Getting tested to know if you have the virus helps stop it from spreading to your loved ones and people in your community who could get very sick.

By getting tested, you are saving lives.

If you test positive for coronavirus but do not have any signs and symptoms, there are two options: stay home but in an area away from others you are living with, or go to a community care center. A health worker will talk to you and decide on the best option for you.

In a community care center, a health worker checks you every day and gives you any care you may need. You will receive meals, counseling, and can talk on the phone with family and friends. You can carry personal possessions to the center and take them home with you when you leave.

After a week in the center, you will be tested again. Once you test negative for the virus two times at least 24 hours apart, you will be cleared to go home.

People returning home from a community care center or treatment center should be warmly welcomed back by their family and neighbors.

Corona fet na we all fet!

Suggestions for people to interview

- Representatives from the COVID-19 response case management pillar
- Individuals who have returned home after staying in a community care center
- Community leaders in communities where a community care center is located

Suggestions for questions for interviews and panel discussions

- Why should I get tested if I feel fine?
- What happens inside the community care center?
- For how long do you have to stay at the community care center?

Questions and Answers for Coronavirus Community Care Centers

Q: What is a community care center?

A: Community care centers are places where people who test positive for coronavirus but do not have any signs or symptoms or their signs and symptoms are not too serious can stay until the health workers say it is safe for them to go back into their community.

These are different from treatment centers, which are where people who test positive for coronavirus and have serious signs and symptoms or are more likely to have serious signs and symptoms go to be treated.

Q: If I feel fine and healthy, why do I need to be in a community care center?

A: Most people who get coronavirus do not show signs and symptoms or their signs and symptoms are not too serious. Because they are not very sick, they do not need to stay in a hospital and can instead get the care they need in a community care center.

Even if a person with coronavirus looks and feels healthy, they can still spread the virus to others until they test negative twice for the virus. By staying in a community care center until a health worker says it is okay to go back to your community, you are protecting your community and loved ones from getting the virus and possibly getting very sick or dying.

Community care centers are also places for patients who were in the hospital but are recovering and do not require the level of care provided in the hospital.

Q: What kind of care and treatment will I receive at a community care center?

A: A trained health worker will check you every day for signs and symptoms of coronavirus and give you any care that you need. There is no special treatment for coronavirus, but many of the symptoms can be treated. Patients will also receive counselling and psychosocial services while you are in the community care center.

If you take any daily medicine at home, please take this with you to the community care center.

If you have signs and symptoms and they become serious or you have other health problems, your health situation will be assessed and you may be moved to a hospital for further care.

Q: How long will I be in the community care center? When will I be able to go home?

A: You will be in the community care center until you receive two negative test results for coronavirus at least 24 hours apart and a health worker says it is okay for you to leave and go home.

For patients with no signs and symptoms, you will be tested again for coronavirus after seven days in the community care center. If the test result is negative, another test will be done after 24 hours. If that result is also negative, the patient can be cleared to go home. If either test result is positive, the patient will be tested again in another seven days.

For patients who had signs and symptoms, you will be tested once three days have passed without any signs and symptoms. If the test result is negative, another test will be done after 24 hours. If that result is also negative, the patient can be cleared to go home. If either test result is positive, the patient will be tested again in another seven days.

When you are cleared to go home, you will be given a discharge card which will detail the results of any tests performed.

Q: How can I keep safe during my stay in the community care center?

A: When in the community care center, you are to remain within the compound until the health worker tells you it is safe to leave. It is important for your health and the health of others to avoid all close contact with others while in the community care center. This means keeping at least an arms-

stretched distance from others at all times. It is also good to wash your hands with soap and water frequently. Please wear a cloth mask when health care workers come to care for you or to clean your room/ward.

Q: Will my family members be able to visit me while I'm in the community care center?

A: Coronavirus spreads easily to others through close contact. To protect family members and prevent spread in the community, family members will not be allowed to visit you in the community care center. For babies and young children, one caregiver will stay with them the whole time they are in the community care center. The caregiver will not be allowed to leave until they and the child are told by a health worker that they are okay to go home and into the community.

Q: Can I take personal possessions with me?

A: Yes, you can carry personal possessions with you to the center. At discharge, all clothes and bed linen will be washed and returned to you to take home. Mobile phones and other items will be cleaned at discharge and returned to you.

Q: Who can I contact if I have questions, concerns, or complaints?

A: If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, call 117. Please also visit www.dhse.gov.sl for more information on coronavirus in Sierra Leone.

Additional Messages on Coronavirus and Getting Tested

Anybody can get coronavirus. The virus doesn't care your age, gender, race, nationality, religion, and income level. We are all at risk of getting the virus.

Coronavirus spreads easily from person to person.

If one person has the virus and spreads it to others, and then each of those people spreads it to others, within a short time, the virus can spread throughout a community.

Most people with coronavirus have only mild symptoms or do not show any signs and symptoms at all.

Some people who get the virus can get very sick and even die, especially people who are older or have other health conditions.

Sometimes, people do not know they have other health conditions until they get worse and they get sick. Those other health conditions, even when we do not yet know about them, can make our bodies weaker in fighting other sicknesses, like coronavirus.

Getting tested to know if you have the virus helps stop it from spreading to your loved ones and people in your community who could get very sick or even die.

By getting tested, you are protecting yourself, your family, and your community.

By getting tested, you are saving lives.

By getting tested, you are being a role-model in your community, someone who will inspire and motivate others not to fear testing either.

Prevention is better than treatment. The most effective actions to protect ourselves and others against coronavirus are to wash our hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, keep a safe distance of at least 1 meter or arms-stretched length from others, wear a cloth mask whenever we leave the house, and call 117 right away if you have fever, tiredness, and cough.