

- Government officials across One Health sectors (Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment Protection Agency, and Office of National Security)
- One Health local partners such as universities and civil society
- International donors and partners such as USAID, World Bank, WHO, FAO, and CDC
- Community health workers, animal health workers, social and environmental officers in district councils
- Community leaders

Suggestions for questions for interviews and panel discussions

- Why is One Health an important approach for addressing health issues?
- What are some local examples of how human, animal, and environmental health are connected?
- What can we do to support One Health in our communities and in Sierra Leone?
- What have we learned from the coronavirus response that we can use to improve our One Health efforts? Similarly, what can we use from the One Health approach to improve our response to coronavirus?

Additional messages

One Health Day is celebrated every year around the world on November 3rd.

No one sector can fully address issues that affect humans, animals, and the environment, such as disease outbreaks, food safety, or deforestation. It requires collaboration across all One Health sectors and at all levels.

Individuals with experience in human health, animal health, plant health and the environment, should join forces to support a One Health approach to prevent and respond to health threats.

One Health has been around for a long time, but it has received greater attention in recent years because many factors have changed the interactions among people, animals, plants, and our environment.

A growing population living closer to and with the animal population increases the chances of sicknesses passing from animals into humans.

An example of what One Health can look like in action includes:

- A community member contacts an animal health worker about a strange sickness in their animals
- Animal health workers then share that alert among colleagues and go with a team to look into the sickness.
- The information from the investigation is then shared with others so that any necessary actions can be taken.
- If the sickness is something that can spread easily to other animals or to people, government and partners can work together with communities to raise awareness about the sickness and what they can do to prevent and control the spread of the sickness.

Around three-fourths of new and reemerging diseases today come from animals.

Some sicknesses that can be spread from animals to people are Ebola, Lassa fever, rabies, anthrax, and animal flu like bird flu or pig flu.

Coronavirus is believed to have spread from an animal to a person. From there it has spread very quickly and easily from person to person.

That is why it is important to know how to live and interact safely with animals. Preventing sickness from spreading from an animal to a human can save many lives.

There is no evidence of coronavirus in animals in Sierra Leone, but there are actions we can take to help keep ourselves, our families, and our communities healthier from other sicknesses when we work with and live near animals.

Messages from the Government of Sierra Leone Message Guide for Zoonotic Diseases

Note: Zoonotic diseases are diseases that spread from animals to humans.

Animal health, and the health of the areas they live in, is important for human health.

Taking good care of our pets and livestock helps keep animals healthy which helps keep us, our families, and our communities healthy.

Animals are a source of food, a source of income, and help our plants and forests grow.

- Many animals help grow the fruits that we eat by spreading the seeds. Without these animals, the plants would not multiply and grow fruits.
- Some animals help the crops we grow stay healthy by eating the insects that damage the crops.

- If the forest is cut, burned, or no longer fine for animals, the animals will be forced to find a new home which can bring them closer to people and other animals. This can make problems for people and between animals. Taking care of our forests and land helps animals to live in peace and avoid problems.

Animals can get sick just like people can, and some of them can spread some of those sicknesses to people and other animals, such as monkeys, bats, rats, cats, dogs, chickens, and pigs.

Some of these sicknesses that can be spread are serious and can cause death.

Some of these serious sicknesses that can be spread from animals to people are Ebola, Lassa fever, rabies, anthrax, and animal flu like bird flu or pig flu.

There are actions we can take to help keep ourselves, our families, and our communities healthier when we work with and live near animals.

- Tell an animal health worker, community health worker, environmental officer, traditional healer, religious leader, or your chief about any animal that looks sick or that you find dead.
- Animals are an important food source. To keep healthy, it is important to never prepare or eat, sell, or give away an animal that looks sick or that you find dead. Sick animals and animals we find dead can spread their sickness to those who touch them.
- Washing our hands with soap and water after touching or butchering an animal, after handling animal meat or products, and after cleaning areas where animals have been are some of the best ways we can stop the spread of sickness from an animal to ourselves and our families.
- Keep animals in the yard or closed area. Animals that roam freely are more likely to come in contact with sicknesses from other animals and can then spread the sicknesses to your other animals, our families, or our communities.
- If one or more of your animals get sick or dies, separate the sick or dead animals from the healthy ones to stop the spread of sickness. Tell an animal health worker, community health worker, environmental officer, traditional healer, religious leader, or your chief.

What to do if someone gets sick or dies after contact with an animal

If a person gets sick or dies after contact with an animal, do not touch the person, their body fluids such as wet, toilet, vomit, blood, spit, or snot, or any items they or their body fluids have touched.

- Touching the body of a sick or dead person, their body fluids, or items they or their body fluids touched can spread sickness to other people.

If a person gets sick or dies after contact with an animal, go to your nearest health facility or community health worker or call 117.

Telling a health worker about any sickness or death after contact with an animal can help district authorities find the reason for the sickness or death and can save the lives of others in Sierra Leone.