



Week: 29th June – 5th July 2020

Big Idea of the Week: Inter-district travel is back, but coronavirus is not invited

Coronavirus is still in Sierra Leone and a threat to all of us. The lifting of the inter-district lockdown does not mean that coronavirus is finished. We must all continue to do our part every day and take all actions to stop the spread of coronavirus and end it in Sierra Leone.

Traditional Practices

Secret society activities are still not allowed at this time.

Religious Practices

Coronavirus is real and it is in Sierra Leone. Let us support our community and worshippers to take all actions to stop the spread of coronavirus. Let us be good examples and show care and love for our community.

Worship in churches and mosques are still not allowed at this time. We will not re-start our religious services until the government confirms it is safe to do so. We will continue to pray for our country from our homes, together at heart.

Traditional events like funerals, weddings, and naming ceremonies are times to show our love for one another. Let's help protect our loved ones by limiting such events to 35 people, wearing cloth masks, and keeping a safe distance of at least one meter or arms-stretched length, from each other.

Inter-district travel

Travel is open between districts again. Let's make sure coronavirus does not travel with us by washing our hands frequently with soap and water, wearing cloth masks correctly by covering our nose and mouths, keeping distance from each other in transport, and staying home and calling 117 if you have fever, tiredness, and cough.

When packing your things for travel, don't forget to take cloth face masks. All travelers must wear a face mask to move between districts.

When traveling out of a district and into a new one, all passengers must give their name, phone number and addresses for where they are coming from and where they are going. This will help coronavirus response workers know about and find people who had contact with a person who later tested positive and stop coronavirus from spreading to more people.

Transport

While the inter-district lockdown has been lifted, the earlier changes to operating and using public transport to help keep us all safe and prevent the spread of coronavirus remain in place.

All transport parks must have hand washing stations. Use them to wash your hands when entering and leaving the park and before getting into any vehicle.

All drivers, including okada and kekeh drivers, should carry and use hand sanitizer with at least 60% base alcohol.

All kinds of motor transport will continue to help passengers keep distance from others. Coronavirus spreads from person to person so putting space between people will make it harder for the virus to spread.

- Taxis will continue to be limited to three passengers at a time (one front, two at the back seat).
- Kekehs will continue to be limited to two passengers at a time.
- In poda-podas and buses, there will continue to be no middle row seat and no standing.
- Ferries and boats must not carry more than half of their normal capacity of passengers at a time. Less people on board gives passengers room to keep safe distance of at least one meter, or arms-stretched length, from others.

Always put on a cloth face mask when leaving your home and keep it on correctly when using public transport and riding in any private vehicle with more than one person.

Wearing a cloth mask can help stop the spread of coronavirus but only if it is used correctly by covering your mouth and nose. Remember – coronavirus is not spread from our chins; it is spread from our noses and mouths. So please let us wear our cloth face masks over our nose and mouths at all times in public.

Anyone using public transport, including drivers, who is not wearing a mask, may be fined one hundred thousand Leones (Le100,000) or detained by police. If a driver or passenger is found not wearing a mask for a second time, the vehicle will be seized.

All seized motorbikes and tricycles may be reclaimed on payment of a fine of two hundred and fifty thousand Leones (Le250,000) and one million Leones for cars and buses (Le1,000,000).

If a vehicle is not reclaimed within one month, it will be permanently impounded and disposed of.

Trade

All shops, pharmacies, supermarkets, and banks must make sure they and their customers are taking actions to stop the spread of coronavirus. Help shops, pharmacies, supermarkets, and banks that you visit stay open and serving customers by doing your part to prevent coronavirus.

Always wash your hands with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol-based, before entering any shop, pharmacy, local market, supermarket, or bank.

You may be asked to wait outside a shop, pharmacy, supermarket, or bank until someone inside leaves. Please be patient. This is to help keep you and others safe by limiting the number of people inside at one time.

- Shops/pharmacies: no more than 3-5 customers at one time, depending on shop size
- Supermarkets/banks: no more than 20-25 customers at one time

When leaving your house for the shop, pharmacy, supermarket, or bank, don't forget to wear your cloth face mask. All employees and customers must wear a face mask when at any shop, pharmacy, supermarket, or bank.

Any shop, pharmacy, supermarket, or bank found to have more customers inside than allowed or an employee not wearing a mask may be fined the first time and temporarily closed if found again.

- Shops/pharmacies: five hundred thousand Leones (Le500,000) first time
- Supermarkets/banks: one million five hundred thousand Leones (Le1,500,000) first time

Any shop, pharmacy, supermarket, or bank found to have customers inside who are not wearing a mask correctly may be fined one hundred thousand Leones (Le100,000) per customer the first time and temporarily closed if found again.

Periodic market days ('Lumas'/'Ndorweis') can reopen but must make sure sellers and customers take the same actions as local markets to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Washing your hands with soap and water and wearing a cloth mask when at the local market and market days not only help keep everyone safe from coronavirus, it also can save you money! If you do not wash your hands or wear a cloth mask, you may be fined twenty thousand Leones (Le20,000).

Entertainment

Bars and restaurants can open at 7am and stay open until 10pm.

If you enjoy going to bars and restaurants, help them stay open by being a responsible customer. Their ability to keep serving you and other customers depends on staff and customers taking coronavirus prevention seriously.

When going to any bar or restaurant, even if it is only for takeaway, make sure you wash your hands, wear a cloth mask, and keep a safe distance of at least one meter, or arms-stretched length, from others.

Any bar or restaurant found to have employees or customers not washing their hands, wearing a cloth mask correctly, or keeping a safe distance of at least one meter from others may be fined five hundred thousand Leones (Le500,000) the first time and temporarily closed if found again.

Sporting activities and large gatherings (any group more than 10 people) at the beach and sports/video centers are still not allowed at this time.

If you go to any social gathering or the beach with friends, keep your group to as few people as possible, wear cloth masks, and keep a safe distance of at least one meter, or arms-stretched length, from each other.

Offices

Coronavirus is still a major threat to public health and safety. Government, private sector, civil society, media and the general public must continue to take all government-advised actions to stop the spread of coronavirus.

The safety of your employees, customers, and partners from coronavirus is critical for the success of your business. All offices, big or small, must make sure all government-advised actions are taken to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

All employees, customers, and partners in public and private office buildings must wear face cloth masks, keep a safe distance of at least one meter from others, and wash their hands with soap and water before entering the office.

Any government official found not wearing a mask in a public office building may be fined five hundred thousand Leones (Le500,000) or suspended from duty.

Any private business office found to have people inside who are not wearing a cloth mask may be fined five hundred thousand Leones (Le500,000) the first time and closed if found a second time.

Meetings can be helpful for sharing information and making team decisions, but they also bring many people together in a close space. Help protect your employees, colleagues and partners by reducing the number of people in meetings and making sure there is enough space to keep a safe distance of at least one meter, or arms-stretched length, from each other.